



CHESLAKEES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE PLAN

School District No. 85
(Vancouver Island North)

The following is an outline of the Cheslakees Elementary School's Communicable Disease Plan for the 2021-2022 school year.

This plan is subject to change based on relevant local, regional, Provincial and Federal health recommendations and is guided by the [B.C. Provincial COVID-19 Communicable Disease Guidelines for K-12 Settings](#).

Step 1: Understanding the Risk	
	<p>Communicable disease prevention focuses on reducing the risk of workplace transmission of COVID-19 and other communicable diseases, and includes both ongoing measures (e.g. hand hygiene, cleaning) and additional regional measures to be implemented as advised by public health during the period of elevated risk.</p> <p>Public Health strongly encourages all eligible students and staff to be fully vaccinated (i.e. receive 2 doses) against COVID-19 to protect themselves and those around them.</p>
Step 2: Communicating	
	<p>Cheslakees School must have an orientation session for staff and others entering the building to provide an overview of the key principles and guidelines implemented at the school level.</p> <p>The school will consistently communicate guidance, recommendations and orders from regional Medical Health Officers, and the Provincial Health Officer.</p> <p>The school Principal will relay information to staff, and families using multiple formats such as newsletters, the school website, the school Facebook site, email or a notice in each child's home book.</p> <p>https://ces.sd85.bc.ca/</p> <p>Facebook: 2021-2022 Cheslakees Elementary School Kindergarten Class</p>

Step 3: Measures, Practices, and Policies to Reduce Risk

<p>Supportive School Environments</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Staff should utilize positive and inclusive approaches to engage students in preventative practices (such as hand hygiene) and should not employ measures that are punitive or stigmatizing in nature. ▪ Staff should also utilize a trauma-informed lens when planning school activities (e.g. gatherings and events) and interacting with other staff and students, including considerations around respecting others’ personal space.
<p>Daily Health Checks</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Before coming to work, all staff members must conduct a daily health check/ self-assessment, and sign in. ▪ Parents and Caregivers should assess their children daily for illness before sending them to school. <p>https://www.k12dailycheck.gov.bc.ca/healthcheck?execution=e2s1</p> <p>https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/education/kindergarten-to-grade-12/covid/daily-health-check-english.pdf</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ All staff and students who have symptoms of illness must stay home (students, and staff who experience symptoms consistent with a previously diagnosed health condition; e.g. seasonal allergies, can continue to attend school/work when they are experiencing these symptoms as normal).
<p>Staff/Students Who Become Sick at School</p>	<p>Some students or staff may not be able to be picked up immediately.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A space is available where the student or staff can wait comfortably and is separated from others (at least 2 meters). ▪ The student or staff member will be provided with a non-medical mask. ▪ Children will be supervised. ▪ Supervising staff will wear a non-medical mask and face shield if they are unable to maintain physical distance, avoid touching bodily fluids as much as possible, and practice diligent hand hygiene.
<p>Hand Hygiene</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Rigorous hand-washing with plain soap and water is the most effective way to reduce the spread of illness. ▪ Schools should promote the importance of diligent hand hygiene to staff and students regularly. For example, display hand hygiene poster at handwashing sites. ▪ Hand washing should be encouraged upon school entry, and before /after breaks and eating, using the washroom and using frequently touched equipment.

<p>Hygiene and Spacing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cough and sneeze into elbow, sleeve, or a tissue. ▪ Throw away used tissues immediately, and perform hand hygiene. ▪ Staff wear a mask indoors and on the bus. ▪ K students are required to wear a mask indoors, including at desks, and on school buses, except as noted below: <p>Exceptions to the mask policy include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A person who cannot tolerate wearing a mask for health or behavioural reasons. ○ A person unable to put on or remove a mask without the assistance of another person. ○ If the mask is removed temporarily for the purposes of identifying the person wearing it. ○ If the mask is removed temporarily to engage in an educational activity that cannot be performed while wearing a mask. For example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Engaging in speech and language therapy ○ If a person is eating or drinking. ○ If a person is behind a barrier. ○ While providing a service to a person with a disability or diverse ability (for example, a hearing impairment), where visual cues, facial expressions and/or lip reading/movements are important. ▪ Visitors must be approved by the administrator and have direct relation to student learning. All visitors must wear a mask. ▪ Custodian will do a wipe down of high touch surfaces at lunchtime, staff to keep visible dirt cleaned up. ▪ Although 2 meters distancing is difficult, other measures should be considered to help create space between people to support staff and students using a trauma informed approach. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Remind students and staff about respecting personal space ○ Use signage and visual supports ○ Use available space to spread out ○ Implement strategies to prevent crowding in areas where people may gather, or, pick up and drop off times ○ Manage flow of people in common areas
<p>Supporting Students with Diverse Abilities/Disabilities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting students with disabilities/diverse abilities may require staff providing support services to be in close physical proximity or in physical contact with a student. • When staff are working with a student indoors, and the service cannot be provided from behind a barrier, staff are required to wear a non-medical mask, a face covering or a face shield. • All students in Grades K -12 are required to wear a non-medical mask, with exceptions as noted in the Hygiene and Spacing section above.

<p>Visitor Access</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents need to make appointments with the staff they wish to visit. • Information for visitors is posted by the entrance to the school, on the school's website and included in communications to students and families. • Schools are responsible for ensuring that visitors, including itinerant teachers, and SD personnel not usually on site, are aware of communicable disease protocols and have completed a daily health check, prior to entering the school. • Parents/caregivers are to drop-off/pick-up students outside of the school. • Exterior doors with the exception of main school entrances will be kept locked during the day to limit entry to facilities. • Everyone signs in confirming they have done a health check.
<p>Ventilation and Circulation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Units have outside air intakes - some are stuck in manual. • The gym HVAC system has MERV 13 filters installed. • Where possible, natural ventilation should be maximized by opening windows and doors. Moving activities, such as lunch, classes, and physical activity outdoors when weather permits.
<p>Staff Only Spaces</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utilize signage to direct traffic flow and prevent crowding (e.g. the break room, by the photocopier, etc.) Use available space to spread people out. Rule of Thumb: Everyone must be able to move around the space without bumping into each other. • Masks must be worn unless eating or drinking. • Gatherings must occur in line with those permitted as per relevant local, regional, provincial, and federal public health recommendations and Orders, and any related WorkSafe BC guidance.
<p>School Gatherings and Events</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When planning assemblies or school gatherings, apply a trauma-informed lens, respecting student and staff comfort levels regarding personal space. At this time school gatherings and events (e.g. assemblies, parent-teacher interviews, etc.) will be held virtually. • If gatherings and events must be in-person, use space available to spread people out as much as possible, and ensuring enough space is available to prevent involuntary physical contact between attendees (i.e. overcrowding). Do not allow spectators. Minimize the number of people in attendance as much as possible. • Larger in-person gatherings such as assemblies are on hold. • Staff and other meetings involving staff gathering are to be done virtually.

<p>Busing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bus drivers will wash or sanitize hands prior to entering the bus. • Masks and visors are to be worn during loading and unloading of students. • Students are to clean their hands prior to leaving home to take the bus, when they leave school prior to boarding the bus, and when they arrive home. • If a driver suspects a student has symptoms of illness they will remain at the stop and contact TACAN via radio for further direction. • All K-12 Students are required to wear a non-medical mask or face covering on school buses, with exceptions as noted in the Hygiene and Spacing section above. • Students in K will sit where the bus driver asks them to. • Touch points will be sanitized between runs and at the end of the day.
<p>Here at Cheslakees School</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Students will line up on the yellow dots outside their classroom doors. There is no early morning drop off or early morning outside supervision. Bus students will come into the classrooms. ▪ Students will sit in their assigned seats when doing seat work. ▪ Students can use centers and manipulatives in the classroom – avoiding close face to face contact. ▪ Mrs. Wadhams’ class will use the classroom bathroom, and Mrs. Randall’s /Ms. Cook’s class will use the hallway bathrooms. ▪ Students will use separate doors for entering and exiting. Students will use hand sanitizer or wash their hands when coming in. ▪ The Promising Babies room is being used for two hours on Tuesdays. Moms and babies will come in the main front door, sign in, and proceed directly to the Promising Babies room.
<p>Step 4: Monitoring and Update Plan as Necessary</p>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Staff/parents are provided with any new information in a timely manner and review with staff the process for reporting any concerns. ▪ Updated information for families will be posted on the school Facebook page, the school web site and the district website. ▪ New information relating to communicable diseases will be posted on the board in the staffroom.