

integrity

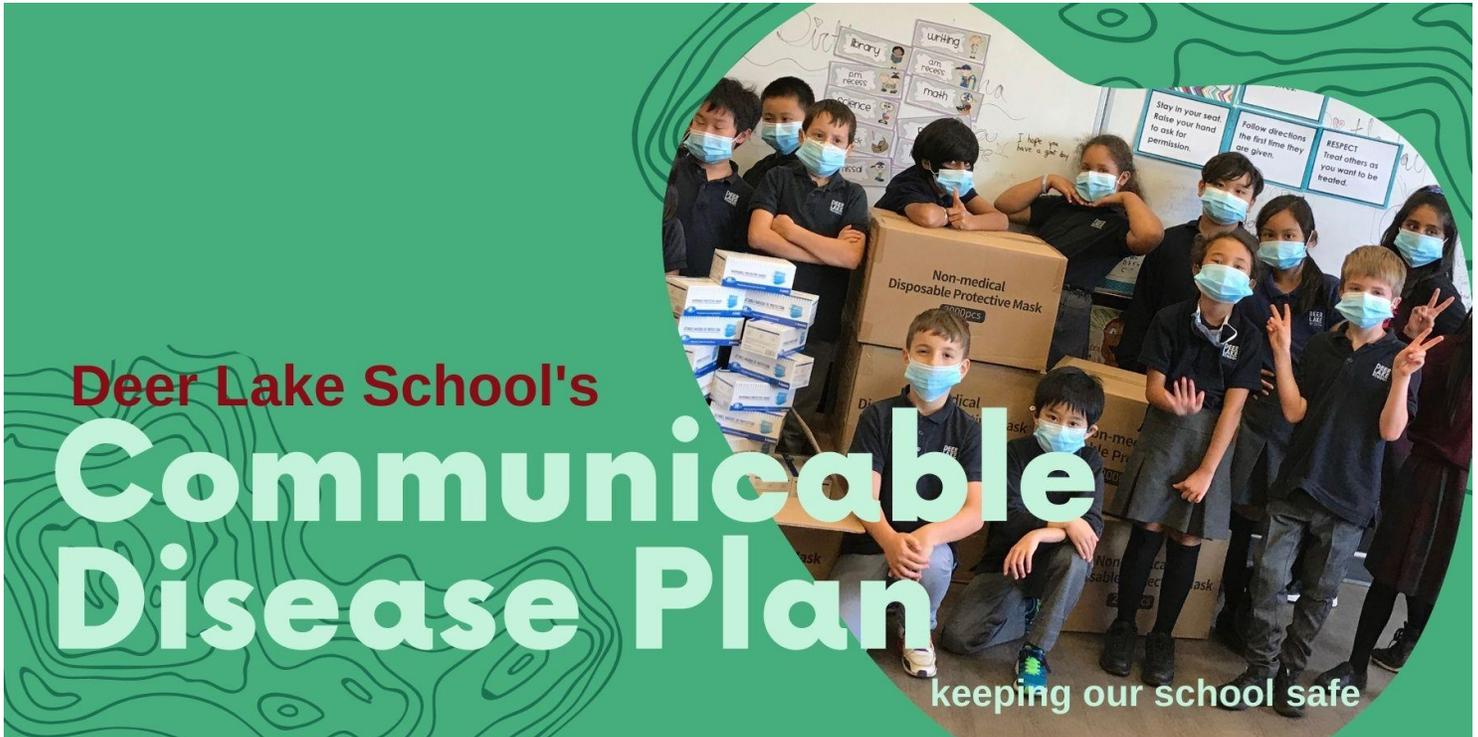
service

family

belief



**DEER
LAKE
SCHOOL**



Deer Lake School's
**Communicable
Disease Plan**

keeping our school safe

Revised:

October 1, 2021

September 21, 2021

Created:

August 22, 2021

INTRODUCTION

This plan outlines the protocols and practices Deer Lake School will follow to mitigate the spread of communicable disease. Our procedures are aligned with the requirements and recommendations authorised by the federal and provincial governments, the Ministry of Education, the Fraser Health Authority and the BC Seventh-day Adventist Conference Office of Education.

Deer Lake School is adopting best practices as outlined in:

- [BC CDC COVID-19 Public Health Guidance for K-12 Schools Health & Safety Checklist](#)
- [WorkSafe BC Communicable Disease Prevention Guide](#)
- [Provincial Communicable Disease Guidelines for K-12 Settings](#)
- [BC Ministry of Education K-12 Recovery Plan](#)

Deer Lake School administration stays abreast of current communicable disease-related information by reviewing all communications published by the BC CDC, Ministry of Education, FISA, and Fraser Health Authority within 24 hours of dispersion. The principal attends all Fraser Health Authority town hall meetings conducted by the medical health officer and staff and views press conferences given by the provincial health officer.

The joint health and safety committee reviews and provides feedback for all communicable disease transmission plans before they are published, and revisits the document upon any guidance updates, and as needed.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE PREVENTION

As COVID-19 vaccinations have become widely available to British Columbians, the overall risk of COVID-19 transmission and serious consequences has diminished. Despite this, the virus will still circulate like other communicable diseases.

A communicable disease is an illness caused by an infectious agent or its toxic product that can be transmitted in a workplace from one person to another. Examples of communicable disease that may circulate in a workplace include COVID-19, norovirus, and seasonal influenza.

Preventing communicable disease involves taking ongoing measures to reduce the risk of communicable disease transmission. It also involves implementing additional measures when advised to do so by Public Health during periods of elevated risk.

Deer Lake School will follow all directions from medical health officers and Fraser Health Authority. We will abide by all orders, guidance, recommendations, and notices issued by the provincial health officer that are relevant to the K-12 sector and workplaces.

POLICIES & PRACTICES

Attendance & Record Keeping

Administration maintains daily records for staff, students, and all visitors that are kept for a minimum of two years. Class lists are maintained by the office manager and kept up to date.

Cleaning & Disinfecting Practices

Shared equipment (e.g. computer keyboards and tablets, glassware and testing equipment for science labs, kitchen equipment for Foods class, PE/sports equipment, music equipment, etc.) will receive frequent disinfection between uses.

Based on the requirements of the Public Health Officer and WorkSafeBC, the school will undergo a full deep clean and disinfecting by janitors each evening, using commercial cleaning products listed on the BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC) Cleaning and Disinfectants for Public Settings webpage.

Evening cleaning will include cleaning and disinfecting all hallway and classroom floors, tables, chairs, desks, counters, washrooms and offices with special attention to high touch areas such as doorknobs, light switches, keyboards, toilet handles and sink taps.

All disinfectants, detergents, extra hand sanitizers must be safely stored out of reach of children. Only those who are qualified can use cleaning products or any hazardous product.

Gatherings & Events

School extracurricular and social gatherings and events are planned using the guidance of Fraser Health, Provincial and Federal health recommendations and Orders.

- Chapels will be conducted by division and whole-school assemblies put on hold for review in January 2022.
- Extracurricular student social gatherings will be limited to the capacity recommendations outlined in the PHO's health orders (As of September 2021, 50% of maximum room capacity, or 50 people)
- Parent and community gatherings will be limited to outdoor functions, to be reviewed in January 2022.
- Staff-only gatherings (e.g., meetings, professional development days, etc.) occur in line with those permitted as per relevant local, regional, Provincial, and Federal public health recommendations and Orders for workplace gatherings and events and any related WorkSafeBC guidance.
- Staff will utilize Zoom and small groups for worship and other meetings, or large spaces (ie. gym) when gathering in larger groups.

Illness

If ill with any common cold, influenza or COVID-19-like symptoms, staff and students must stay home and isolate following the onset of symptoms until COVID-19 has been excluded via assessment by a health-care provider (family physician, nurse practitioner, telehealthcare provider) and symptoms have resolved for at least 24 hours. Anyone who is unsure of whether they should self-isolate or be tested for COVID-19 should be directed to:

- Use the BC COVID-19 Self Assessment Tool (staff) or DLS “Staying at Home” Decision Tree
- Contact 8-1-1 or the local public health unit to seek further input; or
- Contact a family physician or nurse practitioner to be assessed for COVID-19 and other infectious respiratory diseases.

Updated guidelines from the government indicate that anyone with symptoms of COVID-like illness that are not associated with a known chronic condition, such as allergies or asthma mild symptoms can be monitored at home for 24 hours, similar to our standing illness policy around fever. If symptoms clear up, they can return. If symptoms include fever, or remain unchanged or worsen after 24 hours, then they should have a health assessment.

If a health assessment recommends testing to exclude COVID-19, staff who have been tested must stay home while awaiting their test results.

Staff with symptoms who have had COVID-19 excluded should not return to school until their symptoms have improved and they feel well enough.

If a staff member tests positive for COVID-19, the health authority will provide further instructions to the student or staff member on when they can return to school.

If a staff member is uncertain if they should self-isolate or be tested for COVID-19, they should be directed to use the BC COVID-19 Self-Assessment Tool. If concerned, contact 8-1-1 or the local public health unit to seek further input. Staff must notify their administrator if they are unable to attend work due to illness.

If staff become ill while on site, they must notify the principal and go home. Students who become ill will be isolated and the room they use will be closed with signage indicating the need for cleaning until a qualified staff member becomes available to do so.

If a staff member is exposed to and/or contracts COVID-19 at the workplace and is asked by health authorities to isolate, their pay will not be affected and will be compensated for.

Hand Hygiene & Respiratory Etiquette

Staff must wash their hands with soap and water (preferred method recommended by the BCCDC) as soon as they enter the building, and throughout the day

Classrooms and washroom sinks will be well-stocked with soap and paper towels each day

Classrooms without sinks will have hand sanitizer available, and hand sanitizer stations are present around the school hallways.

Signage reminding staff and students about appropriate hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette are posted in washrooms and throughout the building.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

All K-12 staff and students in Grades K-12 are required to wear a mask or a face shield (in which case a nonmedical mask should be worn in addition to the face shield) in school—in all indoor areas. The only exceptions will be outdoors, when eating and drinking, during high intensity exercise, and if behind a barrier.

Note: Exceptions will also be made for staff and students who cannot tolerate masks for health or behavioural reasons.

Disposable masks are available for those who have forgotten theirs.

Space Arrangements and Physical Distancing

In indoor spaces, students and staff should have enough room to carry out intended activities without involuntary physical contact and all available space is used.

Students and staff are advised to minimize physical contact and to respect the personal space of others, recognizing comfort levels with physical proximity may vary.

During breaks, students are encouraged to utilize outdoor spaces as much as possible

Vaccinations

Staff members choosing to get vaccinated will be allowed up to three hours off of work to receive their vaccination if they are not able to schedule an appointment before or after work. Students will receive an excused absence should they need to miss school to receive a vaccination.

Ventilation

Air filtration systems and air conditioners/heating systems should remain running at all times. Where possible, natural ventilation should be maximized by opening the doors and windows to periodically change the air.

The exception to this practice would be in the case of poor air quality or high heat. Every classroom is equipped with an air conditioner, and most rooms include a portable air filtration system.

Visitors

Visitors to the building will be limited and must notify the office at least 24-hours before arrival. Exceptions can be made for time-sensitive situations, pending principal approval.

Priority is made for those visitors supporting staff and student wellbeing and learning.

All visitors must wear a non-medical mask when they are inside the school. Visitors who cannot tolerate masks for health or behavioural reasons should contact the school principal to discuss the possibility of an exception.

COMMUNICATION PRACTICES

All health and safety plans are shared with parents/caregivers, staff, and contract employees via email, noting the date of each update in the footer of the first page, with additions and changes highlighted in yellow. Printed copies of the plans are posted in the before and after school care rooms, staff room and copy room, and a digital copy is stored on the shared drive that all staff have access to.

Administration closely follows the Ministry of Health, BC CDC, Ministry of Education, FISA, and WorkSafe BC updates to practices and policies and communicates them first with the joint health and safety team, then the director of operations and division VPs, then to general staff, then to parents and students.

Workplace signage with health and safety reminders and occupancy limits are posted in washrooms and in the staff and copy rooms.

REVIEWING & UPDATING PLANS

Joint health and safety committee members are asked to review plans as they are updated before the general staff receives them, and can choose to review plans in the interim for additional changes in practice that are needed.

If a staff member identifies a health and safety concern, they can approach the principal, director of operations, or one of the members of the joint health and safety committee. We also welcome feedback from our school community. Students or caregivers with concerns should speak with the principal.

The joint health and safety committee, in collaboration with the administration, monitors the efficacy of measures, policies, and practices, and makes adjustments as needed.