



Galiano Community School Communicable Disease Prevention Plan Updated April 4th, 2022

Galiano Community School follows all District safety protocols and recommendations from BCCDC, Ministry of Health, WorkSafe BC. 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 measures to be implemented as advised by Public Health.

Note: Vaccines are an effective way to reduce the risk of COVID-19 in schools. Everyone eligible is strongly encouraged to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19.

Information in this document is accurate as per current guidelines and are subject to change at the direction of the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education and PHO orders.

KEY ELEMENTS OF THE PLAN

- 1. Everyone will stay home when they are sick**
- 2. Daily health checks of any symptoms of illness are required of students and staff**
- 3. The building will be sanitized daily**
- 4. Building ventilation will meet provincial requirements. Regular CO2 monitoring will occur**
- 5. Masks are a personal choice. 3 layer masks will be provided for those who would like them**
- 6. Hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette is required**
- 7. Staff will demonstrate and model how to practice personal prevention measures at school (respiratory etiquette and handwashing)**
- 8. The comfort of one's personal space is to be respected.**

Stay Home When You are Sick

A daily health check is a tool to reduce the likelihood of a person with COVID-19 or other respiratory illness coming to school when they are infectious.

- Parents and caregivers will assess their children daily for ANY symptoms of common cold, influenza, Covid-19, and other infections or respiratory disease before sending them to school. You can use the BC COVID Self-Assessment Tool [BC COVID-19 Self-Assessment Tool \(thrive.health\) https://bc.thrive.health/covid19/en](https://bc.thrive.health/covid19/en) Or <https://www.k12dailycheck.gov.bc.ca/healthcheck?execution=e1s1> for daily assessment of symptoms.
- Staff and other adults will complete a daily health check prior to entering the school
- If a student, staff or other adult is sick, they must not enter the school. People who feel ill should stay home, consult with 811 or their family practitioner to determine next steps

- Notify the school using the office line at 250-539-2261 or email if your child is ill and will be absent from school
- If a student becomes ill during the school day, parents and caregivers will arrange for them to be picked up as soon as possible.
- If staff become sick during the school day, they will go home.
- If one tests positive for COVID-19 check the link to learn how to care for oneself, self-isolate, contact tracing and when one can return <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/if-you-have-covid-19>.
- A doctor's note is not required to return to school
- If one has been in contact with someone with COVID, learn if one can come to school http://www.bccdc.ca/Health-Info-Site/Documents/Instructions_covid19_close_contact.pdf

Sick at School

If a person develops symptoms at school they will immediately be separated into a supervised area, their parent/guardian will be contacted to pick them up. A 2-meter distance will be maintained and diligent hand hygiene will be practiced. Once the student is picked up the areas they used will be cleaned and disinfected.

<i>If a Student Develops Any Symptoms of Illness</i>	<i>If a Staff Member Develops Any Symptoms of Illness</i>
Parents or caregivers must keep the student at home	Staff must stay home
IF STUDENT DEVELOPS SYMPTOMS AT SCHOOL:	IF STAFF DEVELOPS SYMPTOMS AT WORK:
<p>Staff must take the following steps:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Immediately separate the symptomatic student from others in a supervised area. 2. Contact the student's parent or caregiver to pick them up as soon as possible. Remind guardian to give an ETA and to meet child outside 3. Where possible, maintain a 2-metre distance from the ill student. If not possible, staff is encouraged to wear a non- medical mask or face covering if available and tolerated, or use a tissue to cover their nose and mouth. 4. Provide the student with a non-medical mask (if they choose) or tissues to cover their coughs or sneezes. Throw away used tissues as soon as possible and perform hand hygiene. 5. Avoid touching the student's body fluids (e.g., mucous, saliva). If you do, practice diligent hand hygiene. 6. Once the student is picked up, practice diligent hand hygiene. 	<p>Staff should go home as soon as possible.</p> <p>If unable to leave immediately:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Symptomatic staff should separate themselves into an area away from others. 2. Maintain a distance of 2 metres from others. 3. Staff can choose to wear a mask to cover their nose and mouth while they wait to be picked up. 4. Staff responsible for facility cleaning must clean and disinfect the space where the staff member was separated and any areas used by them (e.g., classroom, bathroom, common areas).

7. Staff responsible for facility cleaning must clean and disinfect the space where the student was separated and any areas recently used by them (e.g., classroom, bathroom, common areas).

Parents or caregivers must pick up their child as soon as possible if they are notified their child is ill.

The threshold for reporting student and/or staff illness to public health should be determined in consultation with the school medical health officer

Anyone experiencing symptoms of illness should not return to school until they their symptoms have resolved

Cleaning and Disinfection

Regular cleaning and disinfection are important to prevent the transmission of COVID-19 from contaminated objects and surfaces. The following protocols mitigate the risks and potential exposure to the virus:

- General cleaning of the sites and cleaning and disinfecting of frequently touched surfaces (door knobs, light switches), at least once in a 24-hour period.
- Cleaning and disinfecting any surface that is visibly dirty.
- Emptying garbage containers daily.

Ventilation

- HVAC system is operating and maintained as per standards (MERV 13 filters) and are working properly
- CO₂ monitoring is occurring and reported weekly to district
- Where possible, open windows and doors when weather permits; this will not negatively impact the HVAC system
- Fans are only used in ventilated spaces with air flow moving from high to low spaces

Masks

The decision to wear a mask or face-covering is a personal choice for staff, students and visitors.

Three layered non-medical masks are available for all staff and students who request them.

Hand Hygiene

Hand washing rigorously with soap and water is the most effective way to reduce the spread of illness (anti-bacterial soap is not needed for COVID-19). Hand sanitizers

should be used when hand-washing facilities are not readily available. Effective hand hygiene protocols are as follows:

- Practice diligent hand hygiene by washing hands with plain soap and water for at least 20 seconds (temperature does not change the effectiveness of washing hands with plain soap and water).
- Diligent handwashing/use of sanitizer will be built into our daily school schedule with time allocated for this important measure. During the first days of the this term, students will re-learn and practice proper hand washing
- Use portable hand-washing sites and/or hand sanitizer dispensers containing at least 60% alcohol where sinks are not available.
- Encourage hand washing upon school entry, before/after breaks and eating, after washroom breaks, and after use of frequently touched equipment.
- Students may bring their own sanitizer or plain soap if they are on the list authorized by Health Canada or have a medical condition that requires specialized soaps.

Hand Hygiene Chart

When Students Should Perform Hand Hygiene:	When Staff Should Perform Hand Hygiene:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When they arrive at school. • Before and after any breaks (e.g., recess, lunch). • Before and after eating and drinking (excluding drinks kept at a student's desk or locker). • Before and after using an indoor learning space used by multiple classes (e.g. the gym, music room, science lab, etc.). • After using shared supplies such as center toys, P.E. equipment • After using the toilet. • After sneezing or coughing into hands. • Whenever hands are visibly dirty. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When they arrive at school. • Before and after any breaks (e.g. recess, lunch). • Before and after eating and drinking. • Before and after handling food or assisting students with eating. • Before and after giving medication to a student or self. • After using the toilet. • After contact with body fluids (i.e., runny noses, spit, vomit, blood). • After cleaning tasks. • After removing gloves. • After handling garbage. • Whenever hands are visibly dirty.

Respiratory Etiquette

To minimize the spread of COVID-19, students and staff should practice the following protocols:

- Cough and sneeze into their elbow, sleeve, or tissue
- Discard tissue (if used)
- Perform hand hygiene immediately

Personal Space

Schools can return to classroom and learning environments configurations and activities that best meet learner needs and preferred educational approaches. There are a number of strategies that will be used to help create space between people:

- Spread people out with different learning environment configurations
- Students and staff should respect others' personal space.
- Signage, prompts, modelling will be used to teach and reinforce
- Take students outside more often, where and when possible
- Manage flow of people in common areas by keeping to the right
- Markers on the floor to help with flow of traffic in hallways
- Classes will have assigned washrooms
- Classes have assigned entry/exit doors for beginning and end of day and for recesses

Class	Door Entry/Exit
K/1 (Kim)	Classroom door
Grade 2-3 (Cathy)	Front Door
Grade 4-8 (Hali)	Side Door (near Gr. 4-8 classroom)

Events and Gatherings

School gatherings and events will follow restrictions from the Provincial Health Office.

- As of April 7th, gatherings can return to 100% capacity. We will gradually transition to larger gatherings
- Respect student and staff comfort levels regarding personal space
- Use available space to spread people out where possible
- Hold school events and gatherings virtually or outdoors if possible

Drop off and Pickup

- Students arriving at school by private vehicle should be dropped off in the parking lot between 8:35 am to 8:45.
- Parents/Guardians and visitors should respect others' personal space
- Students will sanitize and/or wash their hands upon school entry and exit.

Students Entering and Exiting the Building

- Upon entry, students will wash their hands in the classroom or a nearby sink and continue to their classroom. If a sink is not available students will use hand sanitizer.
- EAs will supervise the students arriving and departing by the buses

Visitors Entering the Building:

- If a visitor enters the building, they will have completed the requirements of the daily health check when they come in.
- Visitors are not to enter the school if having any symptoms of illness
- A return to regular sign in/sign out practices at the office. Visitors no longer need to provide information for contact tracing.

Staff spaces

- Staff gatherings (Pro-d days, in-services and staff meetings) will respect room occupancy limits.
- People will spread out to prevent crowding
- Staff will eat lunch in classroom or in library with windows open and where people can space out

Student Transportation

Buses

The bus driver and administrator will meet weekly to review protocols and how students are complying. Expectations for bus riding:

- Bus driver and students can choose to wear a mask while on the bus. Peoples' choices are to be respected
- Parents and caregivers must assess their child daily for common cold, influenza, COVID-19 and other infectious respiratory disease before sending them to school. If a child is sick they must not take the bus or go to school.
- Hand hygiene encouraged- students should wash hands at home before getting on the bus and when they get home from school. Hand sanitizer available upon entry.
- Bus will be cleaned and disinfected according to the BC Center for Disease Control
- Windows open when weather allows
- Passengers to spread out when room allows
- Up to date passenger list will be kept daily

Music Education

- Adults and students can choose to wear a mask during music classes, including while singing.
- Equipment that touches the mouth (instrument mouth pieces) needs to be disinfected between uses

Physical and Health Education/Outdoor Programs

- Teachers will spread out students within the available space, and will plan outdoor activities and programs as much as possible

- Students should be encouraged to practice proper hand hygiene before and after participating in physical activity and equipment use.

School Sports and Extra Curricular Activities

- Extracurricular activities such as after school programming from GACS is allowed in alignment with health and safety measures.

Food /Water Fountains

- Eating only during scheduled snack and lunch times will be encouraged
- Continue to emphasize food should not be shared.
- Water fountains are now turned on, yet students will need to practice hand hygiene before and after use. Students are encouraged to bring their own water bottles and to keep at their lockers or in backpacks.

Communication-

- Check for up-to-date news from school and district through email, websites and Facebook posts. The school's newsletter is sent out the second Thursday of each month.
- Parents are asked to contact staff if child is staying home from school particularly if they have symptoms
- Copies of GCS Communicable Disease Prevention plan is posted in the staffroom, outside the office and on our website. Administration will ensure visitors are aware of the plan and their responsibilities to follow it.

* Medical Health Officers play the lead role in determining if, when and how to communicate information regarding increased COVID-19 activity within a school. To protect personal privacy, schools cannot release individual contact information for the purpose of an individual (staff, student, or parent/caregiver) seeking to notify others of a COVID-19 test result. We are also not able to notify others on an individual's behalf either.

