

School District No. 59 Communicable Disease Plan

Effective September 1, 2022

SD59 (Peace River South) Communicable Disease Plan

INTRODUCTION

The COVID-19 pandemic impacted, and continues to impact students, staff and families in many ways, with some longer-term impacts of the pandemic yet to be realized. As we enter the 2022-23 school year, SD59 will continue to build on our experiences and the advice of public health experts to determine communicable disease prevention plans. Our shared experience highlights the need to continue to be flexible and responsive to changes in transmission trends, as well as provides the opportunity to incorporate our learnings into approaches for sustainable communicable disease prevention moving forward.

COVID-19 will continue to circulate in our population, and as long as cases occur within our communities, K-12 students and staff members will continue to be affected. However, BCCDC notes that transmission within K-12 school settings accounts for a minority of COVID-19 cases, even amongst students and staff. Moreover, with high immunization rates in BC and treatment options for people at higher risk of serious disease, public health advises that COVID-19 can be managed as are other serious respiratory infections in the community. As such, the guidance in this plan supports reducing the risk of transmission of communicable diseases, including COVID-19 and will be modified as needed. BCCDC is the primary source of information about COVID-19 in BC.

CLEANING AND DISINFECTING:

- Use regular cleaning practices.
- Frequently used surfaces – to be cleaned and disinfected once in a 24-hour period or when visibly dirty.
- Carpets and rugs can be used.

HAND HYGIENE

- Everyone should practice diligent hand hygiene.
- Use soap and water or alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

RESPIRATORY ETIQUETTE

- Staff to teach and reinforce good respiratory etiquette practices among students, including:
 - Cough or sneeze into their elbow or a tissue.
 - Refrain from touching eyes, nose or mouth with unwashed hands.

HEALTH AWARENESS

- Staff, parents, caregivers, and students should not come to the school if they are sick and unable to participate fully in routine activities.
- Everyone should do a daily health check.

ILLNESS PRACTICES / WHAT TO DO WHEN SICK

- STAY HOME

IF YOU BECOME SICK AT SCHOOL OR WORK

- Make arrangement for staff/student to go home or isolate until transportation/parent arrives.
- Have space where sick person can wait until pickup.
- Have non-medical masks available for those who would like to wear one.
- Supervising staff can wear a non-medical mask.
- Avoid touching any bodily fluids.
- Clean and disinfect any surfaces which the person's bodily fluids may have come into contact with.
- Cleaning/disinfecting the entire room the person was in (terminal clean) is not required.

SUPPORTING STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES/DIVERSE ABILITIES AND/OR RECEIVING HEALTH SERVICES

- Staff and those providing services to students with medical complexity, immune suppression, receiving direct care or with diverse abilities who are in close proximity to a student should follow routine infection control practices and care plans for the child, if applicable.
- Children are not required to wear a mask or face covering when receiving services, though may continue to do so, based on their parent/caregiver's choice.

BUSES

- Schools can follow normal seating and onloading/offloading practices.
- Buses should be cleaned and disinfected in line with normal practices.
- Bus drivers, teachers and students in K-12 may choose to wear masks or face coverings when they are on the bus.

VISITOR ACCESS/COMMUNITY USE

- Schools can follow normal practices for welcoming visitors and community use of schools.

MASKS & FACE COVERINGS

- The decision to wear a mask or face covering is a personal choice for staff, students, and visitors.
- Promote the school environment as supportive for wearing masks through mask-specific messaging at assemblies and in announcements, signs, and written communications.
- Set, communicate and consistently reinforce clear expectations that any bullying or other disrespectful behaviour for conduct related to personal mask use choice is unacceptable.

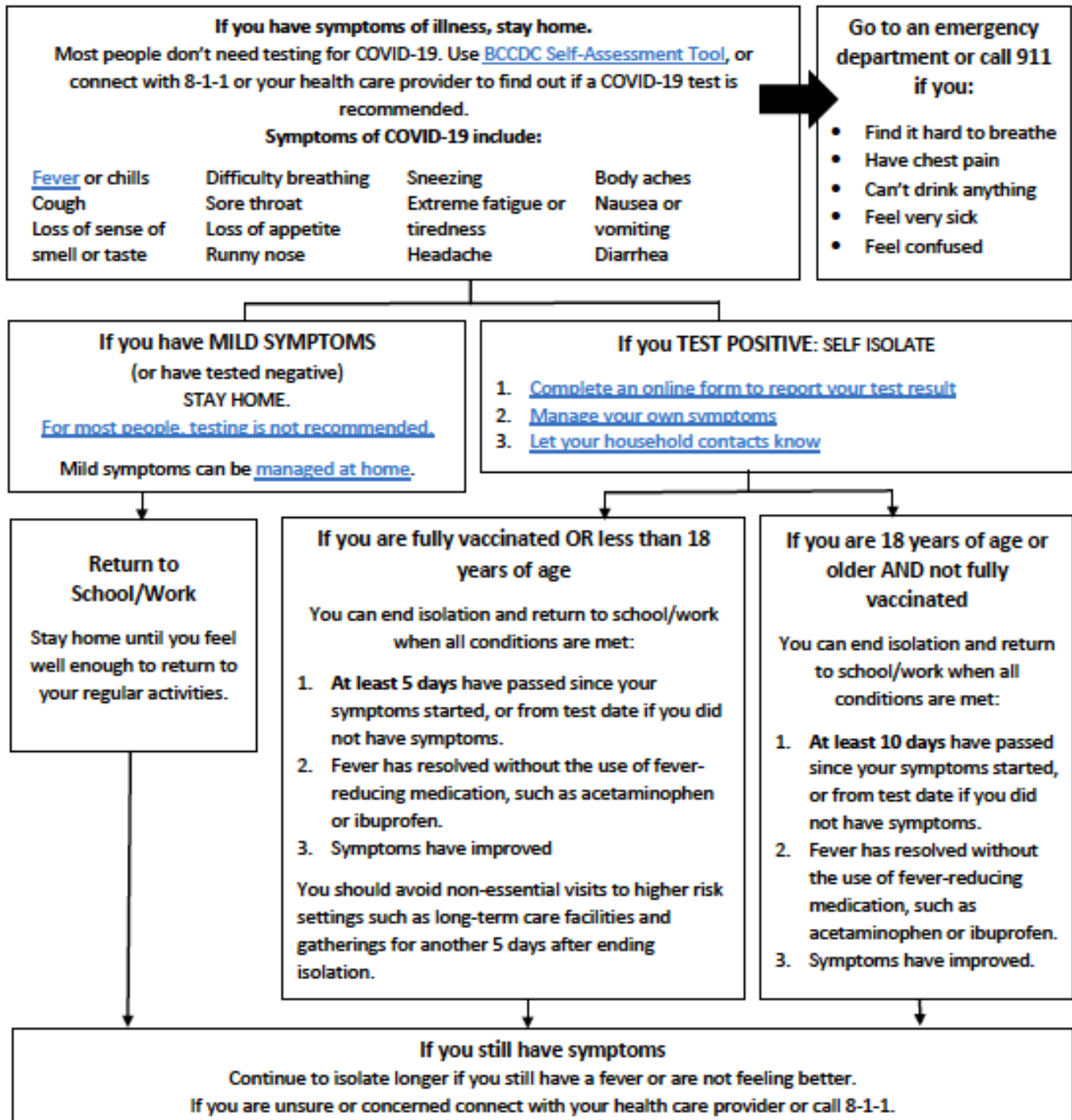
PERSONAL SPACE

- Staff and students should be encouraged to respect others personal space.

SHARING FOOD BEVERAGES AND ITEMS THAT TOUCH THE MOUTH

- Refrain from sharing any food, drinks, unused utensils, etc.
- Shared items that touch the mouth should be cleaned and disinfected between use by different individuals (e.g. water bottles, instrument mouth pieces).

WHAT TO DO WHEN SICK



What to do if someone is sick in your household:

You can continue to attend school if someone in your household is sick and/or self-isolating as long as you do not have any symptoms of illness and feel well. This includes if they have tested positive for COVID-19. Ensure you closely monitor yourself (or your child) for symptoms of illness and stay home if you feel unwell. The best way to protect yourself and your family from COVID-19 is to get vaccinated. Vaccines are available for anyone ages 5 and up. Register now at:

[Getvaccinated.gov.bc.ca](https://getvaccinated.gov.bc.ca)