



Covid-19 Health & Safety Plan September 2020

Background Information:

- COVID-19 virus has a very low infection rate in children and youth. In BC, less than 1% of children and youth tested have been COVID-19 positive. Most children and youth are not at high risk for COVID-19 infection.
- Children under 1 year of age and those who are immunocompromised or have pre-existing pulmonary conditions are at a higher risk of severe disease.
 - Children who are considered more vulnerable can receive in-person instruction. Parents and caregivers are encouraged to consult with their health care provider to determine if their child should attend in person instruction if they are uncertain.
- Children and youth typically have much milder symptoms of COVID-19 most often presenting with low-grade fever and a dry cough. GI symptoms are more common over the course of disease, while skin changes and lesions are less common.
- Many children have asymptomatic disease. However, there is no conclusive evidence that children who are asymptomatic pose a risk to other children or to adults.
- Evidence indicates transmission involving children is primarily limited to household settings, and from COVID-19 positive adults to children. Most cases in children have been linked to a symptomatic household member.
- Clusters and outbreaks involving children and youth are unusual and tend only to occur in areas where there are high levels of community spread.
- Children are not the primary drivers of COVID-19 spread in schools or in community settings.
- Schools and childcare facility closures have significant negative mental health and socioeconomic impacts on vulnerable children and youth.
- Prevention measures and mitigation strategies involving children and youth must be commensurate with risk.



- Adolescent children should physically distance themselves where possible when outside the family unit or household.
 - For younger children maintaining physical distance is less practical and the focus should be on minimizing physical contact instead.
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COVID-19 And Adults

- While COVID-19 impacts adults more than children, some adults with specific health circumstances are at an increased risk for more severe outcomes, including individuals:
 - Aged 65 and over,
 - With compromised immune systems, or
 - With underlying medical conditions.
 - Most adults infected with COVID-19 will have mild symptoms that do not require care outside of the home.
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Implementation Protocols To Reduce The Risks Of Transmission

- ❑ We have involved frontline workers (staff), supervisors, and the joint health and safety committee to build our action plan
- ❑ Staff, students and parents will be informed and trained to practice safe behaviors in and around the school. For example, keeping a safe distance, frequent hand washing, and avoiding the sharing of food and drinks.
- ❑ Rules and guidelines have been communicated to the staff, students and parents in a letter (see this document [-COVID Safety Plan Communications - letter to parents and student](#))



- ❑ We have identified where people gather, and surfaces that people touch often, such as doorknobs, and light switches, and we have posted signage indicating maximum occupancy, hand washing rules and reminders around the building
 - Staff kitchen: 2
 - Library board room table: 2
 - Washrooms - 1
 - Classrooms: each classroom will be designated for one class - teachers will rotate.
 - Teacher office area on the third floor: 4
 - Shared office space: 1
 - MBC: 1 cohort at a time
- ❑ In order to reduce the number of people at the school, we have considered work-from-home arrangements, virtual meetings, rescheduling work tasks, and limiting the number of visitors in the workplace.
 - Work-from-home arrangements: some staff will be working from home
 - Virtual meetings: Whenever possible, meetings with staff, parents and students will be conducted as virtual meetings or phone meetings.
 - Limiting the number of visitors: Visitors are asked to refrain from entering the building and to call the school at 604-947-9311 to arrange access.
- ❑ IPS has implemented the following measures to keep workers and others at least 2 meters apart:
 - Posting occupancy limits for all rooms and spaces
 - Marking the floors and walls for people to sit and stand at a safe distance
 - Posting signs to remind people to stay 2m apart and to instruct them on how to enter and exit areas
 - Rescheduling work tasks so shared offices are used by one person at a time
 - Using the inside stairway as a one-way up and the outside stairway as a one-way down
 - Spacing out student desks
 - Reorganizing spaces to allow for one way traffic at stairways, hallways and doorways
- ❑ IPS has implemented further actions to reduce transmission of the virus



- Avoid close greetings (eg. Hugs, handshakes). Staff are to regularly remind students about keeping their “hands to yourself”
- Desk and table formations are made to allow distance between students and staff
- Students will be organized into smaller groups that stay together throughout the day
- Strive to minimize the number of different teacher(s) and educational assistant(s) that interact with groups of students throughout the day. Students will stay at the same desk in the same room for all classes
- Students will be encouraged to take breaks and eat meals and participate in some classes outside more often
- Assemblies and other school-wide events will be held virtually to avoid a large number of people gathered in one space
- Parents and caregivers should remain outside of the school to drop off their children and refrain from gathering in groups
- First aid attendants are required to use masks. The bus driver may be required to use a mask if 2m spacing cannot be maintained
- Students have been instructed to not share food or water bottles
- The kitchen will be closed. There will be no access to appliances or dishes.
- The kitchen tap is to be used only to fill up personal water bottles
- The school has enough handwashing facilities on site for all students and staff. Handwashing locations are visible and easily accessed

IPS has handwashing facilities in the following locations:

- Tables with hand sanitizer at the entrances on the first, second and third floors
 - Sinks in the women’s, staff and men’s washrooms
 - Sink in the staff kitchen
- ☐ In order to prevent the spread of the virus, all students and staff have been instructed to adhere to the following guidelines
- All students and staff who have symptoms of COVID-19 OR travelled outside Canada in the last 14 days OR were identified as a close contact of a confirmed



case or outbreak must stay home and self-isolate, including children of essential service workers who are ill

- Parents and caregivers must assess their child daily for symptoms of common cold, influenza, COVID-19, or other infectious respiratory disease before sending them to school
 - Staff must assess themselves daily for symptoms of common cold, influenza, or COVID-19 prior to entering the school.
- ☐ If a student or staff member develops symptoms at home they will stay at home until they have been assessed by a health care provider and their symptoms have resolved. If they contracted COVID-19, they will self-isolate for 14 days
- ☐ If a staff member develops symptoms at school they will separate themselves from others and leave immediately.
- The staff member responsible for facility cleaning must disinfect the space where the staff member was throughout the day
- ☐ If a student develops symptoms at school, IPS has the following action plan
- A staff member will take the student to the designated room in the school (office on the third floor)
 - A parent will be notified and asked to come and pick the student up immediately
 - If the student is off-island, arrangements will be made to transport the student back to the mainland
 - The teacher will practice physical distancing, respiratory etiquette and hand hygiene principles while waiting for pick up and contact 811 or the local public health unit to notify them of potential case and seek further input
 - Once the student has been picked up The staff member responsible for facility cleaning must disinfect the space where the student was throughout the day
 - IPS will have gloves and masks available for the first aid attendant.
 - First aid attendants will follow the WorkSafeBC OFAA protocols during the COVID-19 pandemic:
- ☐ IPS has put in place the following protocols to reduce the transmission of the virus on the IPS bus



- Clean and disinfect the high touch areas of the bus before and after drop offs. Buses used for transporting students will be cleaned and disinfected according to the guidance provided in the BC CDC's [Cleaning and Disinfectants for Public Settings](#) document.
 - students will sit in their own seat wherever possible, students from the same household can share seats.
- ☐ IPS has created the following protocols to ensure proper cleaning of the building
- High touch surfaces will be cleaned twice per day. These surfaces will be cleaned at lunch time by a staff member and again in the evening by the cleaning staff. The entire school must be deep cleaned once per day after 4pm.
 - Cleaning and disinfecting will be performed in accordance with the BC CDC's
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Works Cited:

The following documents were referenced to provide guidance:

- [WorkSafeBC Education \(K-12\): Protocols For Returning To Operation](#)
- [BC Centre for Disease Control/BC Ministry of Health: COVID-19 Public Health Guidance for K-12 School Settings](#)
- [Ministry of Education: Provincial COVID-19 Health and Safety Guidelines for K-12 Setting](#)