

KING DAVID HIGH SCHOOL
Communicable Disease Prevention
Plan

(March 22, 2022)



The Ministries of Health and Education and the BCCDC have issued guidelines to all schools to prevent the transmission of communicable diseases like COVID-19 and to maintain the health and safety of staff, students and families. King David is committed to providing a safe environment for all members of our school family, which includes following all WorkSafe BC guidelines, Ministry of Health (MOH) standards, and providing our staff with the necessary training and equipment.

In the pages that follow, we have outlined the measures included in our Communicable Disease Prevention (CDP) plan. Over the course of the coming months, we anticipate this plan to change. If there are changes, we will update the CDP plan and communicate with families.

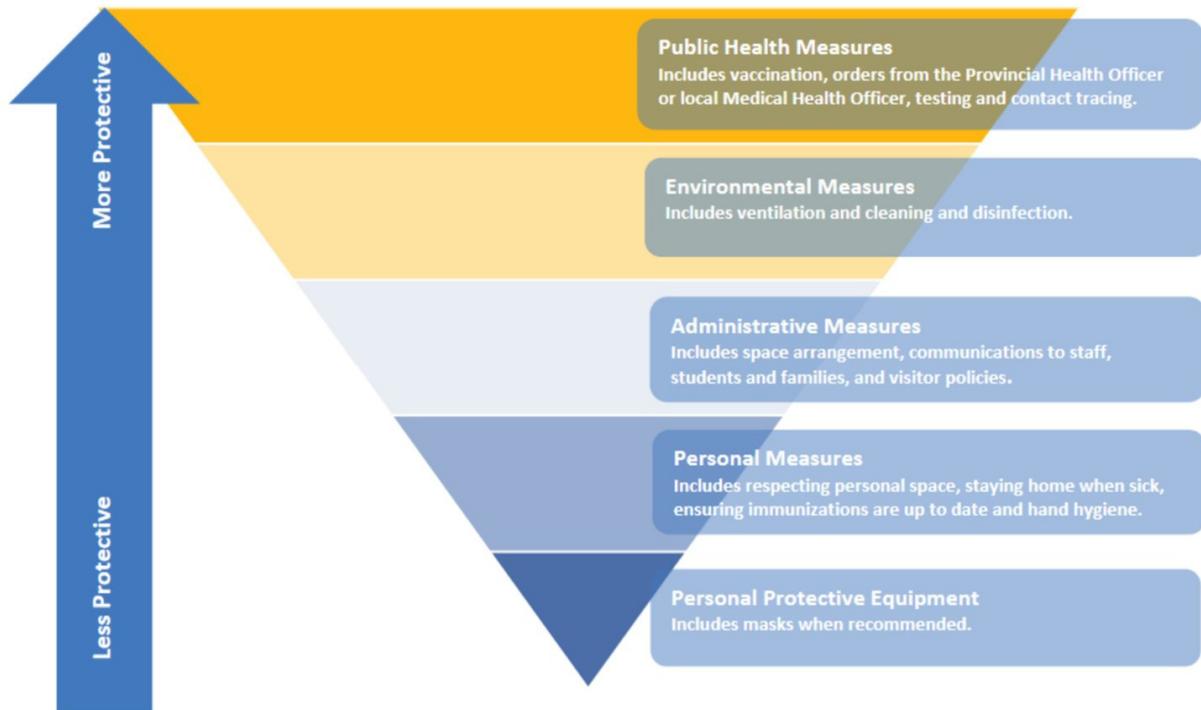
While the impetus for this plan comes from the need to respond to the prevalence of COVID-19 over the past two years, we can expect that moving forward, a plan of this type will become a permanent part of our school's operating guidelines. By following the guidelines outlined in this document, we can create an environment that keeps our staff and students as safe and healthy as possible.

Infection Prevention and Exposure Control Measures (Prevention Measures)

Infection prevention and exposure control measures (prevention measures) help create low-risk environments by reducing the spread of communicable diseases like COVID-19. These are more effective in controlled environments, like schools, where multiple measures of various effectiveness can be routinely and consistently implemented.

To ensure the safest environment possible for our students and staff, we follow the *Hierarchy for Infection Prevention and Exposure Control Measures for Communicable Disease*, which outlines measures that should be taken to reduce the transmission of communicable diseases like COVID-19 in schools. Control measures at the top are more effective and protective than those at the bottom. By implementing a combination of measures at each level, the risk of COVID-19 is substantially reduced.

The Hierarchy for Infection Prevention and Exposure Control Measures for Communicable Disease



Public Health Measures

Vaccines are the most effective way to reduce the risk of COVID-19 in schools. Everyone eligible is strongly encouraged to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 to protect themselves and those around them – including those who are not eligible to be vaccinated. It is important to get all recommended vaccine doses to get the most effective protection against serious cases of COVID-19 and provide longer-lasting protection.

Vaccination protects from serious illness due to COVID-19 and is the most effective way to reduce the impact of COVID-19 on our communities. BCCDC strongly recommends adults interacting with children to be fully vaccinated. All COVID-19 vaccines approved for use in Canada protect against serious complications. See [BCCDC](#) for trusted information on COVID-19 vaccines.

Environmental Measures

Air Circulation and Ventilation

Over the course of 2021, King David upgraded its HVAC (air ventilation) system including increased air circulation points, increased fresh air intake, and high grade air filters (MERV13). When weather permits, classroom windows are also opened.

Cleaning and Disinfection

Regular cleaning and disinfection are essential to preventing the transmission of diseases like COVID-19 from contaminated objects and surfaces. The school will be cleaned daily according to MOH guidelines which include:

- General cleaning and disinfecting of the premises will occur at least once a day
 - All areas of the school will be sanitized once a day
- Frequently-touched surfaces will be cleaned and disinfected at least once a day
- Visibly dirty surfaces will be cleaned and disinfected
- Common, commercially-available detergents and disinfectant products will be used, closely following the instructions on the label

There is no evidence that the COVID-19 virus is transmitted via textbooks, paper or other paper-based products. As such, there is no need to limit the distribution or sharing of books or paper-based educational resources to students.

Disinfectant wipes will be available in each classroom, staff room, in both photocopy areas and other common use areas.

Physical Barriers

Physical barriers are no longer recommended for communicable disease prevention.

Administrative Measures

Gatherings & Events

For school gatherings and events that bring together multiple classes or other groupings of students (e.g., school assemblies, multiple classes doing a single activity, etc.) from the same school (but members of the school community beyond staff, students and necessary volunteers are not attending), there is not a specific capacity limit.

Up to **April 7, 2022** indoor school extracurricular and social gatherings and events that bring together members of the school community beyond staff, students and necessary volunteers (e.g., an arts club performance, community fair, etc.), or that occur between schools (e.g., a music festival, a sports game or tournament, etc.) should not exceed 50 people or 50% operating capacity (whichever is greater) and proof of vaccination requirements should not be implemented.

After **April 7, 2022** all school gatherings and events, including those that bring together members of the community beyond staff and students can return to 100% capacity.

Use of Space

In learning environments, schools can return to classroom and learning environment configurations and activities that best meet learner needs and preferred educational approaches. Use available space to spread people out, both in learning environments and for gatherings and events, where possible. Students and staff are encouraged to continue to be aware of the personal space of others.

Visitors

Visitors are welcomed to return to King David and will only be required to sign in and out according to our usual procedures. We ask that anyone feeling symptoms of any illness not enter the school building. Visitors should respect others' personal space while on school grounds, including outside.

Staff-only Areas

WorkSafe BC guidance and policies will apply to all staff-only spaces in the school such as the staff room, staff work room or staff offices.

Personal Measures

Daily Health Check

Each day, parents must assess their child for symptoms of common cold, influenza, COVID-19, or other infectious respiratory disease **before** sending them to school. **It is a parent's responsibility to assess their children daily before sending them to school.**

Students who show signs or symptoms of any illness must be kept home.

Daily health checks can be supported by the BCCDC resource on [When to get tested for COVID-19](#) or the Ministry of Education's [K-12 Health Check](#). The school will not confirm a daily health check has been done or monitor students and staff for symptoms of illness.

The school will also communicate the ongoing expectation that staff must do a daily health check and that they should not come to school if they are sick.

Students or Staff Who Become Ill at School

A student or member of staff who arrives at school with, or develops symptoms of, any illness, including COVID-19, will be isolated from others in a separate location and will be required to wear a mask. For students, arrangements will be made to have a parent or designate pick them up as soon as possible. For staff members, arrangements will be made to ensure they can get home safely as soon as possible.

Students or staff who cannot readily be picked up will remain in a separated location in the building until they are able to depart, or make their own way home safely.

Symptoms of Illness and Return to School

The management of COVID-19 in the community is now more aligned with the management of other serious respiratory infections.

Students, staff or other adults should stay at home when sick, as this is one of the most important ways to reduce the introduction to, and the spread of, communicable diseases like COVID-19 in schools.

When a staff, student or other adult can return to school depends on if they have tested positive for COVID-19 and/or improvement of their symptoms. [Click Here](#) for complete information on COVID Testing & Return to School or for more information regarding what to do when experiencing COVID-19 symptoms.

Students and staff who experience symptoms consistent with a previously diagnosed health condition (e.g. seasonal allergies) can continue to attend school when they are experiencing these symptoms as normal.

Students or staff may still attend school if a member of their household develops new symptoms of illness and/or has tested positive for COVID-19, provided the student/staff has no symptoms themselves.

Hand Hygiene

Extensive procedures will be in place. Hand sanitizer pumps will be available in every classroom, the Atrium, the main entrance and other common areas.

Staff and student are asked to wash their hands or use hand sanitizer:

- Upon entering the school or bus
- When entering each classroom
- After using the washroom
- Before and after eating and drinking
- After using common areas (e.g. photocopier, computer)
- After using shared utensils/resources/equipment (stapler, projector remotes)
- After sneezing or coughing into hands
- After using a tissue

Rigorous hand washing with plain soap and water is the most effective way to reduce the spread of illness. Both students and staff can pick up and spread germs easily, from objects, surfaces, food and people. Everyone should practice diligent hand hygiene.

Respiratory Etiquette

All students, staff and visitors are asked to use proper **respiratory etiquette**: avoid touching their faces and frequently wash their hands. This includes coughing or sneezing into one's elbow or a tissue. All staff and students should refrain from sharing any food, drinks or unwashed utensils.

Personal Protective Equipment Measures

Non-medical Masks

The decision to wear a mask or face covering beyond when it is recommended by public health is a personal choice for staff, students and visitors. Some students and staff may choose to continue to wear a non-medical mask or face covering throughout the day or for certain activities. A person's choice will be supported and respected. Masks are available at the front office if needed.

Student Transportation on Buses

The school bus will run as usual and will be cleaned and disinfected according to the cleaning and disinfection practices outlined above.

- Students are encouraged to sit one student per seat if possible
- Masks are optional for all students

Food and Beverages

Students are encouraged to not share any food or beverages nor any utensils, containers or anything that comes in contact with the mouth. All students and staff are encouraged to bring a refillable water bottle to school.

Physical Education and Athletics

Students will be spread out as much as possible during physical activities. Physical education and extracurricular exercise and sport activities will occur outside as much as possible.

Students are not required to wear masks during high-intensity physical activities, though a mask is always a personal choice.

Shared equipment will be used and will be cleaned and disinfected as per the guidelines in the cleaning and disinfecting section of this document.

Field Trips

King David will make every effort to avoid venue/locations that place additional requirements that could prevent a student from being able to participate in an experiential learning opportunity. If this is not possible, we will require participants to confirm they are able to meet the additional requirements (e.g., are able to provide proof of vaccination).

Training and Plan Review

Training and review of this plan is mandatory for all staff members and students. All parents are also asked to be familiar with this document; in particular, their responsibility to assess their children's health daily and to keep them home if they have signs of any illness.

The school will conduct regular training for staff, which will be documented and reviewed by a staff safety designate or staff safety committee. This document will also be reviewed regularly to ensure the school is complying with all current provincial guidelines and practices including those of the MOE, MOH, PHO and WorkSafeBC.

This document was prepared with strict adherence to:

- WorkSafe BC: Communicable disease prevention: A guide for employers
- Provincial COVID-19 Communicable Disease Guidelines for K-12 Settings (March 10, 2022)
- Public Health Communicable Disease Guidelines for K-12 Schools (March 10, 2022)

Useful Links:

[BCDCCD When to Get Tested for COVID-19](#)

[Ministry of Education K-12 Health Check](#)

[BCCDC Website](#)

[BC Self-Assessment Tool](#)

[HealthLink BC](#)