

Dasmesh Punjabi School Covid-19 Health and Safety Plan

Wearing a Mask

- Every student and staff member will be given two masks when they return to school in September.
- Under the updated health and safety guidelines, masks are required for all staff and all students in middle and secondary school.
- Wearing a mask is mandatory in high traffic areas, such as school buses, hallways, or if students are unable to maintain social distancing.
- Staff will have the choice to wear a mask when interacting within their learning group.
- When wearing a mask, staff and students will still be required to maintain physical distance from people outside of their learning group.
- Exceptions will be made for students and staff who cannot wear masks for medical reasons
- Elementary school students are not required to wear masks (Kindergarten to grade 5)
- If a student or staff member develops symptoms while at school, they must wear a mask while they are preparing to go home.

Practising Physical Distancing

- Reducing the number of close, in-person interactions helps prevent the spread of COVID-19.
- Keep a safe distance from others.
- People in a learning group do not need to stay two metres apart, but they must limit physical contact.
- Outside of a learning group, including extracurricular activities, middle and secondary students and all K-12 staff must keep a safe distance.
- Physical distancing strategies that will be implemented:
 1. Students and staff will spread out to different areas when possible.
 2. Break times and transition times will be staggered.
 3. Students will be reminded to keep their hands to themselves.
 4. Foot traffic will be clearly marked in hallways and stairs.
 5. Visual reminders will be placed throughout the school.

Riding a School Bus

- Buses will be cleaned and disinfected in accordance with BCCDC guidelines.
- Buses will be loaded from back to front and offloaded from front to back.
- Seating will be kept consistent and seats will be assigned **where possible**. If space is available, each student will have their own seat unless sharing with a member of their household.
- Middle and secondary school students are required to wear non-medical masks. No student is required to wear a mask if they do not tolerate it.
- Masks aren't recommended for elementary students on buses because they are more likely to touch their face and may need help putting them on and taking them off
- Students should clean their hands before they leave home, when they leave school, and when they get home. Hand sanitizer will be available upon boarding the bus.

Using Shared Items

In elementary schools, staff will adapt group activities to limit physical contact and reduce shared items.

- Limit use of frequently touched items that can't be easily cleaned.
- Clean and disinfect laminated materials daily if multiple people touch them.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces at least twice every 24 hours.
- Avoid sharing all food and drinks, including homemade foods like birthday treats for bake sale items.
- If they show up at school, keep them from being shared
- Students should label all their personal items and not share them.
- There is no evidence that COVID-19 is transmitted on textbooks, paper, or other paper-based products.
- Schools can share books or paper-based educational resources with students

Practising Hand Hygiene

- Rigorous hand washing is the most effective way to reduce the spread of illness.
 1. Wash hands with plain soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
 2. You don't need antibacterial soap for COVID-19.
 3. The temperature of the water doesn't matter, though most find warm water to be the most comfortable.
 4. Have regular opportunities for staff and students to practice hand hygiene.
 5. Help younger students with hand hygiene as needed
 6. All classrooms are equipped with hand washing stations.
- If hands are visibly dirty, soap and water are best. If they're not available, use an alcohol-based hand wipe followed by alcohol-based hand rub with at least 60% alcohol.
- Review information on hand hygiene in a school setting from the BCCDC.

Cleaning the school

Our janitorial team will clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces at least twice every 24 hours (once during the school day).

- This is in addition to a general school cleaning, which will happen at least once a day.
- Cleaning Strategies:
 1. Clean and disinfect any surface that is visibly dirty
 2. Use common cleaning and disinfectant products
 3. Limit frequently-touched items that aren't easy to clean
 4. Empty garbage containers daily
 5. Clean and disinfect laminated materials daily if multiple people touch them

All classrooms will be equipped with cleaning kits. In addition staff and students will be encouraged to have a sanitize and disinfect plan for their classrooms.

Installing Physical Barriers

- Add barriers when people can't keep a healthy distance (two metres) and when people interact with a high number of individuals (like at a front reception desk or in a cafeteria).

Controlling Traffic Flow

- Use floor markings and posters to show traffic flow throughout the school. This may include one-way hallways and designated entrance and exit doors
- Schools must keep the same number of exits and ensure they adhere to the fire code.

*** This is a working document and will be modified according to Ministry guidelines.
Last updated on August 26, 2020 ***