

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE PLAN

AUGUST 2022



Introduction

As we begin our new school year at Madrona, our top priority remains the health and safety of our students, staff, and community. The purpose of this document is to outline the updated guidelines and protocols in our Communicable Disease Plan for Madrona School. As we continue to work with our Provincial Health partners to navigate the course of the pandemic, this is a working and evolving document.

There are key principles that guide our planning:

1. Madrona will adhere to the standards, guidelines and protocols from the BC Centre for Disease Control and WorkSafeBC
2. The communicable disease guidelines outlined in this document have been developed to complement guidance from the BC Centre for Disease Control and WorkSafeBC
3. All boards of education and independent school authorities are required to have communicable disease plans in place that adhere to the guidelines outlined in the Public Health Communicable Disease Guidance for K-12 Schools.
4. Schools should implement psychological safety measures and trauma-informed practice alongside physical health and safety measures
5. Effective and ongoing communication with school leaders, community partners, Indigenous rightsholders, parents, caregivers, students, unions and employees is an essential aspect of successfully implementing these guidelines.

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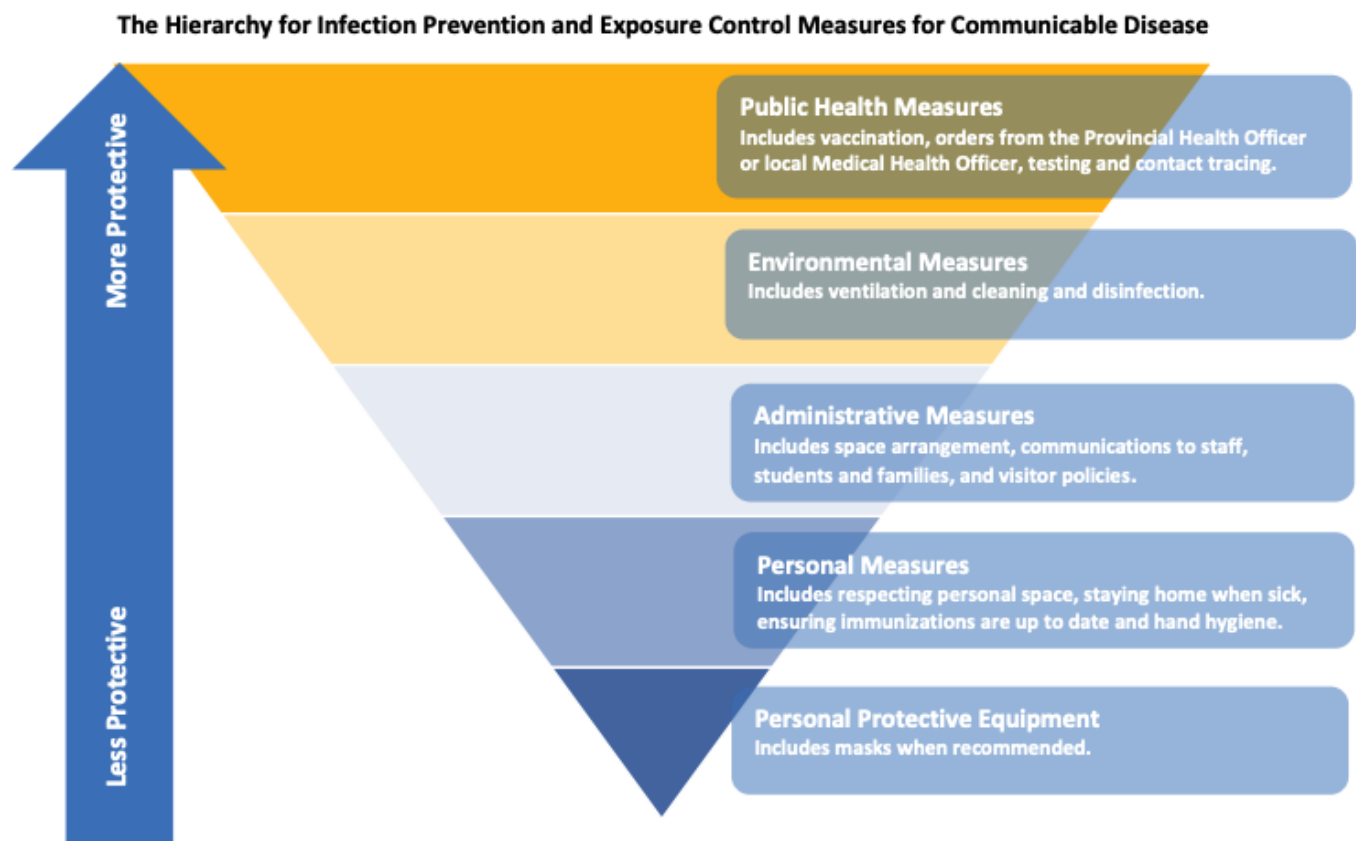
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Daily Routine Protocols

Infection Prevention and Exposure Control Measures

Schools are considered a controlled environment. This is because schools include a consistent grouping of people, there are robust illness policies in place, there are various environmental measures in place (e.g., enhanced cleaning and disinfection, upgraded HVAC systems), and there is an ability to implement effective personal practices that are followed by most people most of the time in the setting (e.g., diligent hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette).

Madrona School implements a combination of control measures as defined by The Hierarchy for Infection Prevention and Exposure Control Measures for Communicable Disease.



Supportive School Environments

As a school we can support students at Madrona to practice personal preventive measures by:

- Having staff model these behaviours.
- Sharing reliable information, including from the BC Centre for Disease Control and the Office of the Provincial Health Officer, to parents, families and caregivers.
- Promoting safety measures in the school through the use of visual aids like floor markings and signage.

Our staff will utilize positive and inclusive approaches to engage students in preventive practices and will avoid measures that are punitive or stigmatizing in nature.

Our staff will also utilize a trauma-informed lens when planning school activities (e.g., gatherings and events) and interacting with other staff and students, including considerations around respecting others personal space. This includes where a student, staff, or other adult (including visitors) cannot comply with a specific safety measure due to health or behavioural reasons. In these circumstances, we will work with these individuals (and their parents/caregivers, if applicable to a student) to explore other environmental and administrative measures to ensure their safety and the safety of others.

Madrona students and staff may choose to wear masks, face shields or other personal protective equipment in schools in alignment with the [BCCDC Public Health Communicable Disease Guidelines for K-12 Schools](#) (Aug 25, 2022), and those choices must be respected.

Vaccine

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, including the Omicron variant. See BCCDC for trusted information on [vaccines](#).

Vaccines are available for children aged 5 and over. We highly encourage everyone in our school community who is eligible to receive the vaccine to do so. For more information on vaccination and how to book an appointment, please visit the [BCCDC website](#).

Madrona Day to Day Operations

Please refer to the [Madrona School Family Handbook](#) for in-depth daily operations.

Changes to daily routine to prevent crowding in common areas:

Homeroom	Changes
A / B (K - Grade 3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Exit and enter via <u>East Wing doors</u> during recess and lunch<u>End class at 3:25pm / 12:25pm</u> to let students collect their belongings at the cubbies and return to their classrooms to await pick up at 3:30pm / 12:30pm.<ul style="list-style-type: none">Parents/Guardians: please come to your child's classroom window to let the teacher know you are here for pick up.
C / D / E (Grade 4 - 5)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Exit and enter through <u>Reception doors</u> during recess and lunchHomeroom C lockers will be moved into the classroom to reduce crowding in hallways
F / G / H (Grade 6 - 8)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Homeroom F, G, H will continue to use <u>West Wing doors</u>Students will have social time with classmates during lunch out and are asked to remain in their seats to eat lunch and engage in a quiet activity until Block 5 starts.

Daily Health Checks

A health check means a person regularly checking to ensure they (or their child) are not experiencing symptoms of illness (including but not limited to COVID-19 symptoms) that would limit their ability to participate **fully** in regular activities before coming to school to prevent spread of communicable diseases, such as COVID-19, within the school settings.

To achieve a high level of health and safety, it will require the cooperation and flexibility of our entire school community. We would like to thank you in advance for your cooperation and willingness to contribute to ensuring our school is safe for operations.

At the home level, it is the parents' responsibility to conduct a daily health check of their child/ren **before arriving at school**. As the parent/guardian, you know your child the best and can detect any early symptoms at home.

****If a student, staff or other adult has any symptoms, they **must not** enter the school. Students that develop symptoms of illness while at school, must be picked up from school immediately.**

Staff & Visitor Arrival

Staff and visitors **must** check in at reception upon arrival and indicate they are well and not having any symptoms of illness before entering the school.

All staff & visitors must adhere to the following:

- Sanitize hands upon entry
- Sign in at Reception upon arrival
- Confirm that they are feeling well and without any symptoms of illness

Sick Student/Staff Protocol

We ask all staff and students to stay home if they are feeling unwell, showing cold/flu-like symptoms.

If a student or staff member becomes ill or shows any cold/flu symptoms when at school, the school will:

- Provide the student/staff with a medical mask.
- Provide the student/staff with a space where they can wait comfortably that is separated from others as best as possible. (The student will be supervised and cared for, when separated.)
- Make arrangements for the student/staff to go home as soon as possible.
- Clean and disinfect the areas the student/staff used.

When a COVID-19 test is recommended by the health assessment:

Source: [BCCDC Link](#)

If a staff/students tests positive for COVID-19, here are the the 2 options for returning to school. Please see below.

Ending isolation if you are fully vaccinated OR less than 18 years of age	Ending isolation if you are 18 years of age or older AND not fully vaccinated
<p>If you tested positive and are managing your illness at home you can end isolation when all three of these conditions are met:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. At least 5 days have passed since your symptoms started, or from test date if you did not have any symptoms. 2. Fever has resolved without the use of fever-reducing medication, such as acetaminophen or ibuprofen. 3. Symptoms have improved. 	<p>If you are an adult who tested positive and you are not fully vaccinated and are managing your illness at home, you can end isolation when all three of these conditions are met:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. At least 10 days have passed since your symptoms started, or from the day you tested positive if you did not have symptoms. 2. Fever has resolved without the use of fever-reducing medication, such as acetaminophen or ibuprofen. 3. Symptoms have improved.

Household members

Students or staff at Madrona may still attend school if a member of their household develops new symptoms of illness, **so long as they do not have any symptoms.**

Voluntary Closures:

Madrona school administrators will always consult with the school medical officer and FISA prior to making the decision to voluntarily close the school in response to a communicable disease school exposure (e.g. due to operational challenges caused by multiple staff being directed to self-isolate). School districts and independent school authorities must also immediately report any school closures to the Ministry of Education.

Functional Closure:

A Functional Closure is when a school can no longer run because it doesn't have the staff to supervise students or provide instruction.

If the school needs to close or a particular class needs to self-isolate, admin would communicate with families, with potentially a day for planning before moving "entirely online."

Families will receive an SMS text message from the school before 8:00 am should a functional closure be required.

The length of time for a functional closure would depend on public health advice and staffing. A functional closure could happen at short notice. For example, if a number of staff call in sick on a morning, we may not have enough staff to open or provide coverage for a homeroom. In that case, families would be notified via email and/or phone and students that have already arrived at school would be sent home.

International Travels

Families should monitor the Government of Canada in regards to travel restrictions and requirements. Please visit [travel Canada](https://travel.gc.ca/) for details regarding international travel mandates.

Reporting Absences

If your child needs to stay home from school, please email attendance@madronaschool.com before the beginning of the school day. If your child is absent due to illness, please follow the guidelines below.

If a student is not well enough to participate in all school activities, including recess, they should not come to school.

Please refer to the [BC Thrive Self Assessment Tool](#), as the guide for keeping your child at home.

Non-Medical Masks and Face Coverings

The decision to wear a mask beyond when it is required by public health is a personal one, based on individual preference. Some students and staff may choose to continue to wear a nonmedical mask or face covering throughout the day or for certain activities. The choice of staff and students to choose whether they practice additional personal prevention measures should be respected. Information on non-medical masks is available from [BCCDC](#).

Respiratory Etiquette

Students and staff should:

- Cough and sneeze into their elbow, sleeve, or a tissue
- Throw away used tissues and immediately perform hand hygiene

Hand Hygiene

Rigorous hand-washing with hand soap and water is the most effective way to reduce the spread of illness.

Follow these guidelines to ensure effective hand hygiene in school:

- 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 hand soap and water).
- Use portable hand-washing sites and/or alcohol-based hand sanitizer dispensers containing at least 60% alcohol, where sinks are not available.
- Hand-washing should be encouraged upon school entry and before & after breaks and eating, using washrooms and using frequently touched shared equipment.
- Promote the importance of diligent hand hygiene to students regularly.
- Ensure hand-washing supplies are always well stocked including soap, paper towels and where appropriate, alcohol-based hand rub with a minimum of 60% alcohol.
- Staff will assist younger students with hand hygiene as needed.
- Students may bring their own sanitizer or hand soap if they are on the list authorized by Health Canada or have a medical condition that requires specialized soaps.
- If hands are visibly soiled, alcohol-based hand rub may not be effective at eliminating microbes. Soap and water are preferred when hands are visibly dirty. If it is not available, use an alcohol-based hand wipe followed by alcohol-based hand rub.

When Student 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 cohorts (e.g. the gym, music room, science lab, etc.).▪ 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.

Physical Distancing and Space Arrangement

Schools can return to classroom and learning environment configurations and activities that best meet learner needs and preferred educational approaches, though should still consider strategies to create space between people.

There are a number of strategies that Madrona considers to help create space between people and to support students and staff in returning to school using a trauma-informed approach:

- Remind students and staff about respecting others' personal space. Use visual supports, signage, prompts, video modelling, etc. as necessary.
- Use available space to spread people out in learning environments, where possible.
- Implement strategies that prevent crowding at pick-up and drop-off times. Focus on entry and exit areas, and other places where people may gather or crowd.
- Take students outside more often, where and when possible.
- Manage flow of people in common areas, including hallways and around lockers, to minimize crowding and allow for ease of people passing through.

Staff Only Spaces

We will be following the WorkSafeBC Guidelines regarding Staff Only spaces at Madrona.

Currently, staff room and meeting room space have reduced occupancy to minimize crowding. Staff are encouraged to work and eat at their designated work space, as well sanitize surfaces used in common areas.

School Gathering and Events

School extracurricular and social gatherings and events (including those occurring within and between schools), regardless of location, can occur in line with the guidance in this document, as well as any applicable local, regional, or provincial public health recommendations and Orders.

However, there will be times when remote meetings better serve the needs of the community.

Lunch & Snacks

To prevent the spread of germs and limit high touch areas, students are required to adhere to the following guidelines:

- No food sharing
- No microwave and communal utensils available
- Birthday treats must be individually wrapped

Based on the above guidelines, students will need to bring,

- A self-contained lunch that does not require reheating
- Multiple snacks
- A full water bottle
- A set of utensils

Curriculum Guidelines

Music

Shared equipment will be cleaned and disinfected as per our cleaning and disinfecting guidelines and students will be encouraged to practice proper hand hygiene before and after music equipment use,

Playgrounds

There is no current evidence of COVID-19 transmission in playground environments. Playgrounds are a safe environment. The following measures should be taken when using playgrounds:

- Ensure appropriate hand hygiene practices before and after outdoor play
- Attempt to minimize unintentional physical contact between students
- Sand and water can be used for play if children wash their hands before and after play.

Food/ Culinary Programs

Madrona will continue to include food preparation as part of learning programs for students. The following guidelines should be applied:

Food Safety

In the case of food and culinary programs, where food is prepared as part of learning and is consumed by the students who prepared it, the following health and safety measures should apply:

- Continue to follow normal food safety measures and requirements
- Implement the cleaning and disinfecting measures outlined in the Cleaning and Disinfecting section of this document
- FOODSAFE Level 1 covers important food safety and worker safety information including foodborne illness, receiving and storing food, preparing food, serving food, and cleaning and sanitizing. All staff that teach food courses or prepare food have taken the FOODSAFE Level 1 course.
- Practice diligent hand hygiene by washing hands with plain soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Students and staff will wash their hands in alignment with normal food safety measures and requirements.
- Refer to the Cleaning and Disinfecting section for cleaning/disinfecting protocols.

School Libraries

At this time, 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/return of books or paper-based educational resources to students because of COVID-19.

Laminated or glossy paper-based products (e.g. books, magazines, worksheets, etc.) and items with plastic covers (e.g. DVDs) are low risk items. Regular book browsing and circulation processes can occur as normal. There is no need to clean, disinfect or quarantine these items for any period of time.

Field Trips

When planning field trips, Madrona staff should follow existing policies and procedures. Additional measures specific to field trips should be taken, including:

- For transportation, including school bus transportation, public transit and carpooling, see guidance in the transportation section in this document.
- Madrona School will ensure that adults providing supervision are trained in and strictly adhere to required health and safety guidelines.
- Alignment with relevant local, regional, provincial and federal public health recommendations and Orders.
- Madrona School will consider guidance provided for overnight camps from BCCDC and the BC Camps Association when planning overnight trips that include group accommodation

Student Transportation - Madrona School Bus

For school buses, schools can return to regular seating and onloading/offloading practices.

Frequently-touched surfaces will be cleaned and disinfected before and after use and when visibly dirty. These include items touched by larger numbers of people (e.g. door handles, handrails, etc.). Surfaces touched by fewer people (e.g. seats) will be cleaned thoroughly 1x/day when the school bus is in use. Other general cleaning will occur in line with regular practices.

Madrona School will:

- Encourage the bus driver and passengers to practice hand hygiene before and after trips, and to practice respiratory etiquette as needed
- Spread passengers out if space is available
- Open windows when the weather allows

Emergency Evacuation Drills

In the event of an actual emergency, emergency procedures must take precedence over COVID-19 preventative measures

- School must still ensure that they do a minimum of 6 fire drills along with lockdown drills and earthquake drills
- Staff should be notified in advance of emergency/evacuation drills (no 'surprise' drills)
- Fire drills must be total evacuation drills and cohorts should maintain a physical distance of 2 metres when outside (no crowding/congregating)

School Supplies & Personal Items

Staff and students can continue to bring personal items to school, but they should not share items that come in contact with the mouth. Students can continue to use their lockers, as it is better for personal items to be stored in a locker than to be stored in classrooms or carried throughout the school. Strategies are implemented to manage the flow of students around lockers to minimize crowding and allow for ease of people passing through.

Cleaning and Disinfecting Protocols

Regular cleaning and disinfection can help prevent the spread of communicable diseases. Cleaning of frequently touched surfaces should occur in line with regular practices and when visibly dirty.

Air Quality

Actions have been taken to enhance ventilation at Madrona School including:

- HVAC units have been adjusted to increase natural fresh airflow
- MERV 13 filters are used in our HVAC system
- HEPA air purifiers with UV-C light technology are in every room

All HVAC systems are operated and maintained as per standards and guidelines. All systems are fully functional and are regularly serviced and maintained monthly.

All HEPA air purifiers are set to be on continuously, and are cleaned monthly, filters are replaced every 6 months.

Important Links

[Madrona Family Handbook](#)

[BC Thrive Self Assessment Tool](#)

[BCCDC Children Vaccine Information](#)

[Provincial Health Communicable Disease Guideline](#)

[Travel Canada](#)