

Maple Hill School Communicable Disease Policy

The Maple Hill School Communicable Disease Plan is a policy to follow in order to help curb the spread of communicable diseases that may spread in a school setting including, but not limited to, COVID-19. Guidance for this plan stems from documentation provided by both WorkSafe BC, the BCCDC, and the BC Ministry of Education and Child Care. Any member of the Maple Hill School community is to be aware of this policy and can submit questions or concerns to the Principal of Maple Hill School by booking an appointment by calling the office at 604-285-9665 or by emailing the principal at eric.dinozzi@maplehill.edu. This policy will be communicated directly with students during the beginning of the school year, will be communicated directly with staff prior to the start of the school year, as well as emailed to all members of the Maple Hill School community.

Prevention Strategies

Vaccinations: Vaccinations remain an effective tool in preventing the transmission of certain communicable diseases. Maple Hill School recommends that students, staff, and caregivers receive all of the vaccinations that they are eligible for. Information about vaccines and when people are eligible to receive them can be found at the Immunize BC website (<https://immunizebc.ca/>). Any member of the Maple Hill School community having difficulty navigating the website or booking appointments can message the school for some assistance.

Masks: Masks or other face coverings are not required to attend Maple Hill School for staff, students, or caregivers. Members of the Maple Hill School community can feel free to use masks if they so choose but this is strictly a personal preference. Should students or staff want a mask, we will have a small number of masks on site should people like to use one or if the mask they normally use breaks.

Staying Home When Sick: Staying home when sick remains a fundamental aspect of preventing communicable diseases when sick. Any student or staff member if they are feeling ill should stay home if they are sick. If a student or staff member has symptoms for COVID-19 they should complete the BC COVID-19 Self Assessment Tool found at <https://bc.thrive.health/covid19/en> and follow the directions as outlined in that tool. Generally, anyone who tests positive for COVID-19 or is presumed to have COVID-19 is to isolate and stay home for 5 days or when they start to feel better, whichever of the two is longer. For example, if you test positive for COVID-19 on a Monday morning, the earliest you can leave your home is Saturday morning. In the example given, if you are still feeling sick, you should continue to isolate until your symptoms improve.

It is important for students to note that classes do not stop for you should you be out for an extended period of time. It is a student's responsibility to make sure they are aware of what is going on with their classes and communicating with their teachers.

Staff who are away are free to connect through Microsoft Teams to their classes should they choose as the same isolation policies apply to staff as well.

Should anyone begin to feel sick at school, they will be escorted to the principal's office where there is a couch and caregivers will be contacted to ensure that the student or staff member can get some safety. Any surfaces that the person was touching prior to being escorted to the principal's office will be wiped down and disinfected.

Hygiene: It is important for all members of the Maple Hill School Community to practice good hygiene techniques. Every room will have a hand sanitizing station at the front of each room. Staff are encouraged to remind students to frequently wash their hands, especially prior to eating or after using the washroom. Students and staff are also reminded to practice proper hygiene when needing to cough or sneeze by making sure you are coughing into your elbow or arm or sneezing into tissue paper and then immediately disposing of said tissue paper. Everyone is also reminded to refrain from touching your face in order to help curb the potential spread of viruses.

Cleaning and Disinfection: All frequently used surfaces will be wiped down and disinfected daily to help curb the spread of communicable diseases.

If anyone would like more information about disease management and other health related information please check the Healthlink BC website (<https://www.healthlinkbc.ca/>), the BCCDC website (http://www.bccdc.ca/schools/Documents/EN_Guide_Childhood_Diseases.pdf or <http://www.bccdc.ca/>), or the local health authority (<http://www.vch.ca/public-health/children-youth-schools/school-health>)