Communicable Disease Plan

Falkland School

September 1, 2021

This document will outline health and safety procedures and protocols in place for students, staff and visitors at Falkland School to maintain a safe learning environment. We are hopeful that this will provide you with information about what is expected of students, staff and visitors incorporating recent changes. This plan is based on the Provincial COVID-19 Communicable Disease Guidelines for K-12 Settings (August 24th). You can also CLICK HERE for more information on the Back to School Plan for BC Schools. Please contact Shelly Cull, Principal if you have questions or wish to inquire about deviations from the plan for your child.

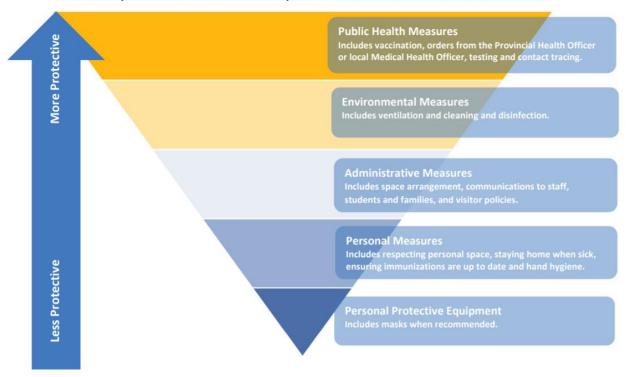
Schools continue to be low-risk sites for COVID-19 transmission, even with increased risk of COVID-19 in some communities. Keeping in accordance with current public health guidelines for schools is important to maintain a safe learning environment. SD83 has the legal and moral authority to protect the health and safety of our students and staff while they are attending school. Please note that additional health and safety measures based on local Public Health Orders may be put in place during times of increased community transmission of COVID-19, and within communities with low vaccination uptake, based on local epidemiology and in proportion to the Medical Health Officer's assessment of risk.

Here are additional resources:

- 1. Welcome Back to School Message from Superintendent, Donna Kriger
- 2. Return to School Plan Fall 2021 Infographic SD83
- BCCDC COVID-19 Public Health Communicable Disease Guidelines for K-12 School Settings (August 24th)
- 4. WorkSafeBC's Communicable disease prevention: A guide for employers
- 5. Province Wide Restrictions (updated August 24th)
- 6. K-12 Education Recovery Plan (updated August 24th)
- 7. North Okanagan Shuswap SD83 Communicable Disease Program

This is a visual outlining the hierarchy for infection prevention and exposure control measures for communicable diseases. 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



The following sections outline measures that will be in place based on this hierarchy.

	Public Health Measures
Public Health Orders	 You can access the most current restrictions in our province (and regions) using this link: https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/covid-19/info/restrictions School related gatherings and events will reflect the current and fluid regional organized gatherings restrictions (Aug. 20th)
Attendance and Record Keeping	 Maintain daily attendance records for staff, students and visitors (including teachers on call, itinerant teachers/specialists, district/authority personnel, parents/caregivers, and volunteers Maintain seating chart records.
Testing	When you exhibit symptoms of illness please follow these important steps which may include TESTING . Refer to the <u>K-12 Health Check app</u> if your child K-5, 6-8 and 9-12 is exhibiting symptoms of illness. This handy tool will advise you on what to do. Please also refer to the BCCDC "When to get tested for COVID-19" resource for specific guidance. Staff, students, parents and caregivers are also encouraged to use the BCCDC online <u>Self-Assessment Tool</u> , or call 8-1-1 or their health care provider.
Contact Tracing	• If a member of our school community is positive for COVID-19, <u>CLICK HERE</u> to learn more about the <u>Management of Illness and Exposures at School</u> .

Environmental Measures	
Ventilation and Air Exchange	 HVAC systems at Falkland School are operated and maintained as per the standards and specifications, and are functioning properly. Portable fans are only used in ventilated spaces with air moving from high to low. In a power outage or other times where air quality may be temporarily compromised, students and staff will be required to find a suitable activity for outdoor learning. Classrooms continue to be encouraged to find opportunities to learn outdoors where and when possible Outside entrances should remain closed as leaving these open could interfere with HVAC function.
Cleaning and Disinfecting	 Frequently touched surfaces (those touched by larger numbers of people) are cleaned and disinfected at least once a day (ie. Hand railing, doorknobs, touch points, etc.). Surfaces touched by fewer people are cleaned once a day. All spaces in our school will have hand sanitizer available for students to access before and after using items shared with larger number of students from multiple classes (ie. Gymnasium, chrome books, etc.). Hand sanitizer will be encouraged also when using items too difficult to sanitize in the class. All spaces will have Vital Oxide available for staff to provide extra disinfection if required. Students will continue to be taught respiratory etiquette In addition to general cleaning and disinfection protocols, surfaces of workspaces and isolation spaces of those who become ill while at school will also be disinfected immediately

	Administrative Measures
Spacing	 While cohorts and 2 metres distancing requirements are NOT part of our communicable disease plan, students and staff are encouraged to use the space available to them as a precaution while inside. Indoor spaces will be arranged so people have enough room to carry out intended learning activities without involuntary physical contact Emphasis will be on utilizing the space available. Students will be encouraged to respect the personal space of others at all times, indoors and outdoors Practices will be put in place to prevent crowding, particularly at coat hooks/lockers (ie. small groups or ½ the class at a time, etc.) and at pick up and drop off times.
Visitors	Visitors and volunteers are welcome inside the school by appointment only with the Principal. This is to ensure visitors are aware of the most recent communicable disease protocols. Visitor access to schools may be

	restricted by local or provincial public health orders or recommendation from a medical health officer.
	It is mandatory for all visitors (of grade 4 age and up) to wear a mask, The state of the shoot and fallow the sign in /sign out process.
	complete a daily health check and follow the sign in/sign out process.
	Visitor access will be limited to the areas required for the purpose of the
	visit. Visitors are asked to respect others' personal space while on school
	grounds both indoors and outside.
	More information about the SD83 policy for Volunteers in Schools and the
	required police information check will be provided soon.
Playground Access	Due to the elimination of cohorts, students have no restrictions on our
	playground because of COVID-19. For supervision purposes, as per usual
	practice, certain areas may be restricted (eg. back of school and far field for
	our younger students) to ensure safety and equal opportunity to access the
	various play structures.
	• As per usual practice, our playground from 7:30 AM – 2:30 PM is for school
	use only. This reminder is important as more classes are accessing the
	outdoors for learning opportunities.
Morning Drop off	While our preference is for parents to drop their children off at the gate,
	parents are permitted to enter the school grounds briefly to drop their
	children off. This will help ensure lots of space to play for our students.
	When on the playground, parents are asked to keep their distance from
	other parents, students and staff. Parents are strongly encouraged to keep
	their drop off brief to reduce potential for crowding on the playground. A
	reminder that the parking lot is for STAFF ONLY parking. Parents are
	requested to park outside along Tuktakmin.
After School Pick	While our preference is for parents to pick their children up at the gate,
Up	parents are permitted to enter the school grounds to pick up their children
	at the end of the day. When on the playground, parents are asked to keep
	their distance from other parents, students and staff. Parents are strongly
	encouraged to keep their pick up brief to reduce potential for crowding. A
	reminder that the parking lot is for STAFF ONLY parking. Parents are
	requested to park outside along Tuktakmin.
	As per regular practice, walking students are expected to head home at the
	end of day bell. Students are required to check in at home and can choose
	to return to school after 2:30 under the discretion and supervision of their
	parent. Playground use is dependent on any field bookings.
Hallways	When traveling in our halls, please walk to the right. Floor markers are
	present as a reminder. In order to ensure enough space in our hallways,
	and reduce amount of hands on frequently touched surfaces, students are
	asked to limit their time in our hallways.
	 Only one student will be allowed to leave the classroom at any one time
	(eg. water bottle filling station, washroom, etc.) to help with classroom
	management and ensure space is available in our hallways and washrooms.
Washroom Use	
vvasiii ooiii ose	As part of usual classroom management, one student per class is recommended to be out of the class at any time.
	recommended to be out of the class at any time.
	Refer to information on Hand Hygiene in the personal measures section.

Water Bottle Filling Stations	 Water will be available for student use at one of two water bottle filling stations. As part of usual classroom management, students are encouraged to bring a full clean water bottle each day for personal use. Students will be encouraged to bring their water bottle home at the end of each day for cleaning and refilling.
Assemblies and other School Gatherings and Events	 For indoor gatherings, people will be spread out within the available space and room capacity limits are not exceeded. Gradual transitions to larger gatherings (eg. school assemblies), including starting with virtual or smaller in-person options, shorter in-person sessions, etc. School gatherings and events will align with provincial/regional public health recommendations and orders.
Bus Students	 In order to create space on our walkways and prevent crowding, bus students will place their back backs in a line at the flagpole and wait for their bus at the small/lower playground. Handwashing is required before leaving home in the morning and sanitizer is required before getting on the bus when leaving school Passengers will be spread out if space permits. Only registered riders are permitted to ride the bus – no courtesy ridership at this time. Frequently touched surfaces are cleaned between routes. Buses will be cleaned and disinfected daily. Masks are mandatory for all staff, visitors and students in grade 4 and up. Bus drivers are required to mask while on the bus except while driving Masks are encouraged for students in grade K-3, however, this remains a personal and family/caregiver's choice.
Outdoor Walkways	Our walkways are for traveling, students are asked to walk and keep moving on our pathways to ensure enough space is available to prevent crowding.
Communication of Plan	 All members of our school community (staff, students, parents, community members, potential visitors) have access to our Communicable Disease Plan on our website. Our site based Occupational Health and Safety Committee (Marcy Corke, Hugh Clarke, Kelly Stalker, Shelly Cull) will review our plan monthly, and when needed, and will make revisions as necessary. A copy will be made available at our SIGN IN counter at our main entrance.
Staff Specific Considerations	 WorkSafe BC Guidance for workplaces is used to determine measures for staff-only spaces within a school and/or for non-school spaces operated by the school district. Staff-only gatherings (eg. staff meetings, professional development days, etc.) will occur in line with those permitted as per relevant local, regional, Provincial, and Federal public health recommendations and Orders for workplace gatherings and events and any related WorkSafeBC guidance.
Food Services – all meal workers are Food Safe certified	 Our Breakfast Club will still be available for ALL students from 8:00 – 8:16 AM. All students are welcome to come and eat breakfast or even a second breakfast. Students will be encouraged, weather permitting of course, to take their breakfast outside to enjoy.

	Availability will be dependent on space available in the room.
	Students will be asked to head outside after their breakfast is complete.
	Our Hot Lunch program will be allowed to continue with volunteers who
	are food safe certified, as per usual. To allow for sufficient spacing,
	students will eat their hot lunch in their assigned class.
	All health and safety protocols with respect to visitors and volunteers in
	schools will need to be adhered to.
	Our top up lunch program will continue to be available for students.
	Healthy options will be provided if students request additional food. These
	may include, but are not limited to, pepperoni, cheese strings, crackers,
	fruit, yogurt, etc.
Community Use of	Community use of school facilities (ie. Boys and Girls clubs, etc.) is aligned
Schools	with related public health guidance, recommendations and orders.

	Personal Measures
Daily Health Checks for students and When to Stay Home	 Staying home if you are unwell is one of the most important personal measures in place. Parents are required to consult with their child to assess their health each morning prior to sending them to school. Staff and students are expected to stay home when they are experiencing symptoms of illness. Refer to the K-12 Health Check app if you child K-5, 6-8 and 9-12 is exhibiting symptoms of illness. This handy tool will advise you on what to do. When to stay home – Infographic SD83 Staff, students, parents and caregivers are also encouraged to use the BCCDC online Self-Assessment Tool, or call 8-1-1 or their health care provider. Staff and other adults can seek specific guidance from the BCCDC's "When to get tested for COVID-19" As per usual practice, if your child is absent from school, please notify the office by email fal@sd83.bc.ca or phone call at 250-379-2320. Please do not contact your child's teacher about absences. Please include the reason for your child's absence in your message. If unwell, knowing the symptoms your child is experiencing is helpful if they become wide spread in our school community (ie. gastrointestinal, respiratory). Please know that reasons for your absence are confidential and necessary for public health response.
Daily Health Checks for Staff and Visitors and When to Stay Home	The health check form included below was developed by WorkSafeBC and is used each day for staff. Staff are required to initial upon arriving to work that they do not have any symptoms of illness outlined on the WorkSafeBC checklist. This is the same checklist used for visitors.

Keep our workplace safe from COVID-19

Please do not enter this workplace if you:

- Have travelled outside of Canada within the last 14 days
- Have been identified by Public Health as a close contact of someone with COVID-19
- Have been told to isolate by Public Health
- Are displaying any of the following new or worsening symptoms:
 - Fever or chills
 - Cough
 - Loss of sense of smell or taste
 - Difficulty breathing
 - Sore throat
 - Loss of appetite

- Extreme fatigue or tiredness
- Headache
- · Body aches
- · Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

If you are displaying symptoms consistent with COVID-19, refer to HealthLink BC at 811.

worksafebc.com

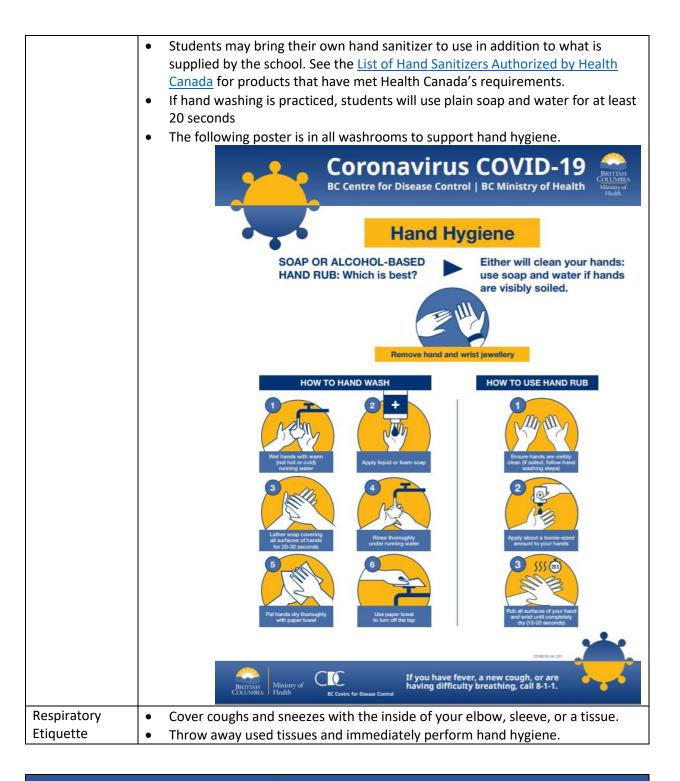


- Students and staff who experience symptoms consistent with a previous health condition (eg. seasonal allergies) can continue to attend school when they are experiencing these symptoms as NORMAL.
- Students and staff may still attend school if a member of their household develops new symptoms of illness, provided the student/staff has no symptoms themselves, unless they have been advised by public health to selfisolate.

Symptoms of Illness While at School

 If students or staff appear or communicate they have symptoms of illness connected to respiratory and or gastrointestinal illness (including COVID-19), they are required to mask, isolate immediately, and head home as soon as possible to complete the online <u>Self-Assessment Tool</u> to determine next steps.

It is important that students and staff, when unwell, have the opportunity to heal comfortably at home. Parents/caregivers will need a plan in place for picking up their child as soon as possible if they develop symptoms of illness while at school. If parents are unreachable, our office will contact the emergency contact person on file. It is important that your emergency contact information is up to date. Returning to School After Student or staff member experiencing symptoms stays home and seeks guidance (using resources outlined above): Illness If guidance does not recommend getting tested or a health care assessment - stay home until symptoms improve and feel well enough to participate in If guidance recommends getting tested stay home until test results received. all school-related activities If test result is negative¹, can return to school when symptoms improve and feel well enough to participate in all school-related activities If test result is positive², follow health authority direction on when to return to school 1. Symptoms of common respiratory illnesses can persist for a week or more. Re-testing is not needed unless the person develops a new illness. BCCDC has information on receiving negative test results. 2. Public health will contact everyone with a positive test. Visit the BCCDC website for more information on positive For more information on the process for managing illness and exposure at school, **CLICK HERE**. Hand Hygiene When they arrive at school. When they arrive at school. Before and after any breaks (e.g., recess, lunch). Before and after any breaks (e.g. recess, lunch). Before and after eating and drinking (excluding) Before and after eating and drinking. drinks kept at a student's desk or locker). Before and after handling food or assisting Before and after using an indoor learning space students with eating. used by multiple classes with shared Before and after giving medication to a student equipment. or self. After using the toilet. After using the toilet. After sneezing or coughing into hands. After contact with body fluids (i.e., runny noses, Whenever hands are visibly dirty. spit, vomit, blood). After cleaning tasks. After removing gloves. After handling garbage. Whenever hands are visibly dirty.



	Personal Protective Equipment
Masks	 Masks are mandatory for all staff, visitors and students in grade 4 and up at all times while inside the school and on school busses. While masks are encouraged for students in grade K-3, wearing masks remains a personal and family/caregiver choice and their choices must be respected.

	 While we will have masks available in the office if masks are forgotten, we encourage parents to work closely with their children to ensure they are remembered, cleaned and properly cared for (including proper disposal). Those wearing masks should continue to respect others' personal space.
	The use of masks should not reduce or replace other more effective infection prevention and exposure control measures in schools, such as: ensuring students and staff are aware of their responsibility to perform a daily health check,
	and to stay home when they are sick or if required to self-isolate;
	 daily cleaning and disinfection of frequently touched surfaces; and
	• frequent hand hygiene.
	These measures provide multiple layers of protection that reduce the risk of transmission.
	 If children are unable to tolerate their mask due to medical or behavioural reasons, parents need to contact Principal, Shelly Cull to arrange a meeting to explore other environmental, administrative and/or personal measures that can be put in place to ensure their safety, safety of staff and the safety of other students. No student should be prevented from attending or fully participating at school if they do not wear a mask. Exploring other measures to support students' personal prevention practices is part of our positive and inclusive approach.
Mask Exceptions	The guidance outlined above regarding mask requirements does not apply to staff, students and visitors in the following circumstances:
for Staff, Student, and Visitors	to a person who cannot tolerate wearing a mask for health or behavioural reasons;
	to a person who is unable to put on or remove a mask without the assistance of another person;
	if the mask is removed temporarily for the purposes of identifying the person wearing it;
	 if the mask is removed temporarily to engage in an educational activity that cannot be performed while wearing a mask (e.g. playing a wind instrument, engaging in high-intensity physical activity, etc.);
	if a person is eating or drinking;
	if a person is behind a barrier; or
	 while providing a service to a person with a disability or diverse ability (including but not limited to a hearing impairment) where visual cues, facial expressions and/or lip reading/movements is important.
Additional PPE	 Additional PPE (ie. face shield, goggles, barrier, etc.) may be utilized by some staff for additional protection. These choices must be respected.

Curriculum	
Music	 Masks can be temporarily removed while engaging in an educational activity that cannot be performed while wearing a mask (ie. playing a wind instrument). Check out <u>Guidance for Music Classes in BC During COVID-19</u> developed by the BC Music Educators' Association and the Coalition for Music Education in BC for more information. This is a shared space with equipment used by many different classes. Cleaning and disinfecting will occur after use and proper hand hygiene will be practiced before and after equipment use.

Library	 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. The BC Teacher Librarians Association has developed Recommendations for Access to Library Learning Commons Resources to Meet COVID-19 Requirements. This space is used by many different classes. Cleaning and disinfecting will occur after use and proper hand hygiene will be practiced before and after equipment use.
Physical Health and Education	 Students and staff will spread out to use available space, and encourage outdoor activities and programs, as much as possible. K-12 staff and students in Grades 4 to 12 are required to wear masks during PHE/outdoor program classes when they are indoors and a barrier is not present. Students are not required to wear masks during high-intensity physical activities (e.g. stationary bike, weightlifting, basketball, soccer); mask use during these activities is left to students' personal choice. Staff are encouraged to move high-intensity physical activities outdoors whenever possible. For low intensity activities (e.g. yoga, walking), students are required to wear masks when they are indoors and a barrier is not present. This is a shared space with equipment used by many different classes. Cleaning and disinfecting will occur after use and proper hand hygiene will be practiced before and after equipment use.
Technology	 Our cart containing 25 chrome books and 5 ipads for student/classroom use is used by students in many different classrooms and therefore, hand hygiene should be practiced before and after use. Sanitization of the chrome books using Vital Oxide supplied in all spaces in our school should also be practiced. Vital Oxide is also available to use on classroom desk top computers.
Extra-Curricular	School sports, extra-curricular activities and assemblies including theatre and dance performances, can now occur but are subject to direction of the Local and Regional Health Officer.