



4052 Wilkinson Road
Victoria, BC V8Z 5A5
Phone: (250) 595-7765
Fax: (250) 595-7712
Email: principal@discoveryschool.ca
www.discoveryschool.ca

September 3, 2021

Discovery School's COVID-19 Communicable Disease Prevention Plan

Introduction

The health and safety of Discovery students, staff, and the school community are of paramount importance to us. Since the beginning of the pandemic, Discovery has followed the guidelines set by the BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC), WorkSafeBC, the Public Health Office (PHO), and the Ministry of Education (MoE). For the return of the 2021-22 school year, districts and schools have been instructed to transition from a COVID-19 Safety Plan to a COVID-19 Communicable Disease Prevention Plan. Discovery School's COVID-19 Communicable Disease Prevention Plan has been developed to align with the latest released guidelines. The health and safety measures outlined in the guidelines incorporate learning gained over time starting from the spring of 2020 and through the 2020-21 school year.

This plan will be updated throughout the upcoming school year to ensure our protocols and procedures meet those required by the MoE, the PHO authorities, and our regional Island Health authorities, as the Province has now allowed for regional and community variations in requirements, based on local and community circumstances.

The School will continue to take part in regular meetings through the Federation of Independent Schools (FISA) and the Associate Member Society (AMS) focused on the topic of COVID-19 and safe school operations. The School will continue to review regular communications from the MoE, Deputy Minister, PHO, FISA, and AMS regarding updates to guidelines and impacts on school programs and operations.

Our families, staff, and students have a shared responsibility in protecting themselves and each other from the spread of COVID-19 and other communicable diseases. This is achieved by all reading, knowing, and following the preventive plan and necessary safety measures. Staff will strive to implement psychological safety measures and trauma-informed practice alongside physical health and safety measures. Achieving an as close-to-normal learning environment within the guidelines is an important step in helping achieve wellbeing for all.

It is understood that students may have had varied levels of disruption to their academic development over the course of the pandemic. Discovery will continue to provide learning opportunities in accordance with students' IEPs and their personal academic, social-emotional and behavioural goals. Individuals providing specialized supports will do so following guidelines established by their professional associations.



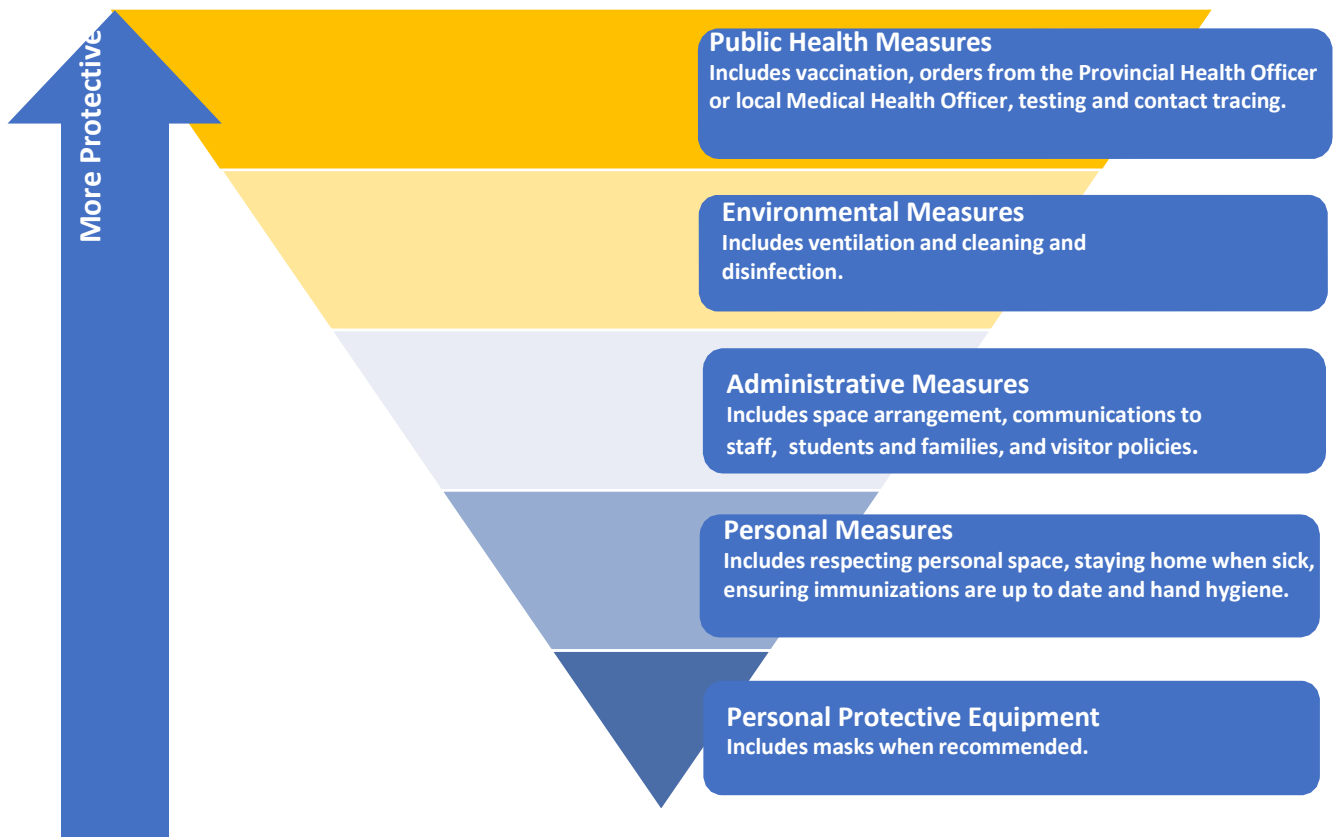
Resources:

- [Public Health Communicable Disease Guidance for K-12 Schools](#)
- [Provincial COVID-19 Communicable Disease Guidelines for K-12 Settings](#)
- [WorkSafeBC Preventing Exposure to COVID-19 in the Workplace](#)

Safety Measures

The Hierarchy for Infection Prevention and Exposure Control Measures for Communicable Disease describes measures to reduce the transmission of 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





Discovery will use a combination of strategies to control the transmission of COVID-19 in our community, including:

1. **Public Health Measures** – These are measures that include following the Orders from the Public Health office, Island Health regarding vaccinations, testing and contact tracing.
2. **Engineering Controls** – These are measures relating to physical space, structures and technologies. These measures will vary given the control scenario. These include environmental measures such as changes to the physical environment that reduce the risk of exposure. Examples include ventilation, using visual cues for avoiding congestion in hallways and directing traffic flow, erecting physical barriers where appropriate, cleaning and disinfection.
3. **Administrative Controls** – These are measures relating to the management of resources and personnel, and will likewise vary depending on the control scenario. Administrative Measures are measures enabled through the implementation of policies, procedures, training and education that reduce the risk of exposure to communicable diseases. Examples of these include implementing health and wellness programs, establishing protocols and policies, regular communications to the school community, and maximizing the spaces available for classroom activities.
4. **Personal Measures** – Personal Measures are actions individuals can take to protect themselves and others. Examples include respecting personal space, washing your hands frequently, coughing into your elbow, vaccinating, and staying home if you are sick.
5. **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)** – The use of protective equipment will be in addition to any engineering or administrative controls. General PPE used for controlling transmission or exposure to communicable diseases is face masks and/or shields, latex gloves, gowns and barriers.

1. Public Health Measures: Exposure Control Measures

A. Daily Health Checks

Parents and caregivers must perform the Daily Health Check with their children and follow the directions as to when to stay home. Directions can be found here: [Daily Health Check Screening](#)

All employees and contractors of Discovery are required to complete a Daily Wellness Check and then confirm they are symptom free/well on the School's Google Doc Health Log prior to their arrival to work on campus, in alignment with the Provincial Health Officer's *Order on Workplace Safety*.

We all must remain committed to personal wellness and the prevention of communicable



diseases by staying home when sick.

Self-screening Tool: We suggest you use the K-12 Daily Health Check website [The K-12 Daily Health Check](https://www.k12dailycheck.gov.bc.ca/mobile?lang=en) or download the iPhone/iPad iOS or Android devices app <https://www.k12dailycheck.gov.bc.ca/mobile?lang=en> as it is an easy way to decide if your child should attend school based on their symptoms.

This printable [Daily Health Check Screening](#) tool may also be used to assess the presence of symptoms of common cold, influenza, COVID-19, or other infectious respiratory diseases. ***If any child, staff member, school contractor, parent, or visitor has symptoms they must not come to the school.***

For more information on communicable diseases including COVID-19, please refer to the [BCCDC website](#). If you have any concerns or questions about the health of your child, you may also contact 8-1-1 at any time.

B. Vaccinations

Discovery endorses the public health officials strong encouragement for all eligible students and staff to be fully vaccinated (i.e., receive 2 doses) against COVID-19 to protect themselves and those around them, including those who are not eligible to be vaccinated. Please refer to BCCDC and ImmunizeBC for immunization information and review this [information sheet](#) from Island Health for details on how to access vaccinations.

Up to date information on vaccinations coverage is available from BCCDC. It is strongly recommended that adults interacting with children under 12 be fully vaccinated.

It is important to stress that Public Health considers vaccination status when investigating any possible school exposures. Staff and students who are not at least 14 days past receiving their second dose (i.e., aren't fully immunized) and are identified as close contacts are more likely to be asked to self-isolate.

C. Communication

Public health will continue to collaborate with schools on sharing public health information. The Discovery community will continue to be notified of necessary updates in a timely manner through newsletters, directed emails, and updates to this document posted on the school's website.

Public Health will continue to collaborate with schools, students, and families, including providing direction on if and when exposure notifications should be sent. We ask that community members follow the guidance provided by Public Health during these communications.



D. Travel & Quarantine, Children under 12 Rules

Unvaccinated children less than 12 years of age who enter Canada with their fully vaccinated parents, step-parents, guardians or tutors, are not required to quarantine upon entering Canada if both the child and the parents, step-parents, guardians or tutors, meet certain requirements in the Order and comply with the conditions imposed on them by the Minister of Health.

Conditions - What your child cannot do for the next 14 days

- Attend a setting where they may have contact with vulnerable people (e.g., long-term care facility), including with people who are immune compromised, regardless of that person's vaccination status or public health measures in place.
- Attend school, camp or day care.
- Travel on crowded public transportation that does not ensure physical distancing and masking (e.g., crowded subway).
- Attend large crowded settings, indoors or outdoors, such as an amusement park or event.

If you are or have recently been travelling, and your child falls within the criteria, please alert the school that they will not be attendance for the required period of time. Please see the article for further details. [COVID-19: For unvaccinated children under 12 without symptoms and travelling with fully vaccinated parents or guardians](#)

2. Engineering Controls

A. Physical Distancing

Physical distancing requirements of 2 metres (unless dealing with an ill individual) and Learning Group structures are no longer required for school environments. Classroom and learning group configurations, seating plans and activities will be arranged in a manner that uses the space with maximum distancing, and in ways that best meets learner needs and preferred educational approaches.

Additional strategies being employed include:

- Regular reminders for students about respecting personal physical space.
- Use of visual supports, signage, prompts, video modelling, etc. as necessary.
- Use of available space to spread people out, both in learning environments and for gatherings and events, where possible. In indoor spaces, people should have enough room to carry out intended activities without involuntarily physical contact with others.
- Creation of space between students/staff as much as possible through seating arrangements and/or moving some classes and activities outside when possible.
- Implementation of strategies and staggered drop off and pick up that prevent crowding at those times.
- Assigned entry and exit areas, and other places where people may gather or crowd.



- For indoor activities that bring people together in close proximity for a prolonged period of time (e.g., assemblies, performances, ceremonies) the school will adhere to room capacity limits (where applicable) and or offer alternatives such as small group activities, outdoor events, and virtual opportunities.
- Manage flow of people in common areas, including hallways, to minimize crowding and allow for ease of people passing through.
- Lockers for the middle school classes will be assigned in class groupings and times of use managed to minimize crowding. High School classes will have bins in their homerooms and storage options provided in rooms of use.
- Use floor markings and posters to address traffic flow throughout the school as necessary.
- In situations such as transitions in common areas of the school or during extracurricular activities, there will also be an increased focus on PPE, hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette, and cleaning and disinfecting.
- Only necessary personal items should be brought to school (e.g., backpacks, school supplies, water bottles). Personal items should be labelled with the owner's name to discourage accidental sharing.

B. Floor Markings, Signage, and Movement Patterns

Floor markings, Discovery, arrows, maps, posters on doors, etc., will be used to convey key pieces of information such as mask use, cleaning protocols, directional flow and movement patterns, safety precautions or special instructions to community members.

C. Barriers Where Required

Physical barriers may be used as a precautionary measure in situations where mask wearing is not possible or where there is an opportunity for increased transmission between individuals: for example, when providing face-to-face support for a student with diverse needs (such as hearing impairment); or while addressing individuals at reception desks, or in the various office spaces.

D. Environmental Cleaning

Regular cleaning and disinfecting of spaces, objects and high-touch surfaces is part of the school's approach to supporting safe and healthy learning and work environments. Discovery will be cleaned and disinfected in accordance with the BCCDC's cleaning and disinfecting recommendations. In addition, our janitorial staff will clean and disinfect the school premises using approved cleaners.

- General cleaning and disinfecting of the premises at least once every 24 hours.
 - This includes items that only a single student uses, like an individual desk.
- Cleaning and disinfecting of frequently-touched surfaces at least once every 24 hours and when visibly dirty.

- These include items touched by larger numbers of people (e.g., doorknobs/crash bars, stairwell railings, light switches, toilet handles, faucets, shared gym equipment, tables, desks and chairs used by multiple students).
- It may be impossible to wash certain frequently-touched items (sand, playdough, lab equipment, manipulatives, etc.). These items may still be used providing proper hand hygiene is practiced before and after use.
- Objects made of materials that are not easily cleaned (e.g., foam, etc.), or that are typically cleaned intermittently (e.g., fabrics, soft toys, etc.), will continue to be used and be cleaned (if possible) according to regular practices.
- Textbooks, paper, other paper-based products, laminated or glossy paper-based products, and items with plastic covers do not need to be cleaned and disinfected, or quarantined for any period of time.
- Cleaning and disinfecting immediately of any surface or material that has come into contact with bodily fluids.
- Any equipment a student has placed in their mouth or that has been in contact with bodily fluid will need to be cleaned as soon as possible.
- Students will be instructed to wipe down their work areas (this will take place before eating breaks). There may be other times as needed that this may be requested.
- Other general cleaning will occur in line with regular practices.
- Medical cot and mattress will be cleaned and disinfected prior to use and after they are used or soiled. Pillowcases and blankets will be laundered between single person uses. Protective medical clothes will be applied as a protective barrier with each time.

Each classroom will also be supplied with a disinfectant spray bottle and paper towels, as well as disinfectant wipes for use by teachers and students as needed. Microfibre cloths will be issued for cleaning, as these are proven to have the greatest ability to remove microbes from surfaces and inhibit microbial growth. All sinks in washrooms, common areas and kitchens will be stocked with hand washing supplies at all times (i.e., soap and paper towels).

E. Waste Disposal and Other Potentially Infectious Material

Caution will be taken when handling garbage because it may contain contaminated material with blood and/or bodily fluids. Disposable gloves may be worn when handling waste or laundry. Hand hygiene will be performed before and after handling waste and garbage. Daily waste removal is sufficient per usual standards.

Staff and or the janitor (timing dependent) will clean up spills, including biohazard spills (blood and bodily fluids) and will use appropriate PPE in these circumstances.

F. Ventilation

Ventilation is a type of engineering control that may help reduce airborne concentrations of a virus and filter out other microbes. At this time, there is no evidence that a building's ventilation system, in good operating condition, is contributing to the spread of the COVID-19 virus.



The school's ventilation ducts have all received a thorough cleaning this summer. Rooms are equipped with air purifiers and filters changed.

Basic guidelines:

- Doors and windows will remain open wherever possible; weather permitting.
- For spaces where heat can be an issue, a fan or air conditioner may be used.
- Air conditioners are used only with venting to the outside.
- Use of the outdoors it is still encouraged due to its overall health benefits. Some activities may take place outdoors, weather permitting.

3. Administrative Controls

A. Limiting Gathering Densities – School Gatherings and Events

The following measures are in place:

- Drop-in visits are strongly discouraged. Parents and visitors are not to enter school buildings without an appointment unless their presence is connected to a planned school activity where audiences or attendance has been encouraged by the school.
- Public access to the school will continue to be monitored and limited in accordance with Ministerial Orders and guidance from the PHO.
- All internal School gatherings such as ceremonies, celebrations, etc., will be done following PHO health and safety protocols.
- School co-curricular and social gatherings and events (including those occurring between schools) should occur in line with those permitted as per relevant local, regional, provincial and federal public health recommendations and orders.
- To meet density requirements the annual AGM event will take place virtually.
- Based on based on last year's successes and recommendations from parents and staff the IEP meetings and teacher/parent meetings will be conducted virtually this year.

B. Students and Staff with Pre-existing Medical Conditions

It is important that families update their child's medical history in the new school year Medical Form and notify the school of any pre-existing medical conditions or changes to medication.

This is an expectation for all students (and staff with their medical forms) and particularly important for any individuals with allergies, on-going health concerns, or with health issues which may present as symptoms similar to those experienced with communicable diseases including, but not limited to, COVID-19. This information will help to inform staff of a baseline for the individual with which to compare should symptoms change or worsen.

Students and staff who experience seasonal allergies or other COVID-19-like symptoms, which are related to an existing condition, can continue to attend school when they are experiencing these



symptoms as normal. If they experience any change in symptoms, they should seek assessment by a health-care provider.

It is important for families to communicate any new or existing medical needs with their child's teachers so that they are aware of the situation.

C. Sick Policy, Staying Home, Self-isolation

Stay Home When Required to Self-Isolate

Students, staff or other adults must stay home if they are required to self-isolate. Additional information on self-isolation requirements and support is available from [BCCDC](#).

Stay Home When Sick

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 in schools. The following resources provide guidance regarding specific symptoms of illness:

- Parents/caregivers and students can use the [K-12 Health Check app](#).
- Staff and other adults can refer to [When to get tested for COVID-19](#)
- Staff, students and parents/caregivers can also use the [BCCDC online Self-Assessment Tool](#), call 8-1-1, their health care provider, or refer to the school nurse.

Symptoms of Illness While at School

It is our commitment as a community to partner together to ensure the safest possible environment. It is a possibility that a member of the community will acquire, or be involved in the transmission of, a communicable disease including COVID-19 and consequently, we have developed a plan for these instances. To minimize the risks of transmission, there will be a low threshold for identification of symptoms before the school contacts home.

In the event that a student develops or exhibits symptoms of illness while at school or when involved in school activities, Discovery will:

- Promptly separate students and staff who show symptoms of COVID-19 from others until they can safely leave the school, with appropriate supervision for students by the staff member that was working with the student in the designated sick room. Primarily Rm 107.
- Anyone who is required to provide care to the ill person should maintain physical distance (2 metres) between themselves and the ill individual and practice diligent hand hygiene while the ill person is waiting to be picked up by a parent or guardian.
- If a 2m physical distance cannot be maintained a non-medical mask and face shield are to be worn and staff should avoid touching body fluids as much as possible, and practice diligent hand hygiene. Staff caring for the ill child will assume responsibility for cleaning and disinfecting the required surfaces/equipment.
- The staff member will also clean and disinfect the surfaces/equipment which the bodily fluids may have been in contact with while the individual was ill (e.g., their desk in a



- classroom, the bathroom stall they used, etc.) prior to the surfaces/equipment being used by others. The janitor will also be notified immediately of any need for priority cleaning.
- Parents/guardians will be notified immediately and requested to come to pick up their child.
 - It is expected that parents/guardians will come to the school to pick up the student immediately. We encourage families to have a back-up plan for pick up in the event that their child is ill and parents/guardians may have complications with work preventing them to make an immediate pick up.
 - Students exhibiting symptoms will be required to wear a face mask and to self-isolate.
 - All students and staff are expected to have face masks on their person, or be able to access them at any time throughout the day. In addition, face masks are available from reception desks, maintenance or the main offices. If an individual is not able to wear a face mask, the ill person should be provided with tissues to practice good respiratory etiquette. Soiled tissues must be safely disposed of in waste receptacles.
 - A staff member who shows symptoms of communicable disease, including but not limited to COVID-19, must notify administration immediately and promptly go home. Administration must confirm the location(s) the employee was working in to ensure environmental cleaning can be conducted in those spaces. The school will follow procedures outlined in the [COVID-19 Protocols for School & District Administrators and Staff](#) document and guidance from the public health.
 - Any communication regarding testing results or relating to contact tracing will happen under the direction of the Public Health Authority.
 - The school will work with the local medical health officer to ensure policies and procedures are in place regarding reporting elevated staff and student absenteeism due to influenza-like illness to public health/the local medical health officer if staff and/or student absenteeism exceeds 10 percent of regular attendance to support early identification of clusters and outbreaks.

D. Return to School

When a staff member, student or other adult can return to school depends on the type of symptoms they experienced (as indicated in the [K-12 Health Check app](#) and [When to get tested for COVID-19](#)), if a COVID-19 test was recommended, and the type of illness they had (e.g., COVID-19 or other communicable illness).

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. They do not require reassessment by a health-care provider and should not be required to provide a health-care provider note. However, if they experience any new or unexplained symptoms, they should seek assessment by a healthcare provider.

Students or staff may still attend school if a member of their household develops new symptoms of illness, provided the student/staff has no symptoms themselves. If the household member tests positive for COVID-19, public health will advise the asymptomatic student/staff on self-



isolation and when they may return to school. It is the school's right to request that the family or staff member provide evidence of a negative COVID-19 test, or of being cleared by a medical practitioner and being symptom free, prior to returning to school.

E. Exposure Protocols, Containment, and Response

In the event a student or staff member is confirmed to have contracted communicable diseases cases (including COVID-19) where exposure to others on Discovery premises has occurred, the school will follow the guidance of the BC Public Health Authority regarding all recommendations to contain exposure and minimize further transmission.

When a potential exposure at a school is identified, public health will work with the school to understand who may have been exposed and determine what actions should be taken, including identifying if other students or staff has been exposed. Public health considers vaccination status when investigating school exposures. Further actions will be dictated by local health authorities and will likely include initiatives such as monitoring for symptoms, self-isolation, testing, contact tracing, quarantine and/or isolation procedures.

If there is a confirmed COVID-19 case in a school, public health contacts any affected school community members directly. Regional health authorities also post school notifications on their websites, providing the date and type of notification (outbreak, cluster or exposure) for impacted schools. Public health continues to consider practices for general exposure notifications. See [Island Health](#) for more details.

To ensure personal privacy rights are maintained, public health will only disclose a confirmed case of a communicable disease if the person was infectious when they attended school. The school and public health will only provide the personal information needed to support effective contact tracing. Discovery will ensure that staff, students and families who are impacted directly are treated with respect, fairness and compassion with a focus on dignity and the protection of their privacy.

School Administration will follow processes outlined in [COVID-19 Protocols for School and District Administrators: Management of Illness and Confirmed Cases](#). In addition, the school will modify practices and protocols in accordance with future updates.

Risk Communication

Public statements and communications to parents/caregivers and staff containing public health messaging, including references to confirmed or suspected cases of COVID-19 within the school community, must be reviewed and approved by the regional health authority prior to release. The school will consult with the FISA Health Liaison - Island Health, the Critical Response Team, and the Island Health Medical Officer in preparing and distributing an approved communication to our community. As mentioned in the [COVID-19 Protocols for School and District Administrators:](#)



[Management of Illness and Confirmed Cases](#) specific actions taken may differ at the discretion of the responsible Medical Health Officer.

F. Pick-up and Drop Off Routines

At drop off students arriving before the bell times will go to the back playground until their assigned entry time into the school, at which point teachers or SEAs will greet students at their designated doors to then enter the building.

While parents are welcome to be on the property outdoors during these times, we ask that you please respect others' personal space and avoid involuntary physical contact with others. *Please refer to the Campus Visitor Protocols section for further information.*

The school will continue to offer front door safety supervision to assist families achieve safe fast drop off and go arrangements.

We ask that parents do not enter the building with their children at these times. Staff will assist the students with any organizations assistance they may need.

At pick-up and drop off we ask parents not to conjugate near the portable or to block the sidewalk to and from portable and main building. Students and staff will need to be utilizing that area as a pathway.

We ask for parents to not loiter when picking up and dropping off to aid the school in managing traffic safety, ensuring adequate physical space, and controlling the numbers of individuals gathering at one time.

Pick-up and drop-off is always a busy time on campus and safety remains a priority. As always, we ask that families are mindful of pedestrians, loading zones, and the driveways of our neighbours.

Arrival and dismissal times will be staggered:

Classes	Drop Off and Pick-Up Times			Entrance Door
	Arrival	Wednesday Departure	Other Days Departure	
Division 1 (Grades 3-5)	8:55 am	1:55 pm	2:55 pm	Room 401, exterior door
Division 2	8:55 am	1:55 pm	2:55 pm	Room 102, exterior door



(Grade 6)				
Division 3 (Grade 7)	9:00 am	2:00 pm	3:00 pm	Main front door
Division 4 (Grade 8)	9:00 am	2:00 pm	3:00 pm	Main back door entrance by gym
Division 5 (Grade 9)	8:30 am	2:02 pm	3:02 pm	Room 101, exterior door
Division 6/7 (Grades 10 & 11)	8:30 am	2:02 pm	3:02 pm	Room 203, balcony door
Division 8 (Grades 12, 12+)	8:30 am	2:02 pm	3:02 pm	Room 106, portable

G. Campus Visitor Protocols

In an effort to support the well-being of all Discovery community members, we kindly ask all visitors to abide by the following protocols. These health and safety protocols are based on the Health Canada and the British Columbia Centre for Disease Control recommendations, in an effort to reduce the spread and transmission of the COVID-19 virus. Discovery acknowledges that individuals may have different levels of comfort when it comes to their own health and safety and wishes to support the well-being of each member of our community.

Unplanned visits to the campuses are discouraged at this time. Parents and visitors should not enter school property without an appointment unless their presence is connected to a planned school activity where audiences or attendance has been encouraged by the school. When needing to speak to personnel at the school. In most instances, it may be preferred/possible or at times necessary to arrange a virtual meeting as an alternative. Please contact the appropriate staff member via phone or email to see if the concern can be addressed first via a virtual connection, if not by an outdoor meeting (time and location on the school grounds), and if not then an in-person meeting with limited movement within the school. Once arriving on campus, please report to the main reception areas, where you will be asked to sign in and provide a contact number for contact tracing purposes. These details will be maintained for a minimum of 45 days and may be shared with Medical Health Authorities upon their request.

- a. **Prior to arrival visitors will be asked the following questions:**
 - Are you currently exhibiting any [symptoms of COVID-19](#), as per the BCCDC documentation?
 - Have you recently visited any outbreak area, or have you come into contact with anyone who has visited an outbreak area, in the last 14 days?



- Have you completed the BC COVID-19 [Self-Assessment Screening Tool](#)? Please do so prior to your visit to Discovery.
 - Have you been directed to quarantine or self-isolate at this time?
- b. Admissions or reception staff will confirm answers to these questions at the time of arrival:**
- Have you answered NO to all the questions we asked in our confirmation email?
 - If not, please reschedule.
 - Have you completed the Self-Assessment Screening Tool?
 - If answered 'yes' to any questions in the screening tool, please reschedule.
 - Are you symptomatic? Is there any chance you've been exposed?
 - If answered 'yes', please reschedule.
- c. Guidelines for visitors on campus:**
- Parents, caregivers, and other visitors must respect personal space and avoid unintentional physical contact with other individuals when on campus and follow all other health and safety guidelines. There can be no crowding while on school grounds, including when outside.
 - All visitors are required to wear a mask when indoors on campus. If you have a medical condition that prevents you from wearing a mask, please let us know and we will adjust our meeting spaces accordingly. In some cases, it may be preferable to meet with visitors outside in these situations.
 - Visitors should go directly to the appropriate reception area as soon as they arrive on campus and should limit their movement on campus to only the spaces necessary for the intention of the visit.
 - Students are not allowed to arrange food delivery services to the school.
- d. Picking Up During the School Day and for Scheduled Appointments**
- When picking up your child during the school day for a scheduled appointment, please follow the school specific guidelines below. Please note the school is required to keep a list of the date, names and contact information for all visitors and staff who are not typically onsite who entered the school over the past 45 days. Consequently, parents/caregivers are asked to drop-off/pick-up students outside of the school. Parents/caregivers and other visitors must respect others' personal space when on school grounds, including when outside.
- e. When Picking up During the School for Appointments**
- Prior to the appointment, notify Hartley Nash at 250-595-7765 or by email at receptionist@discoveryschool.ca and copy your child's classroom teacher.
 - When arriving at the school to pick-up your child, either call 250-595-7765 or ring the doorbell.
 - Students will then be sent or escorted by a staff member (age dependent) to the front doors to be picked up.



H. Playground

Steps will be taken to promote hand hygiene practices before and after outdoor play. Playground /activity balls and equipment will be wiped before and at the end of the play time. Supervising staff will give regular and ongoing reminders for students to avoid/minimize physical contact with others and not to touch their face when playing with equipment outdoors. Use of different exit and entrance locations/doors will be used to reduce crowding at doors and in hallways. More information on playgrounds is available on the [BC Centre for Disease Control](#) website.

I. Illnesses and Medical Needs

Temporary At Home Support

In the event that a student is unable to temporarily return to school due to medical conditions, illness, exhibiting symptoms, quarantining, self-isolation or testing periods, teachers will provide academic support similar to how they would during a student absence prior to the pandemic. Students may be provided with self-directed supplementary materials to support instruction missed in-class. Students will also be able to access their Google Classrooms. These supplementary materials allow for continued learning but aren't specifically designed to be considered remote learning options.

Students with Complex Medical Conditions

Most students with disabilities/diverse abilities or medical complexity are not considered at greater risk of experiencing severe illness from COVID-19.

According to the PHO and the BCCDC, most children who are immunocompromised can return to full in-class instruction when safety measures are in place. Protective self-isolation is only recommended for children who are severely immunocompromised, as determined on a case-by-case basis under the guidance of a medical doctor. (e.g., students who have had a recent organ transplant, who are receiving chemotherapy, those with an illness impacting their immune system).

In the event that a parent is unsure if a student is able to return to in-person instruction as per the aforementioned reasons, the school will work with families and their health practitioners as they determine if enrollment in a certified remote learning facility is appropriate, or if the safety measures Discovery School can offer ensure learning can continue, or if the school can offer equity of access to learning at home for a very short period of time. Students who require additional home supports are identified through a medical needs assessment.

- Continuity of learning plans align with the goals identified in a student's Individual Education Plan (IEP).
- They are developed in consultation with parents/caregivers and the specialists who typically support the student.



Know that the school is not certified by the Ministry of Education to provide remote learning.

Continuity of Learning

If teachers are required to be home due to symptoms, and are still well enough to teach, they may be teaching virtually to the classroom with the SEA supervising attention to task and clarifying as per usual. This is situational dependent. Substitute teacher replacements will be covered internally, as much as possible.

J. Washroom Spaces

As an exposure control measure, Division 1 (grades 3-5) has their own individual washroom facility designated for their use.

Social distancing line up markers will be on the floors of the bathrooms to help eliminate crowding if there are line ups for toilets and sinks.

No students will use the staff bathrooms and vice versa.

K. Fountains

Schools are to ensure that water fountain use is available and not limited. Water fountain use returns to normal. Bringing personal water bottles daily is still recommended to ensure students have access to water while outdoors (e.g. PE at Rosedale park.) and easy access during class.

L. Mental Health and In-class Instruction and Support

It is understood that students may have had varied levels of disruption to their academic development over the course of the pandemic. Discovery will continue to provide learning opportunities in accordance with students' IEPs and their personal academic, social-emotional and behavioural goals. Individuals providing specialized supports will do so following guidelines established by their professional associations.

Across each division, the school makes use of Google Classroom and Google Apps for Education in order to deliver instruction at varying levels of use. The students are given support to become familiar with their use. Teachers, particularly at the high school level use online platforms such as Google Classroom to ensure that lesson outlines, resources, and learning materials are readily accessible.

Mental Health and Wellbeing

Discovery maintains a focus on [mental health](#) and [well-being supports](#) for students at school and will monitor and assess how changes to the delivery of education are impacting the mental and emotional well-being of our community. Counselling support will be available.



M. Extracurricular and Co-curricular Activities

More specific details about activity offerings will be communicated as applicable during the year. We will be guided by the recommendations from the Ministries of Health and Education, and the governing bodies for various programs. As the year unfolds and more information is provided, decisions to host events in person will be determined.

Co-curricular concerts, plays, shows and events can still take place; however, they must follow the guidelines relating to health and safety protocols and visitors to the school as audience members. Adults and volunteers must be trained in the current health and safety guidelines and must abide by the protocols in place at the school and field trip location.

Special interest clubs and extracurricular activities within the school can occur in alignment with the provincial health recommendations and Orders for community gatherings and events.

Any school co-curricular competitions, social gatherings and events (including those occurring within and between schools) will follow relevant local, regional, provincial and federal public health recommendations and orders.

Note: Proof of vaccination requirements may be required for some activities and at various venues or events as per Ministerial Orders and this may have the potential to impact the ability for some students to fully participate or parents to attend.

N. Field Trips

Field trip locations must have their own COVID-19 operating guidelines that align with all PHO orders and the school's health and safety guidelines. Specific risks assessments needs to be and will be conducted for each field trip in light of the most recent guidelines. As well, the plan needs to be shared with school administration and parents. Additionally, all travel arrangements must be in line with the transportation guidelines in the [Provincial COVID-19 Communicable Disease Guidelines for K-12 Settings](#). With travel arrangements, parents will be offered the option to drop off and pick up their children from fieldtrips, rather than endorse other transportation options. Approval of a fieldtrip will align with confirmation of travel arrangements and assurance of inline guidelines with facilities.

In some instances, school activities may need to be modified to align with current guidelines and may include alternate activities or be limited to shorter, single-day activities.

The school must ensure fieldtrip volunteers are trained in and strictly adhere to required health and safety guidelines.

Note: Proof of vaccination requirements may be required for some activities and at various venues or events as per Ministerial Orders and this may have the potential to impact the ability for some students to fully participate or parents to attend.



O. Health and Safety: Particular Curricular Programs

Discovery will maintain its commitment to delivering a quality educational program for its students. Some courses, activities and learning spaces may need to be modified during the pandemic.

Music

Music will take place with students and staff spread out in the available space. All staff and students in Grades 4 to 12 are required to wear a mask while singing.

Masks can be temporarily removed while engaging in an educational activity that cannot be performed while wearing a mask (e.g., playing a wind instrument).

Mitigation strategies include:

- Shared equipment or items like musical instruments can be used only if they are cleaned between use, according to strict school sanitization guidelines.
- Proper hand hygiene before and after using equipment.
- Increased utilization of technology and digital platforms.
- Exploration of performance options, including those relating to spaces used, audience size, and/or utilizing recordings and livestreams.

The BC Music Educators' Association and the Coalition for Music Education in B.C. have also developed a [Guidance for Music Classes in BC During COVID-19](#).

Arts and ADST Programs

ART and ADST will take place with students and staff spread out in the available space.

Mitigation strategies include:

- Art and ADST equipment such as paint brushes and sewing machines will be sanitized after each use.
- Where possible assigning materials will be put in place.
- Reinforcement of hand hygiene before and after classes.

Drama and Dance

Drama and Dance will take place with students and staff spread out in the available space, and staff are encouraged to use outdoors as much as possible.

Mitigation strategies include:

- Reinforcement of hand hygiene before and after classes.
- Increased utilization of technology and digital platforms.



- Exploration of performance options, including those relating to spaces used, audience size, and/or utilizing recordings and livestreams.

Physical Education

PE will take place with students and staff spread out in the available space, and staff are encouraged to use outdoors as much as possible.

Mitigation strategies include:

- Activities will be modified to limit physical interactions between individuals.
- Equipment that comes in contact with a person's mouth such as water bottles and mouth guards should not be shared.
- During high density physical activities (e.g. Soccer, basketball, weightlifting) students are not required to wear masks and it becomes a students' personal choice to wear one. Staff are encouraged to move these 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.
- Proper hand hygiene before and after using equipment.

Extra-curricular physical activities are permitted with guidelines that align with the PHO orders and the will occur the school's health and safety guidelines.

Food/Culinary Programs

Food/Culinary classes is permitted to continue with food preparation as part of the learning programs for students as long as normal food safety measures are in place alongside with implementation of cleaning and disinfecting measures as outlined in the cleaning and disinfecting section of this document.

Mitigation strategies include:

- The food is not shared outside of the individuals making the food.
- FOODSAFE Level 1 standards are upheld.
- Cleaning and disinfecting measures outlined in the cleaning section are applied to the kitchen space and utensils.

P. Lunch and Hot Lunch Program

Discovery staff will continue to emphasize that food and beverages should not be shared. Students of Divisions 1-4 will eat at their primary work station and Divisions 5-8 at their assigned homeroom locations.

Starting in October, the school will have assigned pre-ordered hot lunch options that will be delivered to the school for distribution for our community! Online ordering will available by mid-September.



Hot lunch volunteers will be limited in numbers and areas within the school. All volunteers must wear masks, pass health checks, and follow a strict COVID-19 Safety Plan.

Food Safety Legislation and the Guidelines for Food and Beverage Sales in BC Schools continue to apply as relevant. For food contact surfaces, Discovery will ensure any sanitizers or disinfectants used are approved for use in a food service application and are appropriate for use against COVID-19. These may be different than the products for general cleaning and disinfection. Additional information is available on the BCCDC website.

Q. Fundraisers

The school can continue to offer fundraisers that can be implemented in line with guidelines outlined in the [Provincial COVID-19 Communicable Disease Guidelines for K-12 Settings](#).

R. Shared Office Space for Staff

Shared office space in the [Provincial COVID-19 Communicable Disease Guidelines for K-12 Settings](#) is defined as staffrooms, administrative offices, board offices, etc.

WorkSafeBC provides guidance for these school settings. Masks are required and preventive barriers are to be utilized as needed. See [WorkSafeBC Preventing Exposure to COVID-19 in the Workplace](#) for details regarding other measures needing to be in place.

S. Applications for Potential Students

The school is receiving a very high number of student placement inquiries with parents wanting to tour the school. The school is committed to maintaining low risks of spreading communicable diseases for students and staff, and as such will hold inquiry meetings with applicants virtually.

4. Personal Measures

A. General Hygiene Protocols

Good personal hygiene is the key to reducing the risk of infection and the spread of communicable diseases from an infected person to a healthy individual. All employees and students attending the school will be instructed and reminded to practice principles of good hand and respiratory hygiene.

The following hygiene practices are expected:

- Washing your hands frequently and for at least 20 seconds is the most important thing you can do to help protect yourself from getting sick.



- 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. When soap and water are not available, use alcohol-based hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol, which is available at all entrances to the school, in common areas, classrooms and photocopier rooms.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or direct into the elbow when coughing or sneezing. Throw the tissue away immediately. If you observe others not using appropriate etiquette, politely remind them.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth.
- Do not share food, beverages, eating utensils or similar items with others. Food needs to be self-contained. Pack in and pack out all items lunches!
- Beverage containers should be filled from taps and those water fountains that are equipped with bottle fill spouts. Students should bring a personal, labelled water bottle and refrain from sharing.
- Do not share equipment that touches the mouth (e.g., mouthguards, mouthpieces for instruments, etc.).
- Keep your workspace clean and clean surfaces in your own work area routinely.
- As possible, devices such as laptops, Chromebooks, iPads, keyboards, and screens will be cleaned between use.
- Reminders to sanitize personal devices such as cell phones.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick. Keep your interactions with anyone who is sick as brief as possible.
- Stay away from crowded places whenever possible—respect personal space and avoid involuntary physical contact.
- Stay home and seek medical attention if you are sick. Report illness to school.
- If you're feeling heightened stress or anxiety, reach out for support.

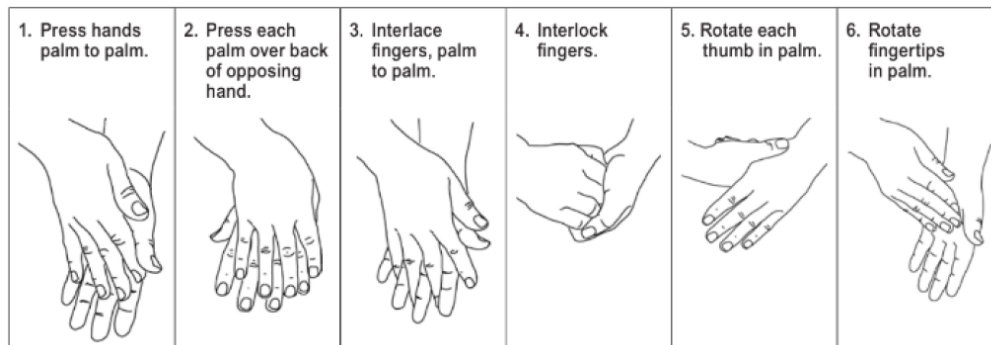
B. Hand Washing

[Hand washing](#) is one of the best ways to minimize the risk of infection. Proper hand washing helps prevent the transfer of infectious material from the hands to other parts of the body—particularly the eyes, nose, and mouth—or to other surfaces that are touched.

It is expected that hands be washed or sanitized at these key times to limit the spread of germs:

When Students Should Perform Hand Hygiene	When Staff Should Perform Hand Hygiene
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When they arrive at school and before they go home. • Before and after any breaks (e.g., recess, lunch). • Before and after using an indoor learning space used by multiple classes with shared equipment. • Before and after eating and drinking. • After using the toilet. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When they arrive at school and before they go home. • 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

- After handling common resources/equipment/supplies.
 - After sneezing or coughing into hands.
 - Whenever hands are visibly dirty.
- or self.
 - After using the toilet.
 - After contact with bodily fluids (i.e., runny noses, spit, vomit, blood).
 - After cleaning tasks.
 - After removing gloves.
 - After handling garbage.
 - Whenever hands are visibly dirty.



5. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

PPE specific to the risk of exposure to communicable diseases at Discovery, including COVID-19, may include a mask, protective gloves, apron/gown, face screen or visor, and barriers. PPE is not effective as a stand-alone preventive measure. It should be suited to the task, and must be worn and disposed of properly.

In some cases, additional PPE will be required for staff who must take enhanced precautions due to the hazards normally encountered in their day-to-day work. Discovery will follow the guidance of the BC Public Health Authority with regard to the use of PPE for use in the prevention of the spread of communicable diseases and ensure PPE supplies meet the standards outlined by the BCCDC.

A. Mask Use

- Grade 4 and up:** At the beginning of the school year, all staff, adult volunteers and visitors, and all students in Grades 4 and up are required to wear a non-medical mask or face covering at all times while indoors at school.
- K- Grade 3:** Students in JK to Grade 3 are encouraged to wear a mask indoors at school, but are not required to do so—mask wearing remains a personal or family/caregiver choice for these students and their choices must be respected.
- All staff and students,** including those in K-3, will be required to wear masks on school buses or when exhibiting symptoms of illness.



Parents and caregivers of children who are considered at higher risk of severe illness due to COVID-19 are encouraged to consult with their health care provider to determine their level of risk.

School staff will utilize positive and inclusive approaches to engage students in the use of proper mask wearing, and not employ measures that are punitive or stigmatizing in nature.

The school will have non-medical masks available for staff and students, including anyone who becomes sick while at school.

B. Exceptions

The guidance outlined above regarding mask requirements does not apply in the following circumstances:

- 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;
- if a person is 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 are important.

There is a criteria and process for determining mask exemptions. Accommodations may include partial exemptions or the addition or substitution of other personal protective measures or equipment.

C. Health and Safety Training and Orientation for Staff

All staff receives the school's Communicable Disease Prevention Plan and have been consulted and involved in the development of Discovery's COVID-19 Communicable Disease Prevention Plan.

Training strategies include:

- Sept. 2nd, 3rd, 7th, and 8th there are COVID-19 Communicable Disease Prevention Plan health and safety and orientation days for all teachers, SEAs, support and office staff.
- The outside contractors (Counsellors, SLP, OT, PT) have been invited to be part of COVID-19 Communicable Disease Prevention Plan orientation sessions, remotely. They will be sent the plan for reading and referencing.
- All TOCs will be invited to a Zoom Covid-19 procedure session. Additionally, each will be



receiving a copy of the COVID-19 Communicable Disease Prevention Plan and will be required to read it. Administration will also check in regarding any queries in the morning of a sub day.

- There will be ongoing checks, reviews of procedures and updates as needed.
- Staff, contractors, and TOCs will be informed of all updates and new Health and Ministry directives and changes to the school's COVID-19 Communicable Disease Prevention Plan.

D. Health and Safety Training and Orientation for Students

The first few weeks will be dedicated to relaying health and safety protocols and establishing routines and good practices.

Training strategies include:

- Visuals will be displayed in all classrooms, hallways, bathrooms, and common areas.
- Multi-sensory learning tools will be used to review the 'new norm'. (I.e. Videos, songs, acronyms, visuals, posters, postings on boards, oral reminders, group guided practices).

See Daily Health Check Attachment



DAILY HEALTH CHECK

KEY SYMPTOMS OF ILLNESS	WHAT TO DO
Fever (above 38°C) Chills Cough Difficulty breathing Loss of sense of smell or taste	<p>If yes to 1 or more of these symptoms: Stay home and get a health assessment.</p> <p>Contact a health care provider or 8-1-1 about your symptoms and next steps.</p>
OTHER SYMPTOMS	WHAT TO DO
Sore throat Loss of appetite Headache Body aches Extreme fatigue or tiredness Nausea and vomiting Diarrhea	<p>If yes to 1 symptom: Stay home until you feel better.</p> <p>If yes to 2 or more of these symptoms: Stay home for 24 hours.</p> <p>If symptoms don't get better or get worse, get a health assessment; contact a health care provider or 8-1-1 about your symptoms and next steps.</p>
INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL:	WHAT TO DO
Have you returned from travel outside Canada in the last 14 days?	<p>If yes: All students and staff who have travelled outside of Canada are required to self-quarantine for 14 days after arrival under both provincial and federal orders.</p> <p>This includes students who are attending school from abroad. Students from outside of Canada should plan to arrive in Canada at least two weeks before they are scheduled to attend school to adhere to the self-quarantine orders. Additional information is available here.</p>
CLOSE CONTACT	WHAT TO DO
Have you been contacted by public health and notified that you are a close contact of a person confirmed to have COVID-19?	<p>If yes: Please follow the instructions provided by Public Health.</p> <p>You can call 8-1-1 anytime to get advice about how you are feeling and what to do next. Pay attention to how you are feeling. If it becomes harder to breathe, you can't drink anything or feel much worse, seek urgent medical care at an urgent care clinic or emergency department.</p>

Check your symptoms with the [K-12 Health Check](#). If you have any questions, or the symptoms get worse, contact your healthcare provider, or call 8-1-1. For more information on COVID-19, please go to www.bccdc.ca. If you develop severe symptoms, such as difficulty breathing (e.g. struggling to breathe or speaking in single words) or chest pain, call 9-1-1 or go to the nearest Emergency Department.

Please check BCCDC's [Symptoms of COVID-19](#) regularly to ensure the list is up to date.