

# KELOWNA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

## COVID-19 OMICRON VARIANT PHASED RESTART UPDATE January 5, 2022

### A. Daily Health Assessment

All staff, students and visitors must complete a daily health check before coming to school.

- Staff - complete a health check before coming to work
- Students - complete a health check before coming to school
- Visitors - complete a health check at the school office

### B. Symptoms, Testing and Return to School

When a student, staff or other adult can return to school depends on the type of symptoms they experienced and if a COVID-19 test is recommended. See the [K-12 Health Check app](#) and [BCCDC "When to get tested for COVID-19" resources](#) for specific guidance. Staff, students and parents/caregivers can also use the BCCDC [online Self-Assessment Tool](#), or call 8-1-1 or their health care provider.

### C. Mask Usage

All K-12 staff are required to wear a mask or a face shield (in which case a mask should be worn in addition to the face shield) indoors in schools and on school buses.

All students in Kindergarten to 12 are required to wear a mask or a face shield (in which case a non-medical mask should be worn in addition to the face shield) indoors in schools and on school buses.

All visitors must wear a non-medical mask when they are inside the school.

Exceptions:

- a person who cannot tolerate wearing a mask for health or behavioural reasons;
- 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

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- 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 are important.

## D. Vaccines

According to public health, vaccines are the most effective way to reduce the risk of COVID-19 in schools and communities. The vaccines used in B.C. remain highly effective against COVID-19, including among variants of concern. Vaccinated people aged 12 and older tend to have milder illness if they get infected and are also less likely to spread COVID-19 than unvaccinated people 12 and older. People over 12 who are not vaccinated are at higher risk of getting and spreading COVID-19, with age the greatest factor of individual risk of severe illness. Most COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations, and deaths are now among unvaccinated adults.

Kelowna Christian School continues to not require vaccinations against COVID-19 or to know individuals personal vaccination status. The choice to get vaccinated remains a personal one and will not be required at Kelowna Christian School unless mandated by the Ministry of Education.

## E. Hand Hygiene

When Student Should Perform Hand Hygiene:

- 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 classes with shared equipment.
- After using the toilet.
- After sneezing or coughing into hands.
- Whenever hands are visibly dirty.

When Staff Should Perform Hand Hygiene:

- 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.

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- Whenever hands are visibly dirty.

## F. Physical Distancing and Space Arrangements

Although public health no longer recommends learning groups and physical distancing of 2M we will continue to implement and encourage strategies to help create space between people and to support students and staff in returning to school using a trauma-informed approach:

- Reminders about respecting others personal space.
- Use available space to spread people out, both in learning environments and for gatherings and events, where possible.
- Implement strategies that prevent crowding at pick-up and drop-off times.
- Stagger recess/snack, lunch and class transition times to provide a greater amount of space for everyone.
- Take students outside more often, where and when possible.

## G. Staff Only Spaces, Meetings and other situations

Staff only situations no longer require COVID-19 Safety Plan, but employers are required to prevent and respond to communicable disease. As a business transition it is recommended by Public Health that employers maintain some existing COVID-19 protocols that do not negatively impact operations or safety. Following are the Guidelines for NCS:

1. Staff must adhere to the most current public health orders at all times. This includes K-12 guidelines, gathering orders, etc...
2. Shared office spaces can be used as normal. Additional occupants should be limited to ensure adequate spacing can be maintained.
3. Staff Gatherings
  1. Hold staff-only gatherings (e.g., meetings, professional development activities) virtually whenever possible
  2. Gatherings for the purpose of planning/collaboration can occur in classrooms spaces and not exceed 50% capacity of the specific classroom with masking and distancing rules in place
  3. Gatherings for the purpose of socializing or other discretionary activities must adhere to the public health orders and requirements
4. Staff Room
  1. Distancing encouraged and staff masked when not eating or drinking
  2. The occupancy limit is 10 people, using space as much as possible

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## H. School Gatherings, Events, and Chapels

K-12 assemblies, student gatherings and chapels may be conducted at 50% normal capacity of the activity, as long as safe distancing can be maintained and there is adequate ventilation. Hybrid or online where possible.

- Other considerations:
  - respecting student and staff comfort levels regarding personal space;
  - using space available to spread people out as much as possible, respecting room occupancy limits, and ensuring enough space is available to prevent involuntarily physical contact between attendees (i.e. overcrowding)

## I. Personal Items

Staff and students can continue to bring personal items to school

No items that come into contact with the mouth can be shared (e.g. food, drinks, unwashed utensils, wind instruments).

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.

## J. Bus Guidelines

We are able to continue the use of the KCS bus following the guidelines below:

Staff and Students in Kindergarten to 12 are required to wear non-medical masks or face coverings when they are on the bus.

- Non-medical masks or face coverings should be put on before loading.

Students should clean their hands before and after taking the bus.

Spread passengers out if empty seats are available.

Open windows when the weather permits.

## K. Use of Staff Vehicles (with or without students)

Staff may use their personal vehicles with other staff as passengers or to transport students as part of an approved school activity as follows:

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- Spread out vehicle occupants as much as possible.
- Travel with the same people whenever possible.
- Set the vehicle's ventilation to bring in fresh outside air, and do not recirculate the air.
- Open windows when the weather allows.
- Clean hands before and after trips.
- Students, staff and other adults must follow the mask requirements

## **L. Cleaning, Disinfecting and Frequently Touched Surfaces**

### Cleaning and Disinfecting

The following frequency guidelines will be implemented for cleaning and disinfecting:

- General cleaning of the premises, and cleaning and disinfecting of frequently touched surfaces, at least once in a 24-hour period.
- Clean and disinfect any surface that is visibly dirty.
- Empty garbage containers daily.

## **M. Visitors**

Schools can leave front doors unlocked for visitor access, but parents, caregivers and all other visitors are not permitted indoors unless prior arrangements have been made with the office or administration.

Guest speakers, presenters, and volunteers who are conducting educational activities in direct support of students are permitted with permission from the office or administration.

All visitors and staff who are not typically onsite must sign in/out:

- A daily health check must be completed at the school office at entry
- A visitor's lanyard must be worn

All visitors must wear a non-medical mask when they are inside the school.

Where possible, visitor access will be limited to those areas required for the purpose of the visit (e.g. school office for drop-off/pick-up of items, etc.)

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Parents/caregivers will be required to drop-off/pick-up students outside of the school, unless invited or required to do so by KCS staff.

## **N. Ventilation**

At this time, there is no evidence that a building's ventilation system, in good working condition, would contribute to the spread of the virus. Good indoor air ventilation alone cannot protect people from exposure to COVID-19; however, it may reduce risk when used in addition to other preventive measures.

KCS will:

- Ensure that filters will be a minimum MERV 13 filter or higher
- Move activities outdoors when possible (for example, lunch, classes, physical activity) and encourage moving classrooms outside when space and weather permit
- Increase air exchanges by adjusting the HVAC system
- Where possible, keep windows open, if weather permits and HVAC system function will not be negatively impacted
- Use portable air filtration system in unventilated spaces

## **O. Curriculum, Programs and Activities**

### **FIELD TRIPS**

When planning field trips, staff should follow existing policies and procedures as well as the guidance in this document. 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 above.
- Schools must ensure that volunteers 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, including for international travel.
- Overnight trips are allowed following the guidance for overnight camps from BCCDC and the BC Camps Association when planning overnight trips that include group accommodation.

### **FOOD / CULINARY PROGRAMS**

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

## Food Safety

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

## Hand Hygiene and Cleaning Protocols

Students and staff should wash their hands in alignment with normal food safety measures and requirements.

Refer to the Cleaning and Disinfecting section for cleaning/disinfecting protocols.

## FOOD SERVICES

Schools can continue to provide food services, including for sale.

Food Safety Legislation and the Guidelines for Food and Beverage Sales in B.C. Schools continue to apply as relevant.

Food and beverages must not be shared.

## MUSIC PROGRAMS

K-12 staff and students must wear masks when indoors and a barrier is not present. 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), but must be worn while singing.

Shared equipment should be cleaned and disinfected as per Cleaning and Disinfecting guidelines and students should be encouraged to practice proper hand hygiene before and after music equipment use.

Equipment that touches the mouth (e.g. instrument mouth pieces) should not be shared unless cleaned and disinfected in between uses.

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## PHYSICAL EDUCATION (PE)/OUTDOOR PROGRAMS

Spread out students and staff within available space, and encourage outdoor activities and programs, as much as possible.

K-12 staff and students are required to wear masks during PE/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<sup>6</sup> (e.g. stationary bike, weightlifting, basketball, soccer); mask use during these activities is left to 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.

Shared equipment can be used, provided it is cleaned and disinfected as per the guidelines in the Cleaning and Disinfecting section of this document.

Students should be encouraged to practice proper hand hygiene before and after using frequently touched pieces of equipment (e.g. before and after a sports game using a shared ball), as well as proper respiratory etiquette.

Equipment that touches the mouth (e.g. water bottles) should not be shared unless cleaned and disinfected in between uses.

## 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. COVID-19 does not survive well on surfaces, other than hard surfaces. There is no evidence showing that the virus survives on sand, in water or on playdough.

## SCHOOL LIBRARIES / LEARNING COMMONS



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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.

## SCHOOL SPORTS

Intra- and inter-school programs, activities (e.g. intramurals, sports team practices, games), sports academies and league games can continue in alignment with the following guidance:

- Requirements of relevant local, regional and provincial public health recommendations and Orders for community gatherings and events.
- Masks are worn by K-12 staff, other adults and students in Kindergarten to 12 when they are indoors and a barrier is not present.
- Students are not required to wear masks during high-intensity sport activities (e.g. stationary bike, weightlifting, basketball, soccer); mask use during these activities is left to personal choice. Staff are encouraged to move high-intensity sport activities outdoors whenever possible.
- For low intensity sport activities (e.g. stretching, golf), students are required to wear masks when they are indoors and a barrier is not present.
- Use all available space to spread students and staff out as much as possible.
- Shared equipment can be used, provided it is cleaned and disinfected as per the guidelines in the Cleaning and Disinfecting section of this document.
- Students should be encouraged to practice proper hand hygiene before and after using frequently touched pieces of equipment (e.g. before and after a sports game using a shared ball), as well as proper respiratory etiquette.
- Equipment that touches the mouth (e.g. water bottles) should not be shared unless cleaned and disinfected in between uses.
- Sport activities should be held outside whenever possible.

Spectators for school sports are currently not allowed to reduce visitors. Extra-curricular sport tournaments are paused until further notice.

## THEATRE, FILM, AND DANCE PROGRAMS

Spread out students and staff within available space, and encourage outdoor activities and programs, as much as possible.

K-12 staff are required to wear masks during these programs when they are indoors, and a barrier is not present.

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Students in Kindergarten to Grade 12 are required to wear masks during these programs when they are indoors and a barrier is not present, except during high-intensity physical activity.

Shared equipment such as set pieces, props, cameras etc. should be cleaned and disinfected as per cleaning and disinfecting guidelines in this document and students should be encouraged to practice proper hand hygiene before and after using frequently touched pieces of equipment.

The Association of BC Drama Educators (ABCDE) is currently developing additional guidelines for teaching drama during COVID-19. Staff should refer to the ABCDE website for more information.

## WORK EXPERIENCE

The work environment has changed due to the impacts of COVID-19 and employers will need to follow current guidelines from the Provincial Health Officer and WorkSafeBC. Students can still engage in work placements in accordance with the following guidance:

- Schools and school districts must ensure students are covered with the required, valid workplace insurance for placements at standard worksites and follow WorkSafeBC guidelines.
- Information for workers is available on the WorkSafeBC Communicable Disease Prevention webpage, including COVID-19 and communicable disease information for workers.
- For current and any new placements, standards in the ministry Work Experience Program Guide must be followed. (Note: As part of setup and monitoring, worksite visits can now be conducted virtually if needed.)
- Students and support workers who accompany special needs students to work sites, life skills course and locations, etc., will adhere to the communicable disease prevention plan of the workplace including wearing PPE if required.

## EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Intra- and inter-school extracurricular activities and special interest clubs can occur in alignment with the guidelines in this document and requirements of relevant local, regional and provincial public health recommendations and Orders for community gatherings and events.