



Communicable Disease Prevention Plan

SKY Secondary School

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Committee Head

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Introduction

Communicable diseases circulate in our communities, and as long as cases occur within our communities, SKY Secondary's students and staff members may be affected. SKY Secondary School is committed to providing and maintaining a safe and healthy environment for its staff and students. The Communicable Disease Prevention Plan details the infection control practices and protocols that are in place to minimize the risk of communicable disease transmission at the school. This plan applies to all staff, students, and visitors of the school

Land Acknowledgement:

SKY Secondary school makes the commitment to honour and recognize that we operate on the traditional, ancestral and unceded territories of the Matsqui, Kwantlen, Katzie First Nations.

Prevention Measures

SKY Secondary School has implemented preventative measures to reduce the spread of communicable disease. All students and staff should:

- Follow the established Communicable Disease Prevention Plan.
- Practice health awareness and check regularly for symptoms of illness.
 - Some symptoms of communicable disease may include the following:
 - Fever
 - Diarrhea
 - Fatigue
 - Muscle aches
 - Coughing
- Stay home when sick, and notify the Principal of your absence.
- Practice regular hand washing, sanitizing and cough/sneeze etiquette to minimize disease transmission.
- Get vaccinated, if you are eligible and able to do so.

Masks

The decision to wear a mask or any other personal protective equipment (PPE) is a personal choice for everyone. Students and staff can choose to continue to wear a mask throughout the day or during specific activities. The choice will be supported and treated with respect. SKY Secondary School will provide masks for students and staff upon request, particularly during outbreaks or when advised by health authorities.

Communicable Disease Guidelines

The Provincial Communicable Disease Guidelines for K-12 School Settings are developed by the Ministry of Education and Child Care, in collaboration with the B.C. Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC), Indigenous rightsholders and education partners, including teachers, parents and school leaders.

[Public Health Communicable Disease Guidance for K-12 School Settings \(PDF, 1.3MB\)](#)

2025 Update - Measles:

There have been a higher number of measles cases across Canada in 2025 than the yearly average, according to the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC). Measles is one of the most contagious and infectious diseases and is spread through the air or direct contact with hard surfaces in common areas. SKY Secondary School is committed to following all precautionary measures to prevent the spread of communicable diseases, including measles, as outlined throughout this document. The most effective way to prevent measles infection is vaccination or immunity through previous exposure. For more information on measles awareness, prevention, and risk management, refer to the following document.

[Measles Awareness, Prevention, and Risk Management \(PDF, 92KB\)](#)

Ventilation:

SKY Secondary School will ensure heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) systems are operated and maintained to standards and specifications for ongoing comfort of students and staff and that they are working properly. Windows may be opened when the weather permits to improve air circulation.

Cleaning and Disinfection

SKY Secondary School is committed to maintaining a clean working and learning environment through routine cleaning and disinfecting practices. General cleaning of schools will occur regularly, with frequently touched surfaces cleaned in line with regular practices and when visibly dirty. During periods of elevated risk, SKY Secondary School will follow enhanced cleaning protocols as directed by public health.

Communicable Disease Protocols

Students and staff who become sick at school

If a student or staff member develops symptoms at school:

- Make arrangements for student/staff to go home as soon as possible.
- Schools will have an area where people are separated from their classmates or colleagues and can wait comfortably
- Students may choose to wear a mask if they are experiencing respiratory symptoms.
- The student's parent or guardian will be contacted and asked to have their child picked up as soon as possible
- Staff will be asked to go home as soon as possible
- Custodial staff will clean and disinfect the areas the person used
- The person should stay home and follow public health advice on when to return to activities. Most people can return to school when their symptoms have improved and they feel well enough to participate in regular activities.

Public health orders

Public health orders may be put in place for the province, entire regions or certain communities. This can include schools, or specific settings or activities.

Public health orders are implemented at the discretion of the local Medical Health Officer or the Provincial Health Officer in response to the broader risk of communicable disease transmission in the community.

School visitors

SKY Secondary School can follow normal practices for welcoming visitors and the community use of schools. Visitors and community groups using school premises should follow applicable communicable disease presentation measures, including staying at home when sick.

Conclusion

This Communicable Disease Prevention Plan aims to create a safe and healthy environment for all students and staff at SKY Secondary School. Through education, proactive hygiene practices, and collaboration with health authorities, we can reduce the risk of disease transmission and promote overall wellness in our school community.