

St. James and St. Ann's School

## Communicable Disease Prevention Guidelines

Updated September 2022

### Objectives

All schools are to adhere to the standards, guidelines and protocols from the BC Centre for Disease Control and WorkSafe BC. Communicable disease prevention focuses on reducing the risk of workplace transmission of COVID-19 and other communicable diseases and includes both ongoing measures (i.e. hand hygiene, cleaning) and additional measures to be implemented as advised by public health authorities.

These guidelines are intended to support K-12 education employees, students, parents, caregivers, administrators and school community members to:

- Work and learn in a healthy and safe environment
- Be informed about public health measures
- Understand the roles and responsibilities in promoting public health and safety in the school setting.

### Implementation

St. James and St. Ann's School will support the implementation of personal prevention practices through:

- Providing regular reminders to students, families, and staff about the importance of completing a daily health check, staying home when sick and following public health recommendations
- Having staff demonstrate and model how to practice personal prevention measures at school
- Sharing trusted information from the BC Center for Disease Control
- High touch surfaces will be cleaned regularly and immediately when visibly dirty
- Staff will ensure ventilation systems are operating correctly and fresh air from open windows will be encouraged when it will not impact the efficacy of ventilation systems
- Students will be encouraged to sanitize / wash their hands when coming in from outside play and before eating

- Good respiratory hygiene (including coughing and sneezing into a tissue or elbow, refraining from touching eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands, and avoiding sharing food or drink) will be taught and reinforced
- Staff and students are encouraged to stay home if sick and unable to participate in daily routines. Daily health checks will be encouraged.
- If someone develops symptoms of illness, they are encouraged not to return to school until symptoms improve
- The use of masks is one of personal preference. The school will encourage an inclusive environment where people can make their own health decisions without fear of isolation or reprisal
- The school may contact health officials if there is a pattern or noticeable rise in absenteeism, overall as a school community, due to illness