

COVID-19 UPDATE – AUGUST 27, 2021

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COVID-19 Provincial Guidance Documents

All of the COVID-19 provincial guidance documents for school and district administrators are now available on the [Safe and Healthy Schools page of the government website](#), including the K-12 Education Recovery Plan, Communicable Disease Guidelines for K-12 and the COVID-19 Protocols for School & District Administrators and Staff.

COVID-19 Safety Measures in Schools – Q&A

Q: Are staff meetings and school assemblies required to follow the current PHO Gathering and Events Order restrictions on indoor organized gatherings (50 people or 50% capacity, whichever is greater)?

A: The PHO Gathering and Events Order does not apply to workers engaged in work activities (including staff meetings) or to students and teachers at school engaged in educational activities. In-person staff meetings and school assemblies can proceed within room occupancy limits (where applicable) and using available space to spread people out as much as possible. School districts are also reminded to consider student and staff comfort levels and what is happening in the community when planning these activities and to explore virtual or smaller gatherings where appropriate. Staff and students in grades 4 and above are required to wear masks indoors in schools. Masks are also strongly recommended for in-person staff meetings taking place in non-school sites. The PHO Gathering and Events Order does apply to social events at schools such as parties, celebrations and performances.

Q: As part of the daily health check, are staff and students still required to self-isolate for 14 days following return from international travel?

A: School districts should update their daily health check policies and resources to align with current [federal travel regulations including exemptions for full vaccinated travellers](#). As of August 27, 2021:

- Fully vaccinated travellers 12 years and older can qualify for exemption from the mandatory 14-day quarantine period and Day 8 testing requirement (though must still complete the pre-entry testing requirement and randomized arrival testing if required)
- Unvaccinated travellers under 12 who accompanied by travellers who qualify for the fully vaccinated traveller exemption can qualify for exemption from the mandatory 14-day quarantine period (but still must complete the pre-entry, randomized arrival and Day 8 tests)
- Quarantine and testing are considered to be separate requirements – receiving a negative pre-entry or arrival test result does not exempt a traveller from the quarantine period.

Q: There is a discrepancy between the K-12 Communicable Disease Guidelines and BCCDC's Cleaning and Disinfectants for Public Settings resource regarding recommended cleaning frequency. Which are schools expected to follow?

A: BCCDC is updating their general Cleaning and Disinfectants guidance to reflect practices aligned with those provided in the updated [public health guidance for K-12 schools](#) (p.9) – cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched surfaces at

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least 1x/day and when visibly dirty, with general cleaning occurring in line with regular practices. BCCDC has taken down the previously referenced Cleaning and Disinfectants for Public Settings resource while those updates are underway. Schools are expected to follow the cleaning and disinfecting guidelines as laid out under the Cleaning and Disinfecting Frequency section of the [Provincial COVID-19 Communicable Disease Guidelines for K-12 Settings](#) (p.13). The Ministry has removed references to the BCCDC Cleaning and Disinfectants for Public Settings resource from the K-12 guidelines until a link to an updated resource becomes available.