

# Communicable Disease Prevention Protocols

HCOS protocols for face to face programming are formulated in alignment with [HCOS Mission Vision and Values](#) and in conjunction with guidance received from the Ministry of Education K-12 Communicable Disease Prevention plan. This page is updated as needed and is current with ministry information. Note: Nuances may vary per event, learning activity and region; the Coordinator will communicate information and protocols as applicable in that setting.

## Key points and on-site protocols to note:

- Enabling children to maintain face to face learning, recreational and social activities is important to their overall health and well being.
- Prevention measures such as regular hand washing, staying home when sick, and choosing to wear a mask or face covering and respecting the personal space of others continue to be seen by Public Health as effective at reducing the spread of illnesses.
- Ensuring that Teachers, contractors and students are health aware by checking regularly for symptoms of illness (including symptoms of COVID-19) using a [daily health check](#), and staying home when sick and unable to participate fully in routine activities.
- Vaccines are not mandated for staff and students over the age of 5 who could be vaccinated.
- Extra-curricular school activities will be governed by the wider provincial or local health authority orders.
- Respect for the personal choice of others to wear or not wear a mask.
- Respect for the personal space of others.

## Parent Initiated Activities

- If a parent engages a third party to provide a learning activity for their child, it is the parents' responsibility to ensure reasonable health and safety measures are in place for those programs or services.

## Learning Group School Run Programs and Events

- Parents are encouraged to review protocols with their child(ren), as appropriate, to help prepare for their attendance of face to face activities.
- Adults and children on-site are responsible for being health aware. To support this, complete a [Daily Health Check](#) prior to attending an LG program. If a student or adult participant is sick, let the coordinator know of the illness and stay home until symptoms disappear. (Common symptoms associated with seasonal allergies are exempt, but please inform your coordinator).
- Information about COVID-19 and whether to get tested is found [at BCCDC](#) and travel requirements are outlined in Check the Government of Canada's [website](#).
- If adult or student attendees develop symptoms of illness while on-site, the individual will be separated from the group and head home or be picked up.
- Each child should be provided snacks/lunch and a full water bottle, and basic school supplies, as appropriate to the Learning Group opportunity. A water bottle may be refilled; mouths should not touch fountains.

- If students are attending a field trip, only private vehicles will be used for transportation. If carpooling occurs, provide maximum ventilation, spacing as well as hand-washing. The host site's communicable disease plan will be reviewed prior to booking to help ensure student safety.

For further information on the Communicable Disease Prevention Protocols, please visit [Communicable Disease Prevention Protocols](#) and [Coordinator K-12 Education Communicable Disease Plan](#).

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Revision #74

Created 19 August 2020 18:34:16 by Natalia Baelde

Updated 24 September 2024 20:46:18 by Caitlin Village