



BARLOW CREEK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
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“A Great Place to Learn and Grow” <http://www.barlow.sd28.bc>



Barlow Creek Elementary

COVID-19 Communicable Disease Health and Safety Plan

Amended: September 2022

*This document builds upon the [Provincial COVID-19 Health & Safety Guidelines for K-12 Settings](#) and the [Quesnel School District \(28\) COVID-19 Communicable Disease Health and Safety Plan](#)

Personal Practices

HEALTH AWARENESS

Everyone at school should practice health awareness, including staying home when sick.

HEALTH AWARENESS & ILLNESS PRACTICES

‘Health Awareness’ and illness practices reduces the likelihood of a person with a communicable disease coming to school when they are infectious. This includes a person checking regularly that they (or their child) are not experiencing symptoms of illness (including but not limited to COVID-19 symptoms) to ensure they are not coming to school when they are sick (including if they are unable to participate fully in regular activities due to symptoms of illness).

School and School District Responsibilities

School administrators should ensure that everyone entering a school is aware and routinely reminded of their responsibility to practice health awareness. This is supported through communications (e.g. emails/Facebook, letters to parents and staff), and other reminders (e.g., signage on doors).

MASKS AND FACE COVERINGS

The decision to wear a mask or face covering is a personal choice for staff, students and visitors. A person’s choice should be supported and respected. Refer to Supportive School Environments for more information. Barlow Creek School continues to have non-medical masks on hand at the office for those would like to wear one, or who become ill at school.

HAND HYGIENE

Staff and students are encouraged to practice hand hygiene upon school entry and before/after breaks and eating, using the washroom and using frequently touched shared equipment.

RESPIRATORY ETIQUETTE

Staff and students should:

- Cough and sneeze into their elbow, sleeve, or a tissue.
- Throw away used tissues and immediately perform hand hygiene.

PERSONAL SPACE

Staff and students are encouraged to respect others personal space (the distance from which a person feels comfortable being next to another person).

SHARING FOOD, BEVERAGES AND OTHER ITEMS THAT TOUCH THE MOUTH

Staff and students are encouraged to not share items that come in contact with the mouth (e.g. food, drinks, and unwashed utensils). Shared-use items that touch the mouth should be cleaned between uses by different individuals (e.g., water bottles, instrument mouth pieces). We have a water refill station available for students to use. A reusable water bottle from home continues to be recommended for daily use. The water fountain in the west end of the building is also functional. It is cleaned/disinfected daily.

Visitor Access - Parents and visitors must make appointments to talk to teachers – Please call 992-5134.

The front door will be unlocked. The secretary is in the office; Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday – 8:10-12:00 noon. Report to the secretary or Principal in the main office for all queries and requests. All other doors will remain locked.

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

Student Transportation and Drop off/pick- up

Students being dropped off **should arrive after 7:45 a.m. when supervision has begun.**

Parents must be mindful of dropping off and waiting for their children at dismissal, **outside the building.**

Stay Home When Sick/What to do When Sick

Students, staff or other adults must stay home if they are required to self-isolate. Additional requirements and support are available from BCCDC.

Students, staff or other adults should stay home when sick, as this is one of the most important ways to reduce the introduction to and the spread of disease (COVID-19) in schools.

Symptoms Develop at School

Some students or staff may not be able to be picked up immediately. The treatment room in the office is available where a student or staff can wait comfortably and is separated from others. If the treatment room is occupied, classroom G will be an alternate medical room. Masks will be provided if they do not have one. Younger children will be supervised by an adult wearing a non-medical mask and face shield if they are unable to maintain physical distance. Diligent handwashing will be practiced. Staff responsible for school cleaning will clean and disinfect the surfaces which the person's bodily fluids may have been in contact with while they were ill.

Returning to School after Illness

When a staff member, student or other adult can return to school depends on the type of symptoms they experienced (as indicated in the K-12 Health Check app and BCCDC When to get tested for COVID-19 resource, if a COVID-19 test is recommended, and the type of illness they had (eg. COVID-19 or other illness). Stay at home until you are feeling better.

Students and staff who experience symptoms consistent with a previously diagnosed health condition (e.g. seasonal allergies) can continue to attend school when they are experiencing these symptoms as normal. They do not require re-assessment by a health-care provider and should not be required to provide a health-care provider note. If they experience any new or unexplained symptoms, they should stay home and seek assessment by a health-care provider.

HAND HYGIENE

Rigorous hand washing with plain soap and water or using an effective hand sanitizer reduces the spread of illness.

Hand cleaning facilities are available and accessible in all classroom throughout the school and are well maintained. Diligent hand hygiene will be promoted to staff and students regularly. Thorough hand washing with soap and water for 20 seconds will be taught and practiced many times during the day by all persons in our school to reduce the spread of illness.

Students are taught and reminded to; cover their coughs, not touch their faces or eyes, not share their food, drinks, or personal items.

Supplies

Certain additional supplies (e.g., hand sanitizer, non-medical masks, etc.) continue to be available to schools at no charge.

Environmental Practices

CLEANING AND DISINFECTING

Regular cleaning and disinfection can help prevent the transmission of communicable diseases from contaminated objects and surfaces.

Products & Procedures:

For cleaning, recommendations include using water and detergent (e.g. liquid dishwashing soap), or common, commercially available products, along with good cleaning practices. For hard-to-reach areas, use a brush and rinse thoroughly prior to disinfecting.

For disinfection, use common, commercially available disinfectants listed on [Health Canada's hard surface disinfectants for use against coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#).

These procedures will be followed when cleaning and disinfecting:

- Always wash hands before and after handling shared objects.
- Items and surfaces that a person has placed in their mouths or that have been in contact with bodily fluids should be cleaned as soon as possible and between uses by different people.
- Dishwasher-safe items can be cleaned and disinfected in a dishwasher with a hot rinse cycle.

Cleaning and Disinfecting Frequency

The following frequency guidelines are adhered to when 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 any surface that is visibly dirty.
- Empty garbage containers daily.

The requirements for daily cleaning and disinfecting outlined above do not apply to spaces/equipment that are not being used by students, staff or visitors. Many schools and districts have implemented procedures such as securing unoccupied spaces or adding sign-in sheets posted next to room entrances that help custodial staff focus cleaning/disinfecting activities on those spaces that have been utilized by staff or students. All classrooms have a spray bottle/cloth and hand sanitizer provided.

Cleaning and Disinfecting Bodily Fluids

These procedures will be followed, in conjunction with school/district policies, when cleaning and disinfecting bodily fluids (e.g., runny nose, vomit, stool, urine):

- Wear disposable gloves when cleaning blood or body fluids.
- Wash hands before wearing and after removing gloves.
- Follow regular health and safety procedure and regularly used PPE (e.g., gloves, protective or woven sleeves) for blood and bodily fluids (e.g. toileting, spitting, biting).

Administrative Practices

SPACE ARRANGEMENT

Schools can use classroom and learning environment configurations and activities that best meet learner needs and preferred educational approaches.

Staff Only Spaces

Staff only spaces can use preferred configurations.

SCHOOL GATHERINGS AND EVENTS

Schools can resume all types of gatherings and events (including staff only gatherings and events), and there are no longer specific capacity limits.

Schools and staff should use an inclusive and trauma-informed lens when planning school gatherings and events. See the Visitor Access/Community Use section for more information on protocols for visitors.

Strategies will continue to be implemented that prevent crowding during class transition and break times (one class at a time transitioning in hallways, classes using separate entrance/exit doors).

Designated Entrances: Each classroom has a designated entrance and exit door (see below).

Grade	Teacher	Classroom	Entry and Exit	Location
Kindergarten/Grade 1	Ms. Kimmie	Kindergarten	Outside door –NE front entrance by the gym off the parking lot	Front of the school
Grade 1/2	Mrs. Kronebusch	Classroom C	Outside door – NE entrance by the gym off the parking lot	Front of the school
Grade 2/3	Ms. Gauthier	Classroom B	Outside door – back of the school	Back of the school by the garden
Grade 4/5	Mrs. Browne	Classroom E	Outside door – SW entrance off the side pavement	West side of the school
Grade 6/7	Ms. Bruce	Classroom H	Outside door – NW front entrance by the dumpster	Front of the school

BUSES

The following strategies are recommended for student transportation on buses:

- Buses used for transporting students are cleaned and disinfected according to the guidance provided in the Cleaning and Disinfecting section of this document.
- Bus drivers and students are encouraged to practice hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette.
- Bus drivers, teachers and students in Kindergarten to Grade 12 may choose to wear masks or face coverings when they are on the bus.

CURRICULUM, PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

All curriculum, programs and activities should operate in alignment with school communicable disease prevention plans, including school-led activities held off campus (e.g. sports academies, community-based programs/courses). Schools should continue to implement ongoing communicable disease prevention practices (e.g. cleaning and disinfecting, hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette) specific to the activity.

Additional considerations are noted below.

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:

- Schools should consider guidance provided for overnight camps from [BCCDC](#) and the [BC Camps Association](#) when planning overnight trips that include group accommodation.
- Schools should make every effort to avoid venue/locations that place additional requirements that could prevent a person from being able to participate, particularly students. If this is not possible (and the field trip/travel cannot occur otherwise), schools can require participants to

confirm they are able to meet the additional requirements (e.g., are able to provide proof of vaccination).

- Students and staff may also be required to follow the communicable disease prevention plan of places attended on a field trip. Where there is a conflict with a school's communicable disease prevention plan, the more stringent safety protocols should be followed.

Kindergarten Program and Entry

- Include information about communicable disease prevention measures that will be in place as part of communications to students and their families prior to school start.
- Parents/caregivers must follow guidelines for visitors.
- Provide opportunities for Kindergarten students to learn and practice respecting personal space, recognizing they are unlikely to be able to do this at all times.
- Gently remind students of the expectations throughout the day and encourage students to kindly support one another.
- Frequently-touched items like toys or manipulatives that may not be able to be cleaned often (e.g. fabrics) or at all (e.g. sand, foam, playdough, etc.) and carpets and rugs (e.g., for circle time activities) can be used.

Barlow Creek Joint Health & Safety Committee –

Updated: September 2022

