



## Pandemic COVID 19 - Staff frequently Asked Questions.

Topic	Question	Support
<b>Hand Washing Etiquette</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Is it necessary to wash my hands so often?</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Yes, thorough hand washing with plain soap and water is still the single most effective way to reduce the spread of illness.</li><li>○ Follow the instructions in the procedures and exposure control plan with respect to washing your hands</li></ul>
<b>Hand sanitizers</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ What if there is no hand sanitizer at the entrance of my school or site?</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Hand sanitizer is not widely available as supplies of certain items are only available to emergency services at this time.</li><li>○ Washing your hands with soap and water is a more effective way to manage contamination.</li></ul>
<b>Hand sanitizers</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Will there be hand sanitizer available during Stage 3?</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Additional hand sanitizer dispensers will be located in various areas throughout the school. The priority is for staff use and not student use as they can use the washrooms as needed.</li></ul>
<b>Cough &amp; Sneeze Etiquette</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ I have allergies and I am always congested and sneezing at this time of year. Should I stay home and self-isolate?</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Follow the Cough &amp; Sneeze Etiquette</li><li>○ Lead by example; wash your hands after coughing or sneezing into tissues.</li><li>○ Follow the directive from the Provincial Health Officer and your doctor on self-isolation.</li></ul>
<b>Door stoppers</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ How do I hold my door open to reduce the need to touch it during class changes?</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Facilities will attempt to supply door wedges/door stops. These are limited for use during this time and can not be used on fire doors.</li></ul>
<b>Masks</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Are masks required?</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ It has been recommended that masks be used only when all other controls fail. If they were not required before then they are not required now. Please respect anyone who may choose to use one.</li></ul>
<b>Cleaning solution</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Can I get some cleaning solution for my workspace?</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Custodians will clean as per the enhanced cleaning protocols. There is no reason beyond what one would normally do to require the additional cleaner. Spray bottles will be provided to each classroom.</li></ul>
<b>Cough &amp; Sneeze Etiquette</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ How can we safely work around children with runny noses?</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ The Canadian Pediatric Society has summarized the epidemiology of COVID-19 in children. Although more information is always better, they show that there is a low likelihood that the child is positive for COVID-19.</li><li>○ Take the recommended hygiene precautions of washing your hands after helping a student.</li></ul>
<b>Spreading the virus</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ How is the virus spread?</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ The virus is typically spread through droplets. These droplets are exhaled by a sick individual. The droplets are relatively large and within 2 meters will fall to the ground.</li></ul>



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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The PHO does not believe that there is a risk of air borne transmission beyond this zone.</li> </ul>
<b>Physical Distancing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ I plan on working with the children of essential workers, how do I maintain physical distancing of 2 meters?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Information communicated to the district by the Provincial Health Officer's team indicated that physical distancing is more important for adults. There is little data showing that children have infected adults.</li> <li>○ Maintain your 2 m from adults; respect everyone's need for this.</li> <li>○ it is expected that physical distancing will be more challenging for younger children in a school setting so there should be a focus on minimizing the frequency of physical contact in these situations.</li> <li>○ Working with children is currently considered a low risk activity.</li> </ul>
<b>Physical Distancing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ How will I maintain physical distancing when I come into work?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Stagger your break time so not everyone is going to the staff room or lunchroom at the same time.</li> <li>○ Use MS Teams for online meetings</li> <li>○ Minimize face to face meetings</li> <li>○ Do not hang out in the halls; keep to your classroom or office while at school.</li> <li>○ Ensure that classroom occupants can remain 2 m apart if meeting in a classroom.</li> </ul>
<b>Face Masks (respirators)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ I have an N95 mask or I made my own face mask can I wear it?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ This is a personal decision during the pandemic and not currently a safety issue. Face masks are not currently recommended by the PHO for people who did not wear them before the pandemic.</li> </ul>
<b>Face Masks (respirators)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Should all the children under my care be wearing face masks?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ No, as only those students that are sick should wear a mask and those children should not be at school.</li> <li>○ Follow the procedures on illness response.</li> </ul>
<b>Working - at a school</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ I am at higher risk of being infected due to personal medical reasons, what should I do?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Contact your supervisor with any issues arising.</li> <li>○ Your supervisor will deal with any concerns.</li> <li>○ High-risk staff and students should consult 8-1-1.</li> </ul>
<b>Working - at a school</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ I am anxious about working with others or coming to work, what can I do?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Check out the links provided by the District on page 4 of this document.</li> <li>○ Model a calm approach for others in the workplace.</li> <li>○ Talk to your supervisor.</li> </ul>
<b>Working - at a school</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Is it safe to work with children?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The PHO has indicated that those working with students are at low risk, they indicate that there is little evidence of children passing the disease on to adults.</li> <li>○ The school district has implemented steps to reduce any risk to our employees including enhanced</li> </ul>



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		<p>cleaning of frequently used touch points, physical distancing for staff, and of course expectations for hand washing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ If the situation changes for the risk from children, the PHO will adjust the recommendations.</li> </ul>
<b>Working - at a school</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ I am afraid to catch the virus from a contact with a droplet that is on a surface. How do I know the workplace is clean?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Custodial staff have initiated an enhanced cleaning program where all high traffic touch points get repeated attention throughout the day.</li> <li>○ Following the safe work instructions and washing your hands, after you have touched a common touch point is the best approach to reducing your risk.</li> </ul>
<b>Working – home visits</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Can I visit a student's home for work?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ In order to consider this question, you must meet with your supervisor and discuss the necessity of this request.</li> </ul>
<b>Working - with the children of essential workers</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ What would the classroom look like to ensure physical distancing?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The classrooms will be limited to a smaller number of students</li> <li>○ Student seating will be arranged in desks to maintain physical distancing.</li> <li>○ Children could play together but teach good hygiene and physical distancing practices.</li> </ul>
<b>Working - with the children of essential workers</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Am I at higher risk because I work with the children of front line workers?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ No, there is no evidence of any increased risk to the children of health care workers (HCW),</li> <li>○ HCW are monitored closely so are the family members of any HCW that is becomes ill.</li> </ul>
<b>Working – with complex learners</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ How can I maintain 2 m physical distancing when having to work close and support a learner?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The PHO has indicated that the risk of transmission from a child to an adult is low.</li> <li>○ Practice appropriate hygiene practices by washing hands frequently.</li> <li>○ Review and re-evaluate the individual safe work instruction</li> </ul>
<b>Toys, and shared classroom materials</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ What if someone plays with toys / games or learning tools in the classroom; do they all need to be decontaminated?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Items that are difficult to clean should receive limited use.</li> <li>○ Favour items that are easy to wipe down or wash.</li> <li>○ Spray bottles will be made available in classrooms to facilitate cleaning as needed.</li> </ul>
<b>Library Books</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Can we receive or send out library books?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The PHO has indicated that there is limited concern with books.</li> <li>○ Books may be borrowed and returned.</li> <li>○ OHS recommends placing a hold books on returned books for a few days (3) prior to restocking.</li> </ul>
<b>Reporting</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ How do I report my illness of COVID 19?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Complete the online self assessment</li> <li>○ Contact 8-1-1,</li> <li>○ Notify your supervisor</li> </ul>



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<b>Other Jurisdictions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ I have family in another province and they have been ordered to stop working, why do we have to work?</li><li>○ The PHO has indicated that these matters have a local context and we must follow our provincial instructions in order to remain effective in our overall response.</li></ul>
<b>Resources</b>	<b>SD19 OHS</b> <b>Bruce Tisdale</b> Contact by email: <a href="mailto:btisdale@sd19.bc.ca">btisdale@sd19.bc.ca</a>
	<b>District COVID 19 Information</b> <a href="https://www.sd19.bc.ca/covid-19-information/">https://www.sd19.bc.ca/covid-19-information/</a>
	<b>BC Centre for Disease Control – common questions</b> <a href="http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/common-questions">http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/common-questions</a>
	<b>WorkSafeBC – COVID 19</b> <a href="https://www.worksafebc.com/en/about-us/covid-19-updates">https://www.worksafebc.com/en/about-us/covid-19-updates</a>
	<b>BC ED COVID 19: Public Health Guidance for K-12 School Settings</b> <a href="https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/education/administration/kindergarten-to-grade-12/safe-caring-orderly/k-12-covid-19-health-safety-guidlines.pdf">https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/education/administration/kindergarten-to-grade-12/safe-caring-orderly/k-12-covid-19-health-safety-guidlines.pdf</a>
	<b>Mental Health</b> <a href="http://www.bouncebackbc.ca">www.bouncebackbc.ca</a>
	<b>Mental Health</b> <a href="http://www.anxietycanada.com">www.anxietycanada.com</a>
	<b>BC Health Link</b> <a href="https://www.healthlinkbc.ca/health-feature/coronavirus-disease-covid-19">https://www.healthlinkbc.ca/health-feature/coronavirus-disease-covid-19</a>
	<b>Life Speak</b> <a href="https://bcpsea.lifespeak.com">https://bcpsea.lifespeak.com</a> ; Client password: lifespeak
	<b>Provincial Health Officer</b> <a href="http://www.gov.bc.ca/phoguidance">www.gov.bc.ca/phoguidance</a>
	<b>Canadian Pediatric Society</b> <a href="https://www.cps.ca/en/documents/position/update-on-covid-19-epidemiology-and-impact-on-medical-care-in-children-april-2020">https://www.cps.ca/en/documents/position/update-on-covid-19-epidemiology-and-impact-on-medical-care-in-children-april-2020</a>