

2021-2022 HEALTH AND SAFETY PROTOCOLS: K-12 DISTRICT PLANNING & GUIDELINES

Based upon COVID-19 Public Health Communicable Disease Guidance for K-12 Schools and its December 29, 2021 Addendum – Advice from the BC Centre for Disease Control, the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, WorkSafe BC and Fraser Health.

UPDATED: Feb 22, 2022

Important Information – Please Translate

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Key Messages

- Schools continue to be considered low-risk settings for COVID-19 transmission as they are controlled environments, particularly in the context of a highly immunized population.
- Vaccines are the most effective way to reduce the risk of COVID-19 in schools. Everyone eligible is strongly encouraged to be fully vaccinated (i.e., receive 2 doses and booster, as appropriate) against COVID-19.
- Local Medical Health Officers may recommend regional prevention measures during times of increased community risk.

This document provides guidance for infection, prevention, and exposure control measures during the 2021-22 school year to prevent the spread of communicable diseases, including COVID-19 within the current context. It also outlines how public health expects to manage COVID-19 cases impacting schools, if and when they occur.

[Our experience in B.C.](#) during the 2020-21 school year, which aligned with evidence gathered [nationally and internationally](#), saw schools as lower-risk sites for COVID-19 transmission when infection prevention and exposure control measures (also called prevention measures) were in place. Various surveys, including the COVID-19 [SPEAK survey](#) from BCCDC, have reported that school-aged children have been negatively impacted by the pandemic, including worsened wellbeing, more child stress, less connection with friends, less engagement in extracurricular activities and learning impacts. Enabling children to return to closer-to-normal learning, recreational and social activities is an important pandemic recovery action. Both risks and benefits of preventive measures were considered in the development of this guidance. An evidence summary is included (as of August 27, 2021) as [Appendix A](#).

At this time, the Omicron variant is the most commonly circulating variant of COVID-19 in B.C. This variant is more infectious and is resulting in higher numbers of infections, and there is a risk of exposure in all settings. Emerging data from around the world indicates that the Omicron variant is causing less serious illness, especially in highly immunized populations like in B.C.

Variants of COVID-19 spread the same way as the original COVID-19. That means the prevention measures already in place in schools continue to be effective at reducing the risk of COVID-19 spread. These include everyone eligible getting fully vaccinated, doing a daily health check, and staying home when sick, wearing masks, and cleaning hands regularly. Schools should ensure the prevention measures already in place are consistently implemented.

Public health will continue to review emerging evidence and monitor cases and transmission trends of COVID-19 to determine if actions should be taken to prevent or control spread, including updating this guidance.

BCCDC is the primary source of information about COVID-19 in B.C. Resources on the [BCCDC](#) website can be used to support learning and to respond to questions from school communities.

Public Health Measures

Vaccines

Vaccines are the most effective way to reduce the risk of COVID-19 in schools. Everyone eligible is strongly encouraged to be fully vaccinated (i.e., receive 2 doses and booster, as appropriate) against COVID-19 to protect themselves and those around them – including those who are not eligible to be vaccinated. All recommended doses are needed to get the most effective protection against serious cases of COVID-19 and provide longer-lasting protection.

The vaccines used in B.C. are highly effective against COVID-19, including among variants of concern. Vaccinated people aged 12 and older tend to have milder illness if they get infected and are also less likely spread COVID-19 than unvaccinated people 12 and older. Up to date information on vaccinations coverage is available from [BCCDC](#).

All children ages 5 and up are currently eligible to be vaccinated, and as such they continue to be less likely to get and spread COVID-19 and have a low risk of serious outcomes if they do get COVID-19. It is strongly recommended that all adults interacting with children be fully vaccinated.

Evidence-based immunization information and tools for B.C. residents are available from [BCCDC](#) and [ImmunizeBC](#).

Public Health Case Management

The emergence of the more transmissible Omicron variant of COVID-19 necessitates changes in public health management and administrator responsibilities for cases of COVID-19 impacting schools.

With higher levels of community transmission, a shorter virus incubation period, and the increased use of rapid antigen testing, contact tracing and close contact notification by public health is not effective to minimize spread of COVID-19. As such, public health management practices (including guidance for K-12 school-associated COVID-19 activity) have transitioned to established practices for other circulating viral illnesses with similar transmission characteristics. This includes individual self-management (i.e., individuals care for themselves, engaging with health care providers when needed), with public health focused on identifying and responding to large clusters and outbreaks.

School Exposures & Notifications

With the rapid spread and short incubation period of the highly transmissible Omicron variant of COVID-19, we have moved into a period where families and individuals must self-manage their symptoms, care, and contact tracing when they believe they have been infected with COVID-19. Short incubation periods associated with Omicron do not allow for effective contact tracing efforts and exposures could result in infection before advance notice could be provided. It is essential that families and individuals use the [BC COVID-19 Self-Assessment Tool](#) and inform their close contacts. Health authorities will no longer be providing school exposure notifications and contact tracing information to school districts for distribution. Further, for reasons of privacy protection, schools cannot release individual contact information for the purpose of an individual to notify others – staff, student, or family. Also, the school will not be able to notify others on their behalf.

In K-12 schools, schools will closely monitor school attendance data to determine if they have met a public-health determined potential activity signal. When met, the school will notify public health and the school community. Public Health, led by Medical Health Officers, will continue to lead investigations to determine if additional measures are needed. Public health will also monitor provincial and regional data and will connect with schools if they identify further investigation is needed.

Regional Differences and Local Public Health Orders and Recommendations

Medical Health Officers continue to be able to place local public health Orders requiring additional health and safety measures beyond this guidance at their own discretion, based on their authority under provincial legislation. These may be put in place during times of increased community transmission of COVID-19, and within communities with low vaccination uptake. They are based on local epidemiology and are proportional to risk.

For schools, the local Medical Health Officer may issue a recommendation for an individual school, a grouping of schools, a school district, for all schools within a health authority region, or some combination thereof, to implement specific additional health and safety measures during times of elevated risk.

Environmental Measures

Cleaning and Disinfection

Regular cleaning and disinfection are essential to preventing the transmission of COVID-19 from contaminated objects and surfaces. Schools should be cleaned and disinfected in accordance with the BCCDC protocols.

This includes general cleaning and disinfecting of the premises at least **once every 24 hours**.

- Frequently touched surfaces should be cleaned and disinfected once every 24 hours
- These include doorknobs, light switches, water fountains, kitchen appliances, service counters, toilet handles, tables, desks and chairs, keyboards, sports equipment, music equipment, manipulatives and toys used by multiple students.
- Some frequently touched items like toys or manipulatives may not be able to be cleaned often (e.g. fabrics) or at all (e.g. sand, foam, playdough, etc.). These items can continue to be used, if hand hygiene is practiced before and after use.
- There is no evidence that the COVID-19 virus is transmitted via textbooks, paper or other paper-based products. Laminated or glossy paper-based products (e.g., children's books or magazines) and items with plastic covers (e.g., DVDs) can be contaminated if handled by a person with COVID-19; however, the risk is low. There is no need for these items to be cleaned and disinfected or quarantined for any period of time, or for hand hygiene to be practiced before or after use.

Traffic Flow / Physical Barriers

Floor markings and posters will be used to address traffic flow throughout the school. Barriers may still be in place.

Ventilation and Air Exchange

At this time, there is no evidence that a building's ventilation system, in good operating condition, would contribute to the spread of COVID-19. Good indoor ventilation alone cannot protect people from exposure to the virus; however, it may reduce risk when used in addition to other preventative measures.

For activities that take place indoors, application of the basic principles of good indoor air quality should continue, including supplying outdoor air to replenish indoor air by removing and diluting contaminants that naturally occur in indoor settings.

All mechanical heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems are designed, operated, and maintained as per standards and specifications for ongoing comfort of workers ([Part 4 of OHS Regulation](#)). Open windows when the weather permits if it doesn't impact the functioning of ventilation systems.

The District has engaged a consultant who has recommended filter upgrades if and where appropriate. With funding provided by the Provincial government, the District will install HEPA filters in spaces without mechanical ventilation. The work will be done on a priority basis.

When using air conditioners and fans in ventilated spaces, air should be moved from high places to lower places instead of blowing air directly from one person's breathing zone to another's. Avoid horizontal cross breezes. Use of portable air conditioners and fans in unventilated spaces with doors and windows closed should be avoided, except when necessary, during high or excessive heat events. Communicable disease prevention measures need to be balanced against other risks, like excessive heat events in warmer months or poor air quality from wildfire smoke.

Administrative Measures

Gathering & Events

School extracurricular and social gatherings and events (including those occurring within and between schools) will occur in line with those permitted as per relevant local, regional, provincial, and federal public health recommendations and Orders.

Specifically:

- For school gatherings and events that bring together multiple classes or groupings of students (e.g., school assemblies, multiple classes doing a single activity) from the same school (but members of the school community beyond staff, students and necessary volunteers are not attending), there is not a specific capacity limit.
- For school extracurricular and social gatherings and events that bring together members of the school community beyond staff, students and necessary volunteers (e.g., an arts club performance, community fair), or that occur between schools (e.g., a music festival, a sports game or tournament), indoor capacity should not exceed 50 people or 50% of operating capacity (whichever is greater).
 - For indoor spaces without a defined operating capacity, schools should determine a capacity limit that is at most half the number of individuals that would be within the space for that activity or event if prevention measures weren't in place.
- Spectators (e.g., parents, caregivers, peers), may be present for gathering and events (e.g., attend performance club theatre productions, inter-school sports games and tournaments, etc.) within capacity limits.
- Schools should not implement proof of vaccination requirements for school-led gatherings and events.

Space Arrangement

In learning environments, schools can return to classroom and will still consider using environment configurations and activities that best meet learner needs and preferred educational approaches and use all available space.

In indoor spaces, people should have enough room to carry out the intended activity without involuntary physical contact with another person. In indoor common spaces (e.g., hallways, cafeterias, etc.), schools may continue to use floor markings and posters to direct traffic flow.

For indoor activities that bring together multiple classes or other groupings of students in close proximity for a prolonged period of time (e.g., school assemblies, multiple classes doing physical activity in a gym), schools should ensure that people are spread out within the available space and adhere to room limit capacities or orders related to room capacity.

For breaks and other unstructured time in indoor settings, there should be enough space available to prevent involuntary physical contact.

Taking students outside more often is still encouraged (when the weather allows) due to its overall health benefits.

Staff-only gatherings (e.g., meetings, professional development days, etc.) should occur in line with those permitted as per

relevant local, regional, Provincial, and Federal public health recommendations and Orders for workplace gatherings and events and any related WorkSafe BC guidance.

Visitors

Schools will continue to ensure visitors follow the school's communicable disease plan, including completing a daily health check and not entering the school if they are sick. All visitors will wear a mask. Contact information should be retained for 45 days following their visit.

Visitors should:

- Sign in at office when they arrive and sign out when they leave.
- Wear a non-medical mask.
- 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, gymnasium for a sports event, etc.), and parents/caregivers should be encouraged to drop-off/pick-up students outside of the school.
- Parents/caregivers and other visitors should respect others' personal space while on school grounds, including outside.

Curriculum, Programs and Activities (including Extracurricular Activities)

As previously noted, extracurricular and social gatherings and events (including sports and arts events within and between schools) should occur in line with those permitted as per relevant local, regional, Provincial, and Federal public health recommendations and Orders.

For music and physical education, schools should continue to implement universal communicable disease prevention practices specific to the activity. For example, equipment that touches the mouth (e.g., water bottles, instrument mouth pieces) should not be shared unless cleaned and disinfected in-between use. Hands should be cleaned before and after using frequently touched pieces of equipment (e.g., before and after a sports game using a shared ball).

Transportation

For school buses, schools can return to regular seating and onloading/offloading practices.

Schools should continue to:

- Encourage bus drivers and passengers to practice hand hygiene and before and after trips and to practice respiratory etiquette as needed,
- Spread passengers out if space is available, and
- Open windows when the weather allows.

All students and staff should wear masks on school buses, with exceptions outlined in the Personal Protective Equipment section of this document and the additional exception that bus drivers can remove their masks while driving.

For carpooling, we ask staff and families to:

- Continue to spread out as much as possible,
- Travel with the same people whenever possible,
- Set the vehicle's ventilation to bring in fresh outside air, and do not recirculate the air,
- Open the windows when the weather allows,
- Clean hands before and after trips, and
- Clean frequently touched surfaces regularly.

All students and staff are encouraged to wear masks while carpooling, with exceptions outlined in the Personal Protective Equipment section of this document.

Food Services

Food services (e.g., meal programs, cafeterias, fundraisers, etc.) can return to regular operational and food safety practices. Students involved in food preparation and distribution should be taught and supported to practice relevant food safety practices, including hand hygiene.

Community Use of Schools

Schools can continue to allow community use of school facilities. Community use should be aligned with related public health guidance, recommendations, and Orders, but can be cancelled at the discretion of the District.

Water Stations & Fountains

Limiting the use of water fountains is no longer recommended. Schools should continue to clean and disinfect water fountains as a frequently touched surface and encourage hand hygiene before and after use.

Personal Items and School Supplies

Students and staff can continue to bring personal items and school supplies to school for their own use.

Personal Measures

Daily Health Check

Everyone going into to school must complete a daily health check, including staff, visitors, and students. A daily health check means checking yourself or your child for new symptoms of illness, including symptoms of COVID-19.

Symptoms of illness (including COVID-19) include things like:

- Fever or chills
- Difficulty breathing
- Runny nose
- Headache
- Diarrhea
- Cough
- Sore throat
- Sneezing
- Body aches
- Loss of sense of smell or taste
- Loss of appetite
- Extreme fatigue or tiredness
- Nausea or vomiting

If you are sick or feel unwell, stay at home. This is important to stop the spread of illness, including COVID-19, in schools.

You can attend school if:

- Your symptoms are consistent with a previously diagnosed health condition (e.g., seasonal allergies), OR
- You have existing symptoms that have improved to where you feel well enough to return to regular activities,

AND you are not required to self-isolate, or your self-isolation period is over (based on a positive COVID-19 test result, if taken).

What to Do When Sick

If you have mild symptoms of COVID-19, you usually don't need a test. Mild symptoms are symptoms that can be managed at home. Most people don't need testing for COVID-19.

Stay home and away from others (as much as possible) until you feel well enough to return to your regular activities and you no longer have a fever. You should also avoid non-essential visits to higher risk settings such as long term care facilities and gatherings, for another 5 days after ending isolation.

If you have a Rapid Antigen Test at home, use it when you have symptoms. How long you should stay home depends on your test result. Find out more about [Rapid Antigen Test results](#).

If you do not have symptoms of COVID-19, you do not need a test.

If you are unsure about your symptoms, you can use the [Self-Assessment Tool](#), contact your health care provider or call 8-1-1.

Testing may be recommended for some people who may be more likely to get severe disease. See BCCDC for information on [who testing is recommended for](#).

What to Do if Someone in Your Household is Sick

You can continue to attend school if someone in your household is sick and/or self-isolating as long as you do not have any symptoms of illness and feel well. This includes if they have tested positive for COVID-19.

Try to stay apart from the person in your household who is sick as much as possible.

Ensure you closely monitor yourself (or your child) for symptoms of illness and stay home if you develop symptoms of illness or feel unwell.

The best way to protect yourself and your family from COVID-19 is to get vaccinated. Vaccines are available for anyone ages 5 and up. Register now at: [Getvaccinated.gov.bc.ca](https://getvaccinated.gov.bc.ca)

If You Test Positive for COVID-19

Your age and vaccination status determine how long you should self-isolate for if you test positive for COVID-19.

Age	Vaccination Status	Guidance
Under 18 years of age	Unvaccinated, partially vaccinated or fully vaccinated	Self-isolate at home for 5 days AND until your symptoms improve and you no longer have a fever. Avoid non-essential visits to higher risk settings like long-term care facilities and gatherings for another 5 days after ending isolation.
18 years of age or older	Fully vaccinated	
	NOT fully vaccinated	Self-isolate at home for 10 days AND until your symptoms improve and you no longer have a fever.

Close contacts, who are usually others in your household, do not need to self-isolate (regardless of vaccination status) but should closely self-monitor for symptoms. BCCDC has more information for [close contacts](#).

What To Do When Symptoms Develop at School

If a staff member, student or other person develops symptoms at school, follow the guidance in, *What To Do If A Student Or Staff Member Develops Symptoms At School* [Appendix C](#).

Staff, students, and parent/caregivers can also use the [BC Self Assessment Tool](#) app, call 8-1-1 or their health care provider for guidance.

See [Appendix B](#) for Summary: What to Do when Sick

Hand Hygiene

Rigorous hand washing with plain soap and water is the most effective way to reduce the spread of illness. Both students and staff can pick up and spread germs from objects, surfaces, food, and people. Everyone should practice diligent hand hygiene. Parents and staff can teach and reinforce these practices among students.

How to practice diligent hand hygiene:

- Wash hands with plain soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Antibacterial soap is not needed for COVID-19.
- Temperature does not change the effectiveness of washing hands with plain soap and water.
- If sinks are not available (e.g., students and staff are outdoors), use alcohol-based hand rub containing at least 60% alcohol.
- If hands are visibly soiled, alcohol-based hand rub may not be effective at eliminating microbes. Soap and water are preferred when hands are visibly dirty. If it is not available, use an alcohol-based hand wipe followed by alcohol-based hand rub.
- To learn about how to perform hand hygiene, please refer to the BCCDC's [hand washing poster](#).

Respiratory Etiquette

Students and staff should:

- Cough or sneeze into their elbow or a tissue. Throw away used tissues and immediately perform hand hygiene.
- Refrain from touching their eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.
- Refrain from sharing any food, drinks, unwashed utensils, cigarettes, or vaping devices.

Parents and staff can teach and reinforce these practices among students.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Non-Medical Masks and Face Coverings

Public health continues to monitor community risk of COVID-19 as we progress toward high levels of vaccine coverage. Schools continue to be considered low risk settings for COVID-19 transmission, particularly in the context of a highly immunized population; however, non-medical masks will be recommended for the start of the school year. This will allow for an added layer of protection as schools transition to new measures. The non-medical mask guidance is expected to be reviewed. Regional recommendations may also be issued by local medical health officers based on community risk. Mask requirements should, at minimum, adhere with any regional or provincial public health Orders.

Although personal protective equipment (including masks) is the lowest level on the hierarchy of Infection Prevention and Exposure Control Measures, it can provide an additional layer of protection when more effective measures are not feasible. Non-medical masks and face coverings (masks) have a role to play in preventing the spread of COVID-19. They provide some protection to the wearer and to those around them.

K-12 STAFF:

All K-12 staff are required to wear a mask or a face shield (in which case a mask should be worn in addition to the face shield) indoors in schools and on school buses.

K-12 STUDENTS:

All students in Grades 4 to 12 are required to wear a mask or a face shield (in which case a non-medical mask should be worn in addition to the face shield) indoors in schools and on school buses - both within and outside of their learning group.

Face shields are a form of eye protection for the person wearing it. They may not prevent the spread of droplets from the wearer. Face shields should not be worn in place of non-medical masks.

VISITORS:

All visitors must wear a non-medical mask when they are inside the school.

EXCEPTIONS FOR STAFF, STUDENTS AND VISITORS:

The guidance outlined above regarding mask requirements does not apply to staff, students, and visitors in the following circumstances:

- to a person who cannot tolerate wearing a mask for health or behavioural reasons.
- to a person who is unable to put on or remove a mask without the assistance of another person.
- if the mask is removed temporarily for the purposes of identifying the person wearing it.
- if the mask is removed temporarily to engage in an educational activity that cannot be performed while wearing a mask (e.g., playing a wind instrument, engaging in high-intensity physical activity, etc.)
- if a person is eating or drinking.
- if a person is behind a barrier; or
- while providing a service to a person with a disability or diverse ability (including but not limited to a hearing impairment) where visual cues, facial expressions and/or lip reading/movements is important.

Appendix A: Evidence Summary

The information below summarizes high-level evidence gathered since early Spring 2020 about COVID-19, including its impacts on people and K-12 schools in B.C., nationally and internationally. Up-to-date information about COVID-19 is available from [BCCDC](#).

COVID-19 in B.C.

- B.C. currently has variable community prevalence of COVID-19; some parts of the province have relatively low community transmission while other parts have relatively high levels of community transmission. Communities with high levels of transmission are typically those with lower vaccination rates.
 - Since early summer 2021, the rate of COVID-19 cases has increased due to the easing of pandemic restrictions. Most cases, hospitalizations, and deaths were among unvaccinated individuals.
- B.C. has a highly vaccinated population with the majority of those aged 12 and older having received two doses of a COVID-19 vaccine.
 - Vaccinated individuals tend to have milder illness if they get infected and are also less likely to pass virus on than unvaccinated individuals. Severe outcomes in fully vaccinated individuals are infrequent.
 - Everyone eligible is encouraged to be fully vaccinated (i.e., receive two doses and booster, as appropriate) against COVID-19 to protect themselves and those around them.
- Four [COVID-19 Variants of Concern](#) have been detected in B.C.: Alpha, Beta, Gamma and Delta. Currently, Delta is the most common. The vaccines delivered in B.C. remain highly effective against variants, including the Delta variant, especially against severe outcomes.
 - The Delta variant is currently the predominant variant in B.C. This variant spreads more easily and may lead to more severe disease.

COVID-19 and Schools

Based on [national and international evidence](#) collected between January - July 2021:

- There is little high-quality evidence to suggest that having schools open meaningfully contributes to community transmission.
- The likelihood of a person attending school while infectious with COVID-19 reflects local community prevalence.
- The consistent implementation of prevention measures, particularly in communities with higher transmission and/or lower vaccination uptake, is critically important to limiting the spread of COVID-19.
 - Within clusters and outbreaks, adult to adult transmission appears more common than child to adult or adult to child.
- Widespread asymptomatic transmission is not commonly occurring within schools.
- Evidence continues to be gathered about the impact of staff and student vaccinations on mitigating risk of COVID-19 transmission at school.

During the 2020-21 school year in B.C.:

- COVID-19 cases in schools reflected the number of cases in their communities. Most cases of COVID-19 among students and staff were acquired outside of school, in their community or household.
- Vancouver Coastal Health and Fraser Health led [school transmission studies](#) to understand transmission in school settings:
 - In Vancouver Coastal Health from September 10 – December 18, 2020, out of 699 cases among students (77%) and staff (23%), 55 cases (8% of student and staff cases) were likely acquired in school. When transmission did occur, a case would typically lead to 1 or 2 other cases in the school.
 - In Fraser Health from January 1 – March 7, 2021, out of 2049 cases among students (83%) and staff (17%), 267 cases (13% of student and staff cases) were likely acquired in school. When transmission did occur with a school setting, a case would typically lead to 1 other cases in the school.

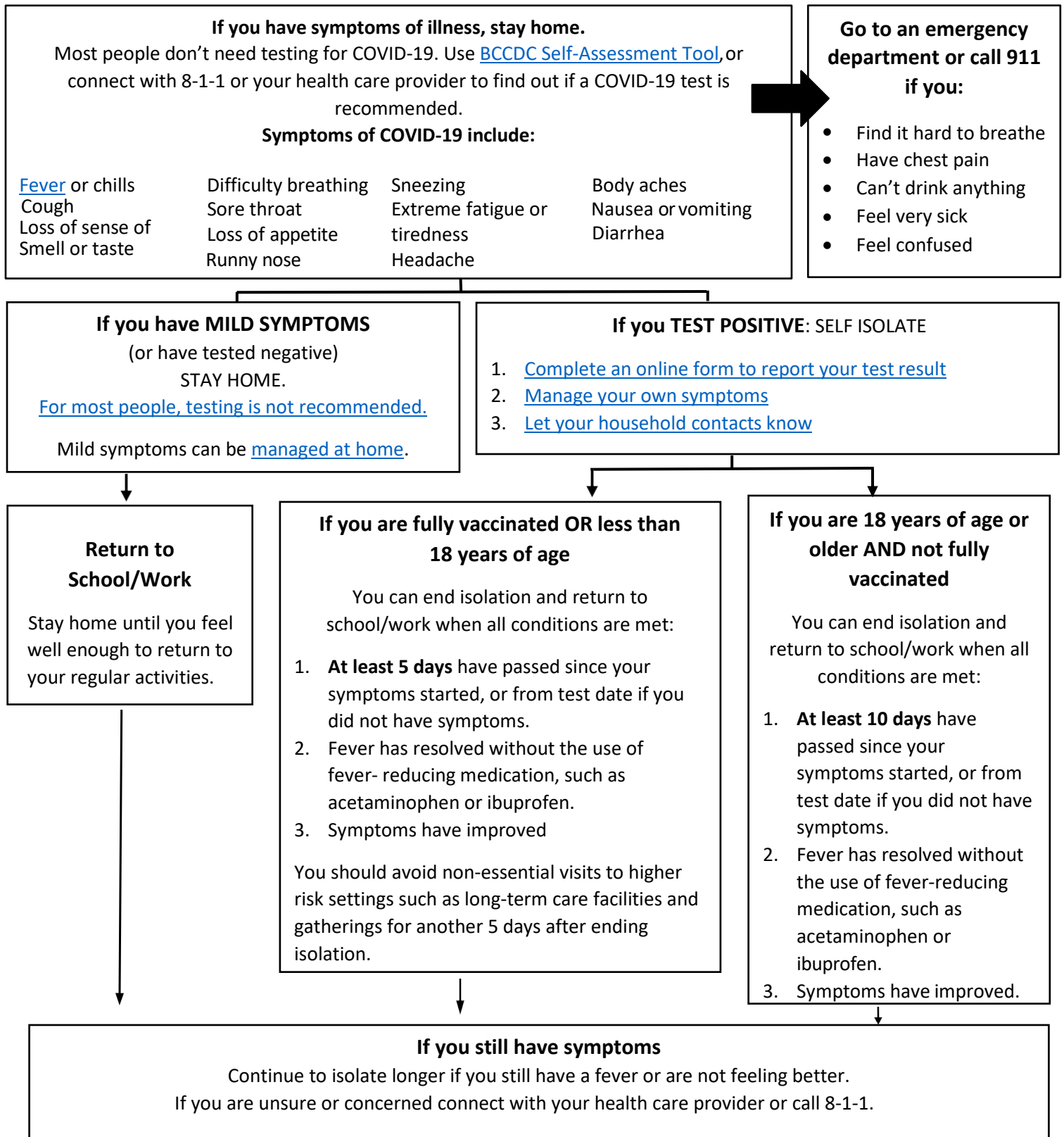
Regional school medical officers noted that these results were similar to those seen in all health authority regions, based on case reviews.

- School staff do not seem to be at any greater risk of getting COVID-19 at work compared to other workplaces that include people.
 - In [Vancouver School District](#), despite a high rate of reported exposure to COVID-19 cases, the rate of COVID-19 infections among school staff (detected by sensitive serology testing) was the same as the local community. This suggests school staff did not experience a greater risk from COVID-19 than the general population with the measures implemented during the 2020-21 school year.
- In February, B.C. teachers [reported](#) impacts on their mental health, fewer opportunities to connect with students and the school community, and workload increases.

COVID-19 and Children

- Most children are not at high risk for COVID-19. If they do get COVID-19, most children will have mild symptoms, or they may have no symptoms at all (“asymptomatic”).
- COVID-19 continues to have a [relatively low infection rate](#) among school-aged children (5-18).
 - Research is underway to understand the impact of the Delta variant on children, including differences in how it spreads and if there is increased risk of more severe illness in children who are not yet eligible to be vaccinated (i.e., under age 12).
- As of August 22nd, approximately 72% of people aged 12-17 had received their first dose of COVID-19 vaccine and 58% had received their second dose.
- At this time, no COVID-19 vaccine has been approved for use in children under the age of 12. Clinical trials are currently underway. More information is available from [Health Canada](#).
- Various surveys, including the [COVID-19 SPEAK](#) survey from BCCDC have reported that school-aged children have been negatively impacted by the pandemic, including worsening wellbeing, more child stress, less connection with friends, less engagement in extracurricular activities and learning impacts.

Appendix B: Summary: What to Do When Sick



Appendix C: What to Do if a Student or Staff Member Develops Symptoms At School

<p><i>If a Student Develops Symptoms of Illness at School</i></p>	<p><i>If a Staff Member Develops Symptoms of Illness at School</i></p>
<p>Staff must take the following steps:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Immediately separate the symptomatic student from others in a supervised area. 2. Contact the student’s parent or caregiver to pick them up. Parents or caregivers must pick up their child as soon as possible if they are notified their child is ill. 3. Younger children must be supervised when separated. Supervising staff should wear a non-medical mask and face shield if they are unable to maintain physical distance, avoid touching bodily fluids (i.e., mucous, saliva) as much as possible, and practice diligent hand hygiene. 4. Provide the student/staff with a mask if they don’t have one (exceptions should be made for students/staff who cannot wear masks for health or behavioural reason, or if the person is experiencing gastrointestinal symptoms and are at risk of vomiting). 5. Once the student is picked up, practice diligent hand hygiene. 6. Staff responsible for facility cleaning must clean and disinfect the space where the student was separated and any areas recently used by them (e.g., classroom, bathroom, common areas). 7. Request the student seek guidance regarding testing for COVID-19, and stay home until symptoms have improved and they feel well enough to participate in all school-related activities. 	<p>Staff should go home as soon as possible.</p> <p>If unable to leave immediately:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Symptomatic staff should separate themselves into an area away from others. 2. Use a mask to cover their nose and mouth and maintain distance from others until they are picked up or leave the school (i.e., driving self). 3. Staff responsible for facility cleaning must clean and disinfect the space where the staff member was separated and any areas used by them (e.g., classroom, bathroom, common areas).
<p>Students and staff should return to school according to the guidance in Appendix B.</p> <p>A health-care provider note should not be required for students or staff to return.</p>	