

Open Doors Alternate School Safety Procedures for School Reopening



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Welcome back to the 2020-2021 school year! We are excited to get started and connect with all students again. Thank you for your patience and understanding as we prepare the school for the unique challenges brought by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Open Doors School supports children in developing their potential and acquiring the knowledge, skills and abilities they need for lifelong success. In-person learning provides the opportunity for peer engagement, which supports social and emotional development as well as overall wellness. It also provides many children access to programs and services that are integral to their overall health and well-being. COVID-19 has brought challenges to all of us, but working together, we can make this year safe and successful.

With direction from the Provincial Health Officer, WorkSafe BC, and School District 6 (Rocky Mountain), Open Doors School developed a Phase 2 plan with the goal of maximizing in-class instruction for all students, while reducing the risk of COVID-19 transmission. This is a shared responsibility with students, parents, staff and the wider community playing a role.

For more information on the Ministry of Education 5 Stages Framework, please see <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/k-12/covid-19-return-to-school/five-stages-framework> .

Last June, we returned safely to voluntary in-class instruction for all students, which taught us lessons that helped guide strategies laid out in this plan. We are confident that our school is safe for our students and staff, and that we can shift instruction if necessary.

I thank you for your support.

Glen Sage
Principal
David Thompson Secondary School

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WILL BE SUSPENDED AND WILL BE REVIEWED IN MID-FALL**

DAILY SCREENING FOR ILLNESS

If you are sick, stay home!

If a student has symptoms at school, they will go home.

A safe school environment begins with **daily** screening for illness. Parents must assess their child's health prior to leaving home. All staff must self-assess also. Students and staff with symptoms of a cold, influenza, or COVID-19 must stay home, self-isolate, and be assessed by a health-care provider. They may return to school after the symptoms are gone.

Please see the BC COVID-19 Self-Assessment Tool at <https://bc.thrive.health/covid19/en> . It can be downloaded as an app on your cell phone. Alternatively, below is a self-assessment checklist that can be used.

Daily Health Check			
1. Symptoms of Illness	Does your child have any of the following symptoms?	CIRCLE ONE	
	Fever	YES	NO
	Chills	YES	NO
	Cough or worsening of chronic cough	YES	NO
	Shortness of breath	YES	NO
	Sore throat	YES	NO
	Runny nose	YES	NO
	Loss of sense of smell or taste	YES	NO
	Headache	YES	NO
	Fatigue	YES	NO
	Diarrhea	YES	NO
	Loss of appetite	YES	NO
	Nausea and vomiting	YES	NO
	Muscle aches	YES	NO
	Conjunctivitis (pinkeye)	YES	NO
	Dizziness, confusion	YES	NO
	Abdominal pain	YES	NO
	Skin rashes or discoloration of fingers or toes	YES	NO
2. International Travel	Have you or anyone in your household returned from travel outside Canada in the last 14 days?	YES	NO
3. Confirmed Contact	Are you or is anyone in your household confirmed by public health staff to have COVID-19 ?	YES	NO

If you answered "YES" to any of the questions and the symptoms are not related to a pre-existing condition (e.g. allergies) your child should NOT come to school.

If they are experiencing any symptoms of illness, contact a health-care provider for further assessment. This includes 8-1-1, or a primary care provider like a physician or nurse practitioner.

If you answered "YES" to questions 2 or 3, use the BC COVID-19 Self-Assessment Tool to determine if you should be tested for COVID-19.

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HYGENE ROUTINES

Thoroughly washing hands with soap and water is the best protection against illness. Students are directed to wash their hands, at a minimum, when they arrive in the morning, after lunch, and at the end of the day. Handwashing should also occur before/after eating, after using the toilet, after sneezing or coughing into their hands, etc. Hand sanitizer is available at several locations in the school. Staff has the same responsibility for handwashing.

ARRIVING AT SCHOOL

The school opens for students at 8:30 am. Please do not arrive prior to 8:30 am. The warning bell rings at 8:45 am and students will come in the main entrance and after washing their hands, proceed to their desk.

LEARNING GROUPS

Reducing the number of in-person, close interactions an individual has in a day with different people helps to prevent the spread of COVID-19. A *Learning Group* or *Cohort* is a group of students and staff who remain together throughout a school term and who primarily interact with each other. The staff and students at Open Doors will be a cohort. Although physical contact is discouraged, a cohort does not need to physical distance by 2 metres with each other.

IF A STUDENT/STAFF SHOW SYMTOMS

School administrators must ensure parents and school staff are aware of their responsibility to assess themselves daily for symptoms of the common cold and the flu prior to entering the school. There is no role for the school to screen students and staff for symptoms of COVID-19, checking temperatures, or testing for COVID-19. Such activities are reserved for health care professionals.

Within normal educational settings, children and staff will often have flu or other respiratory viruses with symptoms similar to COVID-19. For this reason, all children and staff who have symptoms of the common cold or flu need to stay home.

If a student has or develops cold or flu symptoms that are not related to a pre-existing conditions (allergies), the symptomatic student will be separated from other students and supervised in a different setting until a parent or caregiver can pick them up. **It is important to consider your child's emergency contacts when completing the Student Information Verification (green form) to help ensure your family is safe.** If a staff member develops symptoms of illness they will go home as soon as possible.

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Anyone experiencing symptoms of illness should not return to school until they have been assessed by a health care provider to exclude COVID-19 or other infectious diseases **and** their symptoms have resolved.

Schools will not provide notification to staff or students' families if a staff member or student becomes ill at home or at school, including if they display symptoms of COVID-19, unless directed to by public health.

VISITORS TO THE SCHOOL

We must ensure all visitors (parents included) are traceable by public health staff. There are no walk-in appointments. Please call 250-342-3060 or contact staff through email to book an appointment. Priority is given to those visitors who support student learning and well-being. Prior to arrival at the school, visitors must assess their health and not come in if they have symptoms of illness. All visitors will sign in at the office and complete a Daily Health Check. They must use hand sanitizer, wear a mask at all times, and physically distance themselves from others while on the property.

DEPARTING SCHOOL

At the end of the day, all students will wash their hands before leaving the school. All secondary students riding a bus must wear a non-medical face mask while on the bus. No bus passes are permitted. Face masks will be provided to students.

Open Doors buses typically arrive at David Thompson Secondary School for a brief period at the end of the day. Since DTSS students are in a different cohort, Open Doors students must physically distance themselves from other students by 2 metres at all times. Furthermore, they cannot enter DTSS.

TRANSPORTATION

In addition to other scheduled handwashing, students wash their hands prior to leaving home and after arriving home. Grade 8-12 students are required to wear a mask when loading, riding and unloading the bus. A mask is provided to students who need one. No student is required to wear a mask if they do not tolerate it. Assigned seating, with family members together, is the norm. Drivers wear masks when loading and unloading the bus.

Field trips requiring busing or to indoor locations are not permitted, at least until the end of September.

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SCHOOL MAINTENANCE

All maintenance and custodial staff have the same handwashing expectations of students and staff. They will maintain a physical distance of 2 metres between others when possible and wear a mask when they cannot physically distance.

Regular cleaning and disinfection of surfaces are essential to preventing the transmission of COVID-19. The school is cleaned in accordance with the BC Centre for Disease Control's requirements. This includes general cleaning once per day and cleaning of frequently touched surfaces/items twice a day. Staff are responsible for limiting the number of frequently touched items and supporting the disinfection of shared equipment (sports and kitchen equipment, etc.). Students have shared responsibility in helping to ensure a clean environment (coughing into their elbow; avoid touching their nose, eyes and mouth; avoid sharing items; using hand sanitizer; etc.).

There is no evidence that the COVID-19 virus is transmitted via textbooks, paper or other paper-based products. As such, there is no need to limit the distribution or sharing of books or paper-based resources to students.

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