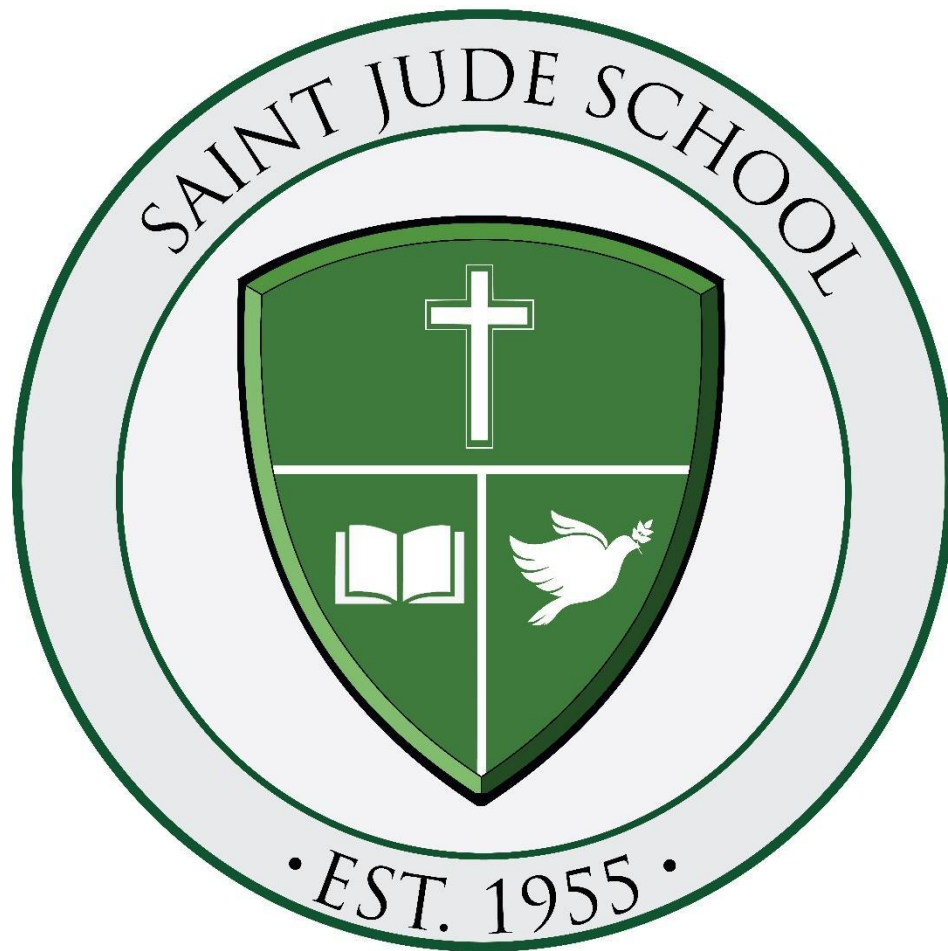


St. Jude School

Communicable Disease Plan



September 7, 2022

Introduction

Further to the Provincial Health Officer statement on June 17, 2021, the Provincial Health Officer stated that:

employers are no longer required to maintain a COVID-19 Safety Plan but must instead transition to communicable disease prevention¹. Communicable disease prevention focuses on reducing the risk of workplace transmission of COVID-19 and other communicable diseases, and includes both ongoing measures (e.g. hand hygiene, cleaning) and additional measures to be implemented as advised by public health.

WorkSafeBC's Communicable disease prevention: A guide for employers outlines a four-step process to reduce the risk of communicable disease transmission in the workplace. Steps include understanding the level of risk, implementing appropriate measures, communicating policies and protocols, and updating measures and safeguards as required.

School and district administrators must regularly review their communicable disease plans, and should do so with their Site Committees and Joint Health and Safety Committees and address areas where there are identified gaps in implementation.

This plan is informed by:

<https://www.worksafebc.com/en/law-policy/occupational-health-safety/searchable-ohs-regulation/ohs-guidelines/guidelines-for-workers-compensation-act#SectionNumber:G-P2-21>

<https://www.worksafebc.com/en/resources/health-safety/books-guides/communicable-disease-prevention-guide-employers?lang=en>

http://www.bccdc.ca/Health-Info-Site/Documents/COVID_public_guidance/Guidance-k-12-schools.pdf

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/education/administration/kindergarten-to-grade-12/safe-caring-orderly/k-12-covid-19-health-safety-guidelines.pdf>

Environmental Measures

Cleaning Regimens

The following recommendations (in black font) have been made by PHO and WorkSafe BC with respect to K to 12 education. St. Jude School has contracted Briarwood Enterprises to clean our school daily.

§ General cleaning and disinfecting of the premises will occur at least once a day.

§ Frequently touched shared surfaces will be cleaned and disinfected at least once a day. (e.g. door knobs, light switches, toilet handles, tables, desks, chairs, electronic devices, keyboards and toys).

- St. Jude School will provide each classroom with a disinfectant kit so that teachers can frequently clean the high touch areas. **Oxy Q Virus Disinfectant Spray Bottles** are in each classroom.
- We will be reducing the number of shared items in the school. If an item such as an iPad is to be shared, it will be disinfected before and after use.

§ Clean and disinfect any surface that is visibly dirty.

§ Briarwood Enterprises is our contracted cleaner and they will ensure that proper cleaning precautions are in effect. Oxy-Q Virus Disinfectant is used on surfaces and floors throughout the school.

§ Empty garbage containers daily.

§ Washrooms will be cleaned daily keeping in line with the high touch surface area protocols.

§ Water fountains. Our upstairs water fountain is touchless for water bottle refills and is operational. The mouthpiece water fountain has been disabled.

Ventilation and Air Exchange

- Each classroom has an air conditioning unit that pumps fresh air in and an air exhaust fan that draw air out
- The air exchange is designed so that air flows in one direction and fresh air circulates through the classroom
- Each classroom is also outfitted with a HEPA Filter unit for clean air exchanges

Administrative Measures

§ Communication with the school community is ongoing. Such messaging includes:

- Parents are encouraged to advise the school if their child has tested positive for Covid19
- Parents and students are encouraged to get vaccinated and to get their booster shots
- Parents and students are reminded to do a daily health check and stay home when they are sick
- Parents and students are reminded to stay home for 5 days if they test positive for Covid 19
- Staff are instructed to stay home when sick and to stay home for 5 days if they are covid positive

§ Parents and caregivers are to assess their child daily for symptoms of common cold, influenza, COVID-19, or other infectious respiratory disease before sending them to school.

- Prior to the drop off of students parents should perform a daily symptom check of their child
- Staff will also be instructed to perform a daily symptom check of themselves
- No student or staff member is to attend school if they have symptoms

§ Establish procedures for students and staff who become sick while at school to be sent home.
If a student develops symptoms while at school:

- The BCCDC states: **Schools should 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.**
- Immediately separate the symptomatic student from others in a supervised area.
 - Our sick room will be used to care for a child that says they feel ill.
 - If more than one child feels ill, we will use the gym stage as our back up.
 - If a child becomes sick (vomits) in the classroom, all students will leave the room via the emergency exit with their belongings. They will be able to resume learning on one side of the gym or in the library once they have thoroughly cleaned their hands. WorkSafeBC procedures for cleaning up will be followed
- Contact the student's parent or caregiver to pick them up as soon as possible.

- The school will track illnesses and will contact VCH in the event that our illness numbers are tracking above average

§ 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 easily, from objects, surfaces, food and people. Everyone should practice diligent hand hygiene. Parents, caregivers and staff can teach and reinforce these practices amongst students.

§ Cough and sneeze into their elbow, sleeve, or a tissue. Throw away used tissues and immediately perform hand hygiene. Students will need to have their own personal supply of tissues with them – we will not supply tissues to students as we want to avoid communal sharing of tissues.

§ Wearing a mask is a personal choice unless stated otherwise by either a Provincial or Federal Authority and that choice is to be respected by all

§ Outdoor Education will follow the guidelines established by BCCDC for camps and will work with Camp Elphinstone, the bus company, and BC Ferries, to ensure a safe trip is had

§ Administration will consult WorkSafe BC and Provincial Health Officer Orders if further restrictions are needed