



Health and Safety Plan

KCS implements health protocols required by the Provincial Health Officer, Interior Health, the Ministry of Education, and Worksafe BC to ensure that students and staff remain healthy while at school. Our key goal is to ***provide a safe environment for our school community that is based on respect and care for each other.*** KCS recognizes that our community's health and safety includes emotional and social components that deeply impact our students, staff, and families. We commit to respect and care for all families and students with sensitivity, compassion, and love.

Regional or Local Health Protocols

The KCS Health and Safety Plan includes protocols currently recommended or mandated by health authorities. Regional or local health authorities may require additional protocols (such as limiting visitors, size of gatherings, and use of masks) at times throughout the year in response to an increase in transmission of communicable diseases such as Covid-19. Any immediate changes will be communicated via the KCS app and this document will be updated as soon as possible. Please refer to the revision date at the bottom of the page.

Wellness Protocols

- A. Parents and caregivers should assess their children daily for illness before sending them to school. Parents/caregivers and students can utilize the provincial [K-12 Health Check app](#) for daily assessment of symptoms.
- B. Staff and other adults are recommended to complete a daily health check prior to entering the school.
- C. If a student, staff or other adult is sick, they must not enter the school.
- D. If your child becomes sick while at school, you will be notified by KCS staff to pick up your child. Your child can return to school as soon as their symptoms have resolved unless a medical professional has recommended that your child is tested.
 - a. If your child has been tested, your child may not return to school until you have the results of the test.
 - b. If the test is negative, your child may return to school as soon as their symptoms have resolved.

- c. If the test is positive, a health authority will provide information on how long your child needs to stay at home. KCS will provide assignments for your child to complete at home.
- E. 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.
- F. Students or staff may still attend school if a member of their household develops new symptoms of illness, provided the student/staff has no symptoms themselves. If the household member tests positive for a communicable disease (including but not limited to COVID-19), public health will advise the asymptomatic student/staff on next steps.

Strategies to reduce the risk of transmission of communicable diseases:

- A. Physical distancing
 - a. Students and staff are encouraged to respect each other's personal space. Physical distancing of 2 metres is no longer recommended within school settings.
 - b. KCS will return to classroom and learning environment configurations and activities that best meet learner needs and preferred educational approaches. All available space will be used to ensure students are not crowded.
 - c. Large spaces (Flex room, main gym, primary gym, theatre) will be used when more than one class is gathering together for a school-related activity or event.
 - d. Entrances/exits will be designated for specific grade levels or divisions in order to reduce crowding.
 - e. Outdoor learning will be prioritized and encouraged.
 - f. Students will be reminded to give each other space in common areas such as lockers, washroom facilities, changerooms, and at water fountains.
- B. Hand Hygiene
 - a. Students will wash their hands with soap/water or sanitizer for 20 seconds throughout the day:
 - i. When they arrive at school and before they go home
 - ii. Before and after recess breaks
 - iii. Before and after eating or drinking
 - iv. After sneezing or coughing into hands
 - v. Before and after washroom breaks
 - b. Students will be reminded how to wash their hands properly.
 - c. Students may bring their own sanitizer or plain soap if they are on the list authorized by Health Canada or have a medical condition that requires specialized soaps. (See the [List of Hand Sanitizers Authorized by Health Canada](#) in Canada.)
 - d. Students will be reminded to cough or sneeze into their elbow, sleeve, or tissue and to wash their hands immediately after.
- C. Masks
 - a. All KCS staff are required to wear a mask indoors until the current Public Health Order is lifted.

- b. All students in Grades 4 to 12 are required to wear a mask indoors until the current Public Health Order is lifted.
 - i. Families may request that their child be exempt from wearing a mask at times during the day (i.e. when sitting at a desk) by emailing an administrator.
 - ii. A medical note is not required to request exemption from wearing a mask.
 - iii. Choices to request exemption from mask wearing will be respected; students who are not wearing a mask will be fully included in all school activities and events.
 - iv. Students are not required to wear masks during high-intensity physical exercise (i.e. during parts of PE class).
- c. Students in Grades K to 3 are encouraged to wear a mask indoors but are not required to do so. Mask wearing remains a personal or family/caregiver choice for these students, and their choices will be respected.
- d. Students and staff may choose to wear masks, face shields or other personal protective equipment in schools beyond what is required. Those choices will be respected.

D. School Gatherings and Events

- a. School events can occur in alignment with the current regional health orders regarding the number of people permitted at an event.
- b. When permitted, according to health orders, KCS will gradually increase the size of school gatherings such as chapels and assemblies. Gatherings will be held outside or in a large area when possible to reduce crowding.
- c. Gatherings for extracurricular activities such as sports will align with the maximum number of people (including spectators, athletes, coaches) that are permitted to gather indoors or outdoors.

E. Shared items

- a. Students will be reminded not to share personal items (water bottles, utensils, food, clothing items) with each other.
- b. Frequently touched surfaces will be cleaned regularly.
- c. Students will be reminded to wash their hands (or use hand sanitizer) before and after using shared items such as playground equipment, pencil crayons/markers, toys, computers, etc.

Transportation

- A. Students, staff, and the bus driver will be reminded to use hand sanitizer before and after trips on the KCS school bus and van.
- B. Students in Grades 4-12, staff members, and volunteers will be required to wear masks on the bus. Bus drivers are not required to wear a mask while driving. Windows will be opened, weather permitting.
- C. Car-pooling for school events is allowed. Masks must be worn by all occupants except for the driver, all occupants will be reminded to use hand sanitizer, and volunteer drivers will be requested to clean frequently touched surfaces.

Visitors

- A. KCS families are requested to make appointments to visit their child's classroom or to meet with their child's teacher. All visitors must sign in at the front office and must wear a mask while they are in the building.
- B. KCS families are requested to drop-off/pick-up students outside of the school or to wait in the foyer until KCS staff bring their child to them.
- C. KCS families and visitors are requested to respect each other's personal space while in the building and while outside in the parking lots or in the playground/field.