



Eagle View Elementary School

Start-up and Communicable Disease Prevention Plan – Sept. 2022

Welcome Back!

We are so excited to see you all back soon. If you are new to us this year, thank you for choosing Eagle View Elementary. We are glad to have you join our learning community where we are focused on well-being, literacy, numeracy, social and emotional development.

Monday, September 5	Tuesday, September 6	Wednesday, September 7	Thursday, September 8	Friday, September 9
Labour Day- No School	Staff Only In-service	Student orientation day Grades 1-7 8:59-11:00 Kindergarten gradual entry	Regular school day for grades 1-7 8:59-3:05 Kindergarten gradual entry	Regular school day for grades 1-7 8:59-3:05 Kindergarten gradual entry

The **safety** of Eagle View Elementary students, staff, families and community is of **utmost importance**. We will be following the updated (as of Aug. 24, 2022) guidelines from Ministry of Education, the Provincial and Local Health Offices, and the BC Center for Disease Control (BCCDC). These guidelines have been made in collaboration with Indigenous rights-holders, school leaders, teachers, support staff and parents. All schools are to follow a **Communicable Disease Prevention Plan with the focus on reducing the risk of transmission of communicable diseases (including COVID-19)**. We have included the plan below. For schools, a health authority may implement specific additional health and safety measures during times of elevated risk. To date with public health guidance, schools are low risk. Ongoing measures are in place to reduce the risk. It is important to recognize students, staff and families have been impacted in many different ways and work is already underway across the province with schools and community partners to take action to identify these impacts and utilize a trauma-informed approach and put necessary supports in place.

Guiding Principles:

The following principles will continue to guide the K-12 sector throughout the 2022-23 school year:

- Communicable disease prevention measures will continue to be aligned with public health guidance to support student and staff wellness.

- Using an inclusive and trauma-informed lens, with a focus on mental health and wellness.
- Focusing supports to address unique student and staff needs, recognizing the pandemic has impacted individuals and communities differently.
- Consulting and working with First Nations, Métis, and Inuit peoples to address the unique educational and learning needs of their communities.
- Engaging and collaborating with parents/caregivers, staff, unions and community partners to develop local solutions when needed.
- As required by WorkSafeBC, all boards of education, independent school authorities & schools must ensure the health of their workers by ensuring that steps are taken to reduce the risk to workers from communicable diseases.
- The Provincial Health Officer or local Medical Health Officers may issue temporary provincial, regional or local recommendations or orders of additional prevention measures during times of increased communicable disease risk.

Ongoing measures will be implemented as advised by public health. The current measures that focus on reducing the risk of workplace transmission of COVID-19 include:

- Practicing health awareness by staying home if sick and unable to participate fully in routine activities
- Doing a **daily health check** prior to coming to school (Parents and caregivers must assess their child daily for symptoms of the common cold, influenza, COVID-19 or other infectious disease. If a child is sick they must not take the bus or go to school. This can be done through the K-12 app (<https://www.k12dailycheck.gov.bc.ca/healthcheck?execution=e1s1>) or on the following website <https://bc.thrive.health/covid19/en>. For guidance about symptoms one can call 811 or their family physician. If COVID positive, check for next steps at <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/if-you-have-covid-19>
- Practising **good hand hygiene**
- Practising **good respiratory etiquette** (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)
- Wearing masks are a personal choice and are no longer mandated
- **Respecting others personal space** indoors and outdoors

We have established procedures at the school for students or staff who become ill while at school/work to be sent home as soon as possible.

First Nations Students Living on Reserve

First Nations may take increased safety measures during the pandemic recovery phase. This may mean that some First Nations learners will not be able to attend in-person classes. First Nations have the authority to declare states of emergency and have responsibility for the education of their citizens. In the spirit of Reconciliation and consistent with the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act, boards of education and independent schools (excluding First Nations independent schools) are

expected to engage with First Nations communities who have First Nation students living in community (on-reserve) enrolled in the school district/school as soon as possible to discuss school plans for the 2022/23 school year.

Public health strongly encourages all eligible students and staff to be fully vaccinated (i.e., receive 2 doses) against COVID-19 to protect themselves and those around them- including those who are not eligible to be vaccinated. People who are not fully vaccinated are at a higher risk of getting and spreading COVID-19. With the greatest factor of individual risk being serious illness. Most COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations, and deaths are now among unvaccinated adults. More information can be found at:

<https://immunizebc.ca/covid-19>

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/covid-19/vaccine/register>

Student Transportation

Need bussing? Contact Jodie Welch jwelch@sd85.bc.ca 250-949-8155 extension 2525.

Buses used for transporting students will be cleaned and disinfected according to BCCDC guidance. Drivers and students are encouraged to sanitize hands before and after completing trips and practice respiratory etiquette. Masks are optional. Schools can follow normal seating and onloading/offloading practices.

Drop-off and Pick-up

Parents and caregivers are encouraged to drop-off and pick-up students outside of the school. Everyone should respect others' personal space while on school grounds. In addition, for everyone's safety please respect school zone speed, under 30 km/h.

Frequently-touched items like toys or manipulatives that may not be able to be cleaned often (e.g. fabrics) or all (e.g. sand, foam, playdough, etc.) can be used, if hand hygiene is practiced before and after use.

Staying home, self-isolation and symptoms

Students, staff or other adults should stay at home when sick as this is one of the most important ways to reduce the introduction to and the spread of COVID-19 in schools. Stay home when required to self-isolate. For more information, staff, students and parents/caregivers can use the BCCDC online self-assessment tool, call 811, or call their health care provider. <https://bc.thrive.health/covid19/en>

Continuity of learning will take place when students are at home. This may be through packages or Google Classroom. There will be a focus on literacy, numeracy and social and emotional development for those not in attendance. Facebook may be used for dissemination of information. Email/scanning and front-door slot drop-off are used for submission of completed student work.

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. They do not require re-assessment by a health-care provider and should not be required to provide a health-care provider note. If they experience any new or unexplained symptoms, they should seek assessment by a healthcare provider. Students or staff

Students or staff may still attend school if a member of their household develops symptoms of illness, provided the student/staff has nor symptoms themselves. If the household member tests positive for COVID-19, public health will advise the asymptomatic student/staff on self-isolation and when they may return to school.

Parents and caregivers of children who are considered at higher risk of severe illness due to COVID-19 are encouraged to consult with their health care provider to determine their child's level of risk.

Staff and those providing services to students with medical complexity, immune suppression, receiving direct or delegated care, or with disabilities and diverse abilities who are in close proximity to a student should follow routine infection control practices and care plans for the child, if applicable.

Functional Closures

A functional closure of a school is the temporary closure of a school determined by a school district or independent school authority due to a lack of staff to provide the required level of teaching, supervision, support, and/or custodial to ensure the health and safety of students. This would likely be due to a high number of staff or certain employees away who are required for a school to function, and the inability to temporarily replace them. School districts (or independent schools) should notify their Medical Health Officer and the Ministry of Education and Child Care (educ.covid@gov.bc.ca) when they are considering or implementing a functional closure.

Public Health Closure

A public health closure is the temporary closing of a school ordered by a Medical Health Officer when they determine it is necessary to prevent the excessive transmission of a communicable disease.

Personal items

Staff and students can continue to bring personal items to school but they should be encouraged to not share items that come in contact with the mouth.

Emergency and Evacuation Drills

Emergency and evacuation planning, and drills should consider communicable disease prevention plans. In the event of an actual emergency, communicable disease prevention measures can be suspended to ensure for a timely, efficient, and safe response.

Eagle View Elementary Specific Safety Measures

Arriving, Entering and Exiting the School (See map attached): When students arrive at school they go to their designated outside area. Each class division has an assigned entry and exit door. Classroom teachers will meet students and escort them into classrooms for hand washing protocols and sanitizing.

Classes will be escorted outside/inside for recess (by teacher) and lunch hour (by noon hour supervision staff.)

We ask that children do not arrive too early in the morning to avoid mingling amongst large groups of students. Late arrivals enter at our front doors and receive an attendance slip.

Parents & caregivers are permitted in the school by appointment. Contact school administration to arrange and follow entry sign-in and health protocols. Principal: Stacia Johnson sjohnson@sd85.bc.ca or Vice Principal jhuston@sd85.bc.ca

Directional arrows placed on carpets and floors in hallways to direct foot traffic. Physical distancing markers and visuals on floors.

Each class division has a specific area designated outside near an exterior door or their exterior classroom door in order to enter and exit the building.

General cleaning and disinfecting will be done at least once in a 24-hour period as recommended by infection prevention and control experts at the Ministry of health. Garbage will be emptied daily.

The district will ensure ventilation and circulation systems are maintained as per standards and specifications.

Masks will be provided to those who would like one.

Hand sanitizing stations: at all entry/exit doors of our school, in every classroom, offices and common points of intersection in the hallways. Alcohol based sanitizer provided by School District 85.

Trauma-informed practices for students, staff, and families

Increased signage at all sinks in the building detailing COVID hand washing procedures - high visual impact for all.

There are sinks in the majority of our classrooms. Classrooms without sinks have an assigned sink or ready access to hand washing stations. Washrooms have sinks and are single-use locations.



Space arrangement: staff can use classroom and learning environment configurations and activities that best meet learner needs and preferred educational approaches.

Visitors: Schools can follow normal practices for welcoming visitors and the community use of schools. Visitors, including community groups using the school, should follow applicable communicable disease prevention measures outlined in this document.

Recess: We will have staggered recesses in order to provide more spacing. Each group will have a specific area of the school grounds to use during the break; site specific areas to access outdoors will be on a rotational basis for each learning group.

Lunch: We have created a reverse lunch hour with the older groups going outdoors for the first half of lunch and the younger groups eating indoors. The indoor group will have lunch supervision in the gymnasium or between two classrooms.

Personal protective equipment for students and staff

PPE for staff provided by School District 85 as well as masks for students.

Parent/Caregiver options

- Enrol their child in a brick and mortar school
- Enrol their child in an online/distributed learning program offered by a public, independent school or First Nation school.
- Register their child for homeschooling prior to the start of the school year. With homeschooling, parents/caregivers are responsible for designing the educational program for their child and must register their child with either a public or independent school. Parents/caregivers can choose a different option at any time in the school year. Based on program availability and applicable board of education or independent school authority policies and procedures. There is no provincial expectation for boards to offer transition programs for the 2021/22 school year.

Research from the BCCDC during the pandemic reinforced that schools have protective effects on child and youth cognitive, social, emotional, and physical well-being, and are a valuable source of nutrition and social support.

Food Services

Food services (e.g. meal programs, fundraisers, etc.) are following operational and food safety practices.

Positive and Inclusive Approaches

Positive and Inclusive Approaches are used to support students' personal prevention practices.

Trauma-Informed Practice

Trauma-informed practice is a compassionate lens of understanding that is helpful to all children, youth and adults, especially those who have experienced traumatic events including the emotional and traumatic impact of a pandemic. Trauma-informed practice includes:

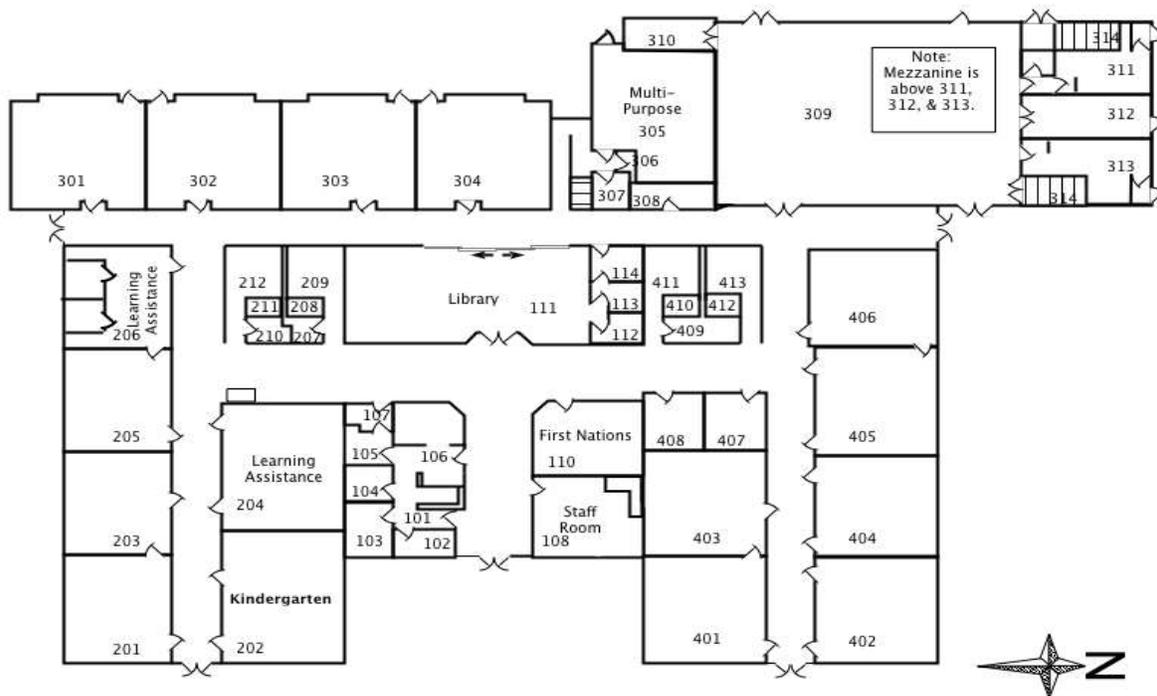
- Providing inclusive and compassionate learning environments
- Understanding coping strategies
- Supporting independence
- Helping to minimize additional stress or trauma by addressing individual needs of students and staff

Questions? Email or call the office 250-949-6418

More detailed information can be found on the Ministry of Education website. Please see the link below.

The prevention plan is a draft and may change based on Ministry of Education, BCCDC, Worksafe BC guidelines and feedback from educational partners. We will email and post weekly updates on Facebook on Fridays if there are any changes. Updates will also be posted on the COVID information wall at the school.

School Map



Resources:

Erase: mental health and well-being resources for students and families

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/erase>

From the Ministry of Education and Child Care (Aug. 25, 2023)

“The COVID-19 pandemic impacted, and continues to impact students, staff and families in many ways, with some longer-term impacts of the pandemic yet to be realized. As we enter the 2022-23 school year, school boards, independent school authorities and schools will continue to build on their experiences and the advice of public health experts to determine communicable disease prevention plans. Our shared experience highlights the need to continue to be flexible and responsive to changes in transmission trends, as well as provides the opportunity to incorporate our learnings into approaches for sustainable communicable disease prevention moving forward.

COVID-19 will continue to circulate in our population, and as long as cases occur within our communities, K-12 students and staff members will continue to be affected. However, BCCDC notes that transmission within K-12 school settings accounts for a minority of COVID-19 cases, even amongst students and staff. Moreover, with high immunization rates in BC and treatment options for people at higher risk of serious disease, public health advises that COVID-19 can be managed as are other serious respiratory infections in the community. As such, the guidance in this document supports reducing the risk of transmission of communicable diseases, including COVID-19 and will be modified as needed. BCCDC is the primary source of information about COVID-19 in BC.”