

2021-22 school year

# PUBLIC HEALTH MEASURES

Unless otherwise stated, measures apply to all grades:

<b>Elevated Risk Enhanced Public Health Measures</b>	
<b>Vaccination</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• When vaccine is approved for 5-12-year-olds everyone who is able will be encouraged to get fully vaccinated.</li><li>• Education authorities will work with the Chief Public Health Office and Health PEI to support immunization for students and staff as necessary within the school community.</li></ul>
<b>Screening and Managing Symptoms of COVID-19</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Daily home or self-screening for symptoms of COVID-19 using the <a href="#">COVID-19 symptom screening</a> tool is recommended for staff, students, and visitors.</li><li>• If experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, get tested; testing guidance may evolve over time, refer to the most up to date information on the testing webpage.</li><li>• Schools should follow procedures for students, staff and visitors who become sick during the school day.</li></ul>
<b>Hand Hygiene</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Frequent hand washing or using hand sanitizer is encouraged throughout the day and proper respiratory etiquette, using age-appropriate interventions.</li><li>• Handwashing supplies and alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol should be made available throughout the school.</li><li>• Signage on personal hygiene etiquette such as handwashing, and sneezing and coughing etiquette, should be clearly posted throughout the school.</li></ul>
<b>Cleaning and Disinfection</b>	Increased frequency of cleaning and disinfection for frequently touched surfaces, particularly between cohorts or where no cohorting is possible.

<b>Ventilation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Improvements to ventilation systems are recommended in schools where they do not meet standards.</li><li>• It is recommended that ventilation systems be maintained to appropriate standards.</li><li>• It is recommended to open windows when possible, and when weather permits</li></ul>
<b>Masking</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Masks are required for staff, students, and visitors in all grades when transitioning through school buildings.</li><li>• Masks are required for staff who work with students who are at higher risk of severe illness and outcomes from COVID-19 whenever physical distancing is not possible, regardless of vaccination status.</li><li>• Masks are required for staff in classrooms in Grades K to 6 when physical distancing is not possible.</li><li>• Masks are required for staff, students, and visitors at all times in Grades 7 to 12 when physical distancing is not possible.</li><li>• Masks are required for students in all grades on school buses.</li></ul>
<b>Cohorting</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cohorting may be required in Grades K to 6, for both staff and students during classroom learning, recess, and breaks.</li><li>• Cohorting not required in Grades 7 to 12 unless the school population is small enough that it can be effectively implemented.</li><li>• Students should sit with consistent groups on the bus.</li><li>• Visitors should be limited to essential activities for supporting learning.</li></ul>
<b>Physical Distancing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Physical distancing may be recommended in Grades 7-12, including, but not limited to, classroom desk configuration, locker/cubby access, cafeterias, and flow control in hallways and stairwells.</li><li>• Physical distancing may be recommended for staff areas.</li><li>• Physical distancing may be encouraged with people from outside of their close social groups and/or cohorts (if cohorts are in place).</li></ul>

<b>Gatherings and Events</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consideration should be given to hosting virtual in-school gatherings, assemblies, and extracurricular activities in Grades K to 6 and in schools with larger populations.</li> <li>• Gatherings and school sport activities must follow current community public health measures (e.g. gathering limits of 200 outdoors, 100 if the activity includes close contact, and 100 indoors).</li> </ul>
<b>Vulnerable Students and Staff</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vulnerable students and staff can attend school; they may want to consult with their health care provider.</li> <li>• Alternative education plans (e.g., online learning) for those individuals who are at higher risk of COVID-19 and are not attending in person.</li> </ul>
<b>Community Use of School Facilities</b>	Community use of school facilities and access to buildings should follow current community public health measures.
<b>Operational Plans</b>	School applies operational plan for elevated risk scenario.
<b>Bussing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alternative means of transportation other than bussing are encouraged, where reasonable, including walking, bicycle riding, and parent/guardian drop-off and pick-up.</li> <li>• Masks are recommended for students in all grades on school buses.</li> </ul>
<b>Cases, Contact Tracing, and Outbreak Management</b>	Public health will continue to manage cases of COVID-19 through isolation, testing, and contact tracing in the event there is a positive case associated with a school. Schools should continue to maintain accurate attendance records and class and bus lists to assist with contact tracing, if required.

**Cases, Contact Tracing and Outbreak Management**

**Managing cases of COVID-19**

If there is a confirmed case of COVID-19 connected with a school, public health will lead the response and provide guidance and support. Contact tracing will be done to identify the close contacts of a positive case and inform those who may have been exposed.

### **Measures for managing cases of COVID-19 in schools:**

- The Chief Public Health Office will work with school authorities in order to:
  - Identify cases,
  - Identify close contacts,
  - Initiate testing and isolation measures when needed, and
  - Provide follow-up recommendations to prevent further spread of COVID in the school community.

### **Outbreak Management**

An outbreak in a school is defined as two or more lab-confirmed COVID-19 cases in students and/or staff (or other visitors) in a school with an epidemiological link, within a 14-day period, where at least one person could have reasonably acquired their infection in the school (including transportation and before/after school care). Two or more unrelated cases associated with a school would be considered a COVID-19 cluster.

### **Examples of reasonably having acquired infection in school include:**

- Known exposure in the school setting; or
- No obvious source of infection outside of the school setting.

### **Outbreak management measures in schools:**

- The Chief Public Health Office will support school officials regarding decision-making for enhanced measures in schools in outbreak situations, including the potential of moving to online learning.
- Communication to parents, guardians and staff regarding case(s) of COVID-19 in a school will be the responsibility of the school administration, with support from the Chief Public Health Office.