



## 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 this document.

### 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. If students are sick or feel unwell, they must stay home and away from others (as much as possible) until they feel well enough to return to school and no longer have a fever.
- C. Parents and caregivers should call 811 or talk with their health care provider to determine if their child should be tested for Covid-19 based on their symptoms.
- D. Students who test positive for Covid-19 must self-isolate for 5 days and must have improved symptoms (including no fever) before returning to school. Your child may return to school after self-isolating even if he/she continues to have some symptoms such as a persistent cough.
- E. Staff and other adults are required to complete a daily health check prior to entering the school. If staff or any other adult is sick, they must not enter the school. Anyone over 18 years old who has Covid-19 must self-isolate for 5 days if fully vaccinated and for 10 days if not vaccinated.

- F. If your child becomes sick while at school, you will be notified by KCS staff to pick up your child. Please pick up your child as quickly as possible from the main office foyer.
- G. Students and staff who experience symptoms consistent with a previously diagnosed health condition (e.g. seasonal allergies) can continue to attend school as usual while they are experiencing these symptoms.
- H. Students or staff may still attend school if a family member has COVID-19, provided that the student/staff has no symptoms themselves.

### **Reporting Illness**

- A. Families must inform the school if a child's absence is due to illness. Families do not need to inform the school if their child has tested positive or negative for COVID-19.
- B. Provincial Health Authorities are no longer contact-tracing. Instead, anyone who has symptoms or knows that they have COVID-19 must inform their own close contacts to either self-monitor or self-isolate.
- C. KCS will not have information about COVID-19 cases within the school and will not report to the school community about COVID-19 cases.
- D. KCS is required to track student absenteeism and will inform Interior Health if 75% of a grade is absent or if there is 10% higher absenteeism than usual for the entire student population. Interior Health will decide if a school closure is required and KCS will inform the school community.

### **Strategies to reduce the risk of transmission of communicable diseases:**

- A. 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
    - vi. After using shared equipment in PE class, during recess breaks, or in the classroom.
  - 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.
- B. Masks
  - a. All KCS staff are required to wear a mask indoors until the current Public Health Order is lifted unless they are medically exempt.

- b. All students in Kindergarten-Grade 12 are required to wear a mask indoors until the current Public Health Order is lifted. Students are expected to wear masks whenever possible for as much of the day as possible, especially when in proximity to others. KCS strongly recommends that families make use of this additional layer of protection for their own children and other children.
- c. Mask exemption rules, as laid out by the Provincial Health Order dated December 3, 2021 are: Students may be exempt from wearing a mask
  - i. If the student is unable to wear a face covering because of
    - 1. a psychological, behavioural or health condition, or
    - 2. a physical, cognitive or mental impairment;
    - 3. if the student is unable to put on or remove a face covering without the assistance of another person;
    - 4. if the face covering is removed temporarily for the purposes of identifying the student;
    - 5. while the student is consuming food or drink;
    - 6. while participating in high intensity fitness activity at school or organized by the school or at a fitness facility or sport facility operated by the school;
    - 7. while communicating with a person with a disability or diverse ability for whom visual cues, facial expressions, lip-reading or lip movements are essential;
    - 8. if the face covering is removed temporarily to engage in an educational activity that cannot be performed while wearing a face covering, for example while actively playing a wind instrument;
    - 9. if the student is behind a barrier separating the student from other persons, for example a divider or cubicle;
    - 10. if the student is in a school space and no other students, school staff, visitors or other persons are present.
  - ii. Families should check that masks fit well, without gaps around the nose or cheeks.
  - iii. A medical note is not required to request exemption from wearing a mask. KCS strongly recommends that families encourage their children to wear a mask during the day as much as possible.
  - iv. Students who are not wearing a mask will still be fully included in all school activities and events.
  - v. Masks are available at the front office.
- d. K-8 students do not need to wear masks outside during recess breaks but need to put on their mask when entering the school building. K-5 teachers will hand out students' masks to them after breaks while still outside; Middle School students need to carry their mask in their coat pocket.

### C. School Gatherings and Events

- a. School gatherings with students and staff (i.e. chapels or assemblies) may be held without any capacity restrictions.
- b. Community events (including parents or other community members) may be held at 50% capacity of the space.
- c. Educational or extra-curricular events hosted by the school do not require proof of vaccination.

D. 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.

E. 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. All students, 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.