



NWS COVID-19 Health and Safety Plan

Updated April 2, 2021

*Note that we are currently in a **Stage 2** of the provincial framework, and can be required to shift to another stage at any time.*

The Nelson Waldorf School follows all Public Health directives and is in compliance with the Ministry of Education guidelines. New Health and Safety regulations for schools regarding Covid 19 were issued by the Ministry of Education on March 30, 2021 to all schools in BC and are found here:

- [BCCDC Public Health Guidance for K-12 Schools](#) (addendum from the BCCDC)
- [Provincial COVID-19 Health and Safety Guidelines for K-12 Settings](#) (Ministry of Education)

The purpose of the increased safety measures is to further minimise the potential spread of the covid 19 virus. The school has adopted the new regulations and strengthened existing measures. The measures are designed with the goal of providing the safest and most optimal learning environment possible for the students and staff of the school.

The following measures are in place and are ordered in accordance with level of effectiveness in minimising the occurrence of Covid -19.

Public Health Measures

- The school follows all orders from the Provincial Health Office, the Ministry of Education, the BC Centre for Disease Control, and Worksafe BC.
- **The school expects NWS staff and families to follow the Provincial Health guidelines.**
- Contact tracing protocols for the school are in place.

Environmental Measures

- Programs are outdoors as much as possible on our expansive outdoor grounds.
- External doorways are used consistently.
- Ventilation improvements have been made and continue to be made.
- A physical barrier is used in the front office area.
- Staff work stations are separated and cleaned as required.

- Visual cues are in place for traffic flow, door entries are identified, adult common areas and maximums are posted and signage for hygiene practices posted.
- Cleaning and disinfecting occurs twice daily - high touch surfaces are prioritised. Products used are approved by the CCDC and chosen with ingredients researched.
- A designated First Aid room is used.

Administrative Measures

- To reduce staff on site, scheduling for certain admin staff includes the option to work from home.
- Wellness practices are prescribed by protocols and posted on the website. Updates are communicated to families through email announcements and bulletins.
 - Health and safety guidelines for students. ***
 - Health and safety guidelines for parents/caregivers. ***
 - Health and safety guidelines for staff. ***
 - The [Daily Health Check](#) protocol is in place.
- Learning groups are assigned to staff and students: ECE, K, Gr 1-3; 4-5; 6-7-8.
- Scheduling of recesses and indoor learning spaces are staggered.
- Morning drop off and afternoon pickup reflect learning groups and distancing where possible.
- Adult presence at the school is minimised. Essential business only. Visitor tracking is in place.
- Protocols are posted.
- New employees and Teachers on Call receive training and support to follow protocols.
- The Health and Safety Committee meets regularly to review and update measures.

Personal Measures

- Wellness
 - [Daily Health Check](#) is required by staff.
 - [Daily Health Check](#) is required for students.
 - Leaving when Sick protocol is in place for staff and students.
- Hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette is practiced by staff and students.
- Physical distancing is practiced between staff members and between learning groups, and wherever possible.
- Minimising physical contact is brought in age appropriate ways.
- Teachers teach and discuss hygiene protocols with students in developmentally appropriate ways.

Personal Protective Equipment ([updates highlighted in yellow](#)-see page 28, 29)

- [K-12 Students:](#)

All students in Grades 4 to 12 are required to wear a mask or a face shield (in which case a non-medical mask should be worn in addition to the face shield) indoors in schools and on school buses - both within and outside of their learning group.

Students in Grades K to 3 are encouraged to wear a mask indoors in schools and on school buses, but are not required to do so - mask wearing remains a personal or family/caregiver choice for these students, and their choices must be respected.

Teachers have positive, inclusive and developmentally appropriate discussions with their students regarding mask wearing and create supportive learning environments.

The school has non-medical masks available for staff and students, including for anyone who becomes sick while at school.

- Teachers/staff are required to wear masks indoors.
- Visitors, teachers on call and itinerant teachers are required to wear masks indoors.

- Student Transportation on Buses

- Students in Grades 4 to 12 are required to wear non-medical masks or face coverings when they are on the bus.
- Students in Grades K to 3 are encouraged to wear a non-medical mask or face covering on 19 school buses but are not required to do so - mask wearing remains a personal or family/caregiver choice for these students, and their choices must be respected. Exceptions apply as below.
- [SD 8 bus](#) regulations pertain.

- Exceptions for Staff, Students and Visitors:

The guidance outlined above regarding mask requirements does not apply to staff, students and visitors in the following circumstances:

- to a person who cannot tolerate wearing a mask for health or behavioural reasons;
- to a person who is unable to put on or remove a mask without the assistance of another person;
- if the mask is removed temporarily for the purposes of identifying the person wearing it;

- if the mask is removed temporarily to engage in an educational activity that cannot be performed while wearing a mask (e.g. playing a wind instrument, engaging in high-intensity physical activity, etc.);
 - if a person is eating or drinking;
 - if a person is behind a barrier; or
 - while providing a service to a person with a disability or diverse ability (including but not limited to a hearing impairment) where visual cues, facial expressions and/or lip reading/movements is important.
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- Schools must not require a health-care provider note (i.e. a doctor's note) to confirm if staff, students or visitors cannot wear a mask.
 - No student should be prevented from attending or fully participating at school if they do not wear a mask.
 - See the Supportive School Environments section in the Guidelines for more information.

Communication

Information is updated and communicated to parents and community members through school bulletins and posting on the school website. Parents and community members are welcome to contact the principal through the school office for specific discussion.