



Nelson Waldorf School Communicable Disease Prevention Plan

Updated October 1, 2021

The Nelson Waldorf School is committed to following the updated Communicable Disease Prevention guidelines, released by The Province of BC and the BCCDC, and supported by FISA BC. These documents provide comprehensive recommendations for a safe return to learning on September 7, 2021. **We strongly encourage all parents and guardians to review the following documents.**

[Provincial Covid-19 Communicable Disease Guidelines for K-12 Settings](#) (Province)

[BCCDC Public Health Communicable Disease Guidance for K-12 Schools](#) (BCCDC)

[Provincial and Regional Restrictions](#) (Interior Health Authority)

[WorkSafe BC Safety Plan](#) (WorkSafe BC)

[K-12 Education Recovery Plan](#) (Ministry of Education)

PUBLIC HEALTH MEASURES

Attendance and Record Keeping

- The Nelson Waldorf School (NWS) will maintain regular attendance in line with the Ministry of Education requirements.
- Accurate records will be maintained through the MyEducationBC student information system.
- All staff and visitors are required to sign in and out (including parents, TOCs, delivery/service suppliers, volunteers, etc) These records will be kept for at least 45 days.
- At this time, NWS is researching viable options for families who are unable to attend classes in person, in order to provide a safe learning environment for all students.

ENVIRONMENTAL MEASURES

Ventilation and Air Exchange

- All HVAC systems are operated and maintained on a regular maintenance schedule, and MERV 13 or higher filters are used.
- Windows and doors of each classroom and office space will be opened for 20 minutes every hour to increase ventilation and fresh air flow.
- Portable air conditioners and fans are only used in ventilated spaces and with air moved from high to low.
- Programs will continue to be delivered outside as much as possible, utilizing the acreage on campus and the outdoor classrooms

Cleaning and Disinfecting

- Cleaning and disinfecting occurs twice daily, with products approved by the BCCDC.
 - Frequently touched areas are prioritized.
 - All areas are cleaned and disinfected when they are dirty.
 - Janitorial staff are on site at all times and will be dispatched to clean and disinfect any surface a person's body fluids have contacted after they have displayed symptoms of illness. Staff are provided with all necessary PPE as per WorksafeBC.
- All staff, students, and visitors are expected to wash or sanitize their hands upon entering the School. Sanitizer is available at all entrances and exits, in common areas, and in each classroom.

ADMINISTRATIVE MEASURES

Gatherings and Events

- Parents and visitors are not permitted at NWS indoor events at this time due to the resurgence of local case reports and the increase in Delta variant cases. This will be reassessed at the end of October, when health guidelines are amended by Provincial authorities..
- Outdoor events will be considered on a case-by-case basis, and will require all attendees to follow Public Health Orders (mask, Daily Health Check, sign-in/out). Attendees will be kept at a minimum (ex. One parent per child) and must pre-register with the Front Office.
- Whenever possible, events will be filmed and shared with the families of the students involved in the events with written permission from each family, on a case-by-case basis.

Space Arrangement

- All available space is used indoors, people are spread out within the space and room capacities for common areas are not exceeded
- Indoors and outdoors, people will have enough space to carry out activities without involuntary physical contact and infringements on personal space
- Age-appropriate information will be given to all classes about understanding personal space, hand-washing best practices, etc. The delivery will vary based on the age of students and appropriate methods of communication, and will be developed in partnership with the class teacher and the Pedagogical Committee.
- Each common room will have the maximum occupancy posted on all entrances
- Indoors only: NWS will continue to follow the cohort system as it was set up in June 2020

Staff Specific Considerations

- WorkSafe BC guidelines are followed for all staff-only spaces within the school
- All staff and faculty are required to wear a non-medical mask when indoors. In instances where learning is impaired by covering the mouth, masks with a transparent window will be provided to faculty.
- Staff events (meetings, Pro-D days, etc) will comply with Provincial and BCCDC guidelines, and in cases where Regional Health Orders are issued (in our case, the Interior Health Authority) those orders will be followed.

Visitors

- All visitors - including TOCs, parents, volunteers, etc. - will be expected to read and follow this Communicable Disease Prevention Plan. The Plan will be sent to parents via email, linked in the monthly newsletter, and posted on the Nelson Waldorf School website (nelsonwaldorf.org).
- As mentioned above, all staff and visitors are required to sign in and out (including parents, TOCs, parents, volunteers, etc). These records will be kept for at least 45 days.

Curriculum, Programs and Activities

- Musical instruments, water bottles, safety glasses, and other special subject materials that come into contact with a student's face will not be shared, or will be disinfected between each use.
- Field trips will occur in line with the current Regional Health Orders that are in place, and will respect the health and safety guidelines instituted by the organization being visited.

- High-intensity activities (such as basketball) are not permitted indoors at this time, as per the Interior Health Orders. Low-intensity activity is permitted to a maximum of 10 people per class.

Bus Transportation

NWS contracts bus service through SD8. All parents and guardians are expected to read and understand the SD8 guidelines for bus passengers.

Community Use of Schools

At this time, all facilities on the NWS campus are not available for rental, or use for non-school events.

PERSONAL MEASURES

General Directives

- Daily Health Checks are required for all staff, students, and volunteers before coming to the School. Paper copies of the Daily Health Check are available at the Front Office for those who are unable to access the website or app.
- Students and staff are regularly reminded to stay home when sick. Using the BC Self-Assessment Tool or contacting 811 will help determine next steps for those feeling unwell.
- If experiencing Covid symptoms, please get tested for Covid (as per IHA guidelines) and only return to school when authorized by IHA or if the Covid test result is negative.
- If symptoms develop at school, the student will be isolated with a staff member (wearing appropriate PPE) until the student can be picked up by a parent or guardian.
- If a staff member develops symptoms, they will be sent home to complete the Self-Assessment Tool and will be expected to follow recommendations from health service providers.
- A doctor's note is not required to confirm the health status of any individual, beyond those required to support medical accommodation as per usual practice.
- NWS supports all eligible members of our community to get vaccinated against Covid-19, seasonal influenza, and other communicable diseases where vaccines are available.
- Faculty and staff are not obligated to share medical information with administration, parents, or guardians. Faculty and staff are welcome to share medical information with their classroom communities should they so choose.

Masks

- All staff and visitors are required to wear a non-medical mask when indoors.
- Students in grades K-12 are required to wear a mask or 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.
- When mouth movement is a critical part of teaching (ie: French) a mask with a transparent window will be provided to instructors.
- Masks are available for those who do not have one of their own and are available at the Front Office.

SUPPORTIVE SCHOOL ENVIRONMENTS

Personal Prevention Practices

- Age-appropriate information will be given to all classes about understanding personal space, hand-washing best practices, etc. The delivery will vary based on the age of students and appropriate methods of communication, and will be developed in partnership with the class teacher and the Pedagogical Committee.
- Additional signage will be posted in common areas (including washrooms, hallways, etc) to encourage proper handwashing and respiratory etiquette, and maintenance of personal space.

Positive and Inclusive Approaches

- All faculty and staff will be debriefed on Health and Safety information as it becomes available, and will have opportunity during designated time at faculty meetings to ask questions and receive clarification in order to fully understand the requirements for staff, students, and parents while on campus.
- Students and staff may choose to wear masks, face shields or other personal protective equipment in schools beyond the required circumstances, and those choices must be respected.
- NWS will implement psychological safety measures as outlined in the K-12 Education Recovery Plan in addition to physical health and safety measures.

COMMUNICATION

- Updates to the NWS communicable Disease Prevention Plan will be shared:
 - With parents via the monthly newsletter and all-school bulletins;
 - With faculty at weekly faculty meetings;
 - With the community via the Health and Safety page on the NWS website.
- In the event of a confirmed case of Covid-19 at NWS, Interior Health protocols will be followed.

Communicable Disease Prevention Plan Implemented August 31, 2021

Updated October 1, 2021