

# Communicable Disease Prevention Plan For Cornerstone Christian Academy (Revised September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023)

## Purpose:

The operating plan is aligned with these guiding principles:

1. Maintain a healthy and safe environment for all students, families and staff
2. Support vulnerable students who may need special assistance
3. Provide continuity of educational opportunities for all students

The plan will:

- Provide a familiar, stable and safe environment to meet staff and students' social, emotional, and classroom learning/teaching needs, taking into account all disabilities/diverse abilities in the school community
- Provide clear expectations and guidelines for teachers, students and parents about communicable disease measures and how to support, maintain, and promote a safe school environment
- Teachers, parents and students will be required to review these expectations and practice these guidelines when on school premises
- Incorporate Trauma-Informed (E.g. TBRI Trust-Based Relational Intervention) and compassionate practices when interacting with students, staff, and parents (including needs-based check-ins)

Cornerstone Christian Academy's Guidelines follows:

- BC Ministry of Education's Provincial Communicable Disease Guidelines for K-12 Settings (September, 2023)
- BC Ministry of Health's Public Health Communicable Disease Guidance for K-12 Schools (September 13, 2023)

## Health and Safety Measures, Protocols and Conditions For Being At School:

### In General (at all times) –

- **All staff, other adults entering the school, parents, caregivers, and students should not come to school if they are sick and unable to participate fully in routine activities.**
- **Respect others' personal space at all times while on school premises, including outside**
- **Parents/caregivers are encouraged to assess and monitor your children for key symptoms of illness daily before sending them to school**
- **Staff and students are encouraged to ensure they are up to date on all recommended vaccines for communicable diseases**

### Who must stay home and self-isolate:

- **A person who has tested positive for COVID-19**
- **A person who has been directed to self-isolate by their local health authority**
- **A person who is exhibiting symptoms of Covid-19 or gastrointestinal illness**

**Stay Home When Sick or New Symptoms of Illness Develop**

**Direct health questions to 8-1-1 or your health care provider or use BCCDC's On-line Assessment Tool**

**Get a health assessment and/or COVID-19 test when sick**

- **Key symptoms to watch out for - fever, chills, cough, shortness of breath, loss of sense of smell or taste, nausea, vomiting and diarrhea**

- For mild symptoms without fever, students and staff can monitor at home for 24 hours
- If symptoms include a fever, or if after 24 hours, symptoms remain unchanged/worsen, seek a health assessment (can include calling 8-1-1, a primary care provider (physician/nurse practitioner)
- All staff/student is encouraged to stay home until symptoms have improved and they feel well enough to participate in regular activities

### Managing Illnesses At School:

- Staff/students who become sick while at school should go home as soon as possible
- Have non-medical masks on hand for those who have forgotten theirs but would like to wear one (for both the person who is sick and for those who may be assisting them)
  - Staff/students are encouraged to bring their own supply of masks, so when they need one, it can readily be available
- If the student/staff cannot be picked up immediately, have a space available where s/he can wait comfortably, separated from others. Provide supervision for younger children.
- Students/staff may still attend school if a member of their household develops new symptoms of illness, **provided the student/staff has no symptoms themselves.**
- Students/Staff who experience **seasonal allergies**, which are related to an existing/known condition can continue to attend school, but should wear a non-medical mask. If they experience any change in symptoms, they need to seek assessment by a health-care provider.

### Personal Hygiene(for students and staff) –

- Wash hands frequently with plain soap and water for at least 20 seconds
- Wash hands –
  - After using the toilet
  - After sneezing or coughing into hands
  - When they are visibly dirty
  - After cleaning tasks (handling garbage, cleaning desks, removing gloves, contact with bodily fluids[runny noses, spit, vomit, blood, urine])
  - (or use sanitizer) Before and after -
    - breaks (recess/lunch),
    - eating/drinking (excluding drinks kept at desk)
    - handling shared toys/equipment/shared objects/food/utensils/stationery
    - using frequently touched surfaces(appliance/photocopier/counters/microwave/laptop/ipad)
    - handling/giving medication to a student/self
    - playing in the playground
    - handling items/surfaces that children have placed in their mouths or that have been in contact with bodily fluids
- Avoid touching your face
- Use alcohol-based hand sanitizer (containing at least 60% alcohol), where sinks are not available
- Staff should assist younger students with hand hygiene as needed
- **Non-medical mask wearing –**
  - Mask wearing is a personal choice, but is encouraged if needed for personal health reasons
  - Mask wearing is in accordance to parent/caregiver/personal choice, which should be respected
  - No staff/student/visitor should be required to wear a mask if they do not tolerate it or are unable to wear one due to health/behavioural reasons. Alternatives can be offered in those circumstances.
  - Staff/students are encouraged to bring their own supply of masks, so when they need one, it can readily be available
- Do not share any food, drinks, unwashed utensils, water bottles, or instrument mouth pieces

### **Respiratory Etiquette:**

- ***Cough/sneeze into elbow or a tissue***
- ***Throw away used tissues and immediately wash/perform hand hygiene afterwards***

### **Facilities -**

- Cleaning all areas used by staff and students at the end of each day (at least once every 24 hours);
- Clean and disinfect any surface that is visibly dirty
- Clean and disinfect the surfaces/equipment which person's bodily fluids may have been in contact with while they were ill (E.g. their desk in the classroom, the bathroom stall they used, etc.) prior to the surfaces/equipment being used by others
- Hand sanitizer will be placed inside each building at entry doors
- In addition to the room ventilation system, staff can keep windows open, use a portable air purifier, or move to outdoor teaching space. If the air conditioner is on, then the windows should be closed to ensure that the cool air is kept in the room

### **Safe Social Interactions for Staff and Students: [In-Class, Recess, Lunch Times]:**

During all social times, respect student and staff comfort levels regarding personal space. Use available space in learning environments and for gatherings/events to spread out as much as possible, wherever possible to prevent overcrowding.

Teachers can use classroom and learning environment configurations and activities that best meet learner needs and preferred educational approaches.

### **Snack and Lunch Procedures –**

- Wash hands before and after eating snack or lunch
- Food, beverages, or utensils should not be shared with others at any time [for health/allergy reasons]

### **Special Events (birthday parties/special days/celebrations) –**

- Individual/prepackaged cake slices, cupcakes, or treats are encouraged to minimize handling of food
- Goodie bags with prepackaged items are encouraged
- Food and beverages should not be shared with one another [for health/allergy reasons]

### **Space Usage and Safe Management—**

- Maintain good ventilation/air exchange in the classroom – keep windows open, spread out, whenever possible;
- When using air conditioners and fans in ***ventilated*** spaces, air should be moved from high places to lower places; Avoid horizontal cross breezes (blowing air directly from one person's breathing zones to another)
- ***Communicable disease prevention measures need to be balanced against the risk of excessive heat events in warmer months as well as excessive cold events in winter months.***
- Clean and disinfect the surfaces/equipment which person's bodily fluids may have been in contact with while they were ill (E.g. their desk in the classroom, the bathroom stall they used, etc.) prior to the surfaces/equipment being used by others.

### **Gatherings, Events, Transportation –**

Communicable disease prevention measures outlined in this plan will also apply to students and staff during school gatherings, events, and fieldtrips (including bus transportation).

### **Communication Plan For The Community:**

Teachers, parents and students are expected to review and practice school safety guidelines at all times if/when one comes into effect. Communication of information will be through School Website, Email, Newsletter, Teacher (Through IT communication platforms), Parent Support Group. Information updates will be communicated and shared with board, staff, parents and students as efficiently as possible. Parents are encouraged to check their emails/other communication platforms regularly. Official school-wide information or communication representing the school will be issued by the principal or vice-principal.

### **Administration/Orientation/Training:**

#### **For on-going health and safety orientation/training for staff:**

Upon receiving the latest Provincial guidelines, protocol, practices, or order from the Ministries of Health and/or Education, the principal/administration will forward all updated pertinent information and documentation to staff and parents in a timely manner, as soon as possible. Debriefing, orientation and training will occur for all staff, parents, and students, so that the entire school community can successfully adhere to the latest protocols, practices, and order.