



Updated public health guidance for K-12 schools

As we return to classrooms and adapt to our new normal, the BC Centre for Disease Control has updated its public health guidance for K-12 settings.

These updates reflect lessons learned over the past few months to minimize the transmission of COVID-19 and maintain a safe and healthy school environment for students, families and staff.

Below you will find a summary of the most significant updates. Links to the complete document can be found at bcschools.cupe.ca. Please check the site regularly for more information and updates.

In solidarity and safety,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'W. Williams', written over a white background.

Warren Williams
President, K-12 Presidents Council, Local 9876

Reminder: Any news media calls or inquiries regarding possible COVID-19 exposures or cases, as identified in the Operational Guidelines for K-12, should be directed to your local regional health authority. Thank you.

BCCDC updates summary

- Updated information on public health actions required when a confirmed case(s) of COVID-19 affects a school, and information on contact tracing and managing clusters (*pg. 6-7, Appendix B*).
- Updated guidance on physical distancing (*pg. 10*).
- Updated guidance for staff or students experiencing symptoms of illness, and outlines what should be done before returning to class (*pg. 15-17, Appendix C*).
- New sections have been added concerning;
 - Ventilation and air exchange (*pg. 8*)
 - Water stations and fountains (*pg. 18*)
 - Personal items and school supplies (*pg. 18*).
- A new *Appendix D (pg. 24)* provides additional guidance for school meal programs, breakfast clubs and other food access initiatives.

The guidance document has also updated the roles of Medical Health Officers and school health officers (*pg. 1-4*). The complete document can be found in the [BCCDC website school section](https://bcschools.cupe.ca) and linked at bcschools.cupe.ca.