

COVID-19 Update

March 10, 2022

## Updated Communicable Disease Guidelines

The [Provincial COVID-19 Communicable Disease Guidelines for K-12 Settings](#) have been updated to reflect changes to Provincial Health Officer orders [announced](#) today and [updated public health guidance](#) from BCCDC. Recognizing schools and districts start Spring Break on different dates, **this update is effective the first day of a school's Spring Break** to enable schools to finish the winter term with existing prevention measures in place. Please see the [summary of key changes](#) for an overview.

Schools and districts are strongly encouraged to:

- Connect with students, staff and families before they return from spring break to share the changes. Updated information is also available on the [COVID-19 safe schools web page](#).
- Reinforce in communications that schools will continue to:
  - Be supportive environments where a person's choice about wearing a mask or face covering will be supported and treated with respect.
  - Utilize a trauma-informed lens when planning school activities.

This update marks a step forward in the transition towards sustainable communicable disease management, with another update to the guidelines expected mid-April to more fully align with the updated public health guidance. This two-step transition allows schools, staff, students and families time to prepare for the planned easing of measures. We continue to work with the Steering Committee and BCCDC on next steps.

A related meeting is being scheduled for Superintendents tomorrow morning. Details will be sent shortly.

## Additional Personal Protective Equipment at No Charge

As shared last week, the Province is making additional supplies of certain non-medical personal protective equipment (e.g., non-medical masks, hand sanitizer), available to schools and districts at no charge, except for shipping costs. Supplies can be ordered through PEAK Health and shipped directly to your central office or warehouse. The link for the specific PPE available and ordering will be sent directly to your district contact. Please email us at [educ.stakeholder.engagement@gov.bc.ca](mailto:educ.stakeholder.engagement@gov.bc.ca) if your school or district contact has changed.

## Rapid Tests for Homeschoolers

School districts who have registered homeschoolers will be receiving additional tests for distribution to these students. Our distributor will ship this allocation (1 box of 5 tests/student) to your central warehouse, and we ask your assistance in distributing these tests to your homeschooling families. Any extra boxes included in can be deployed as needed.