

Saint Patrick Regional Secondary School

115 East 11th Avenue, Vancouver BC V5T 2C1

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The St. Patrick Safety Plan 2021/22

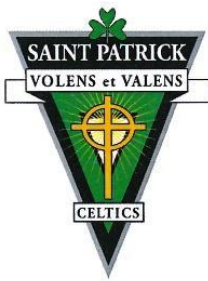
Last Reviewed August 26, 2021

Based on [Public Health Communicable Disease Guidance for K-12 Schools](#) and [Provincial COVID-19 Communicable Disease Guidelines for K-12 Settings](#)

The purpose of this handbook is to inform St. Patrick Regional Secondary staff, students and parents of the Operations and Health & Safety. The St. Patrick Administration worked with the Critical Response Committee to develop this safety plan.

This document is a work in progress and is based on the current Phase of the provincial restart plan during this COVID 19 pandemic. As we get feedback and updates from WorkSafeBC, the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Health, the CISVA and FISA this document will also be updated and revised.

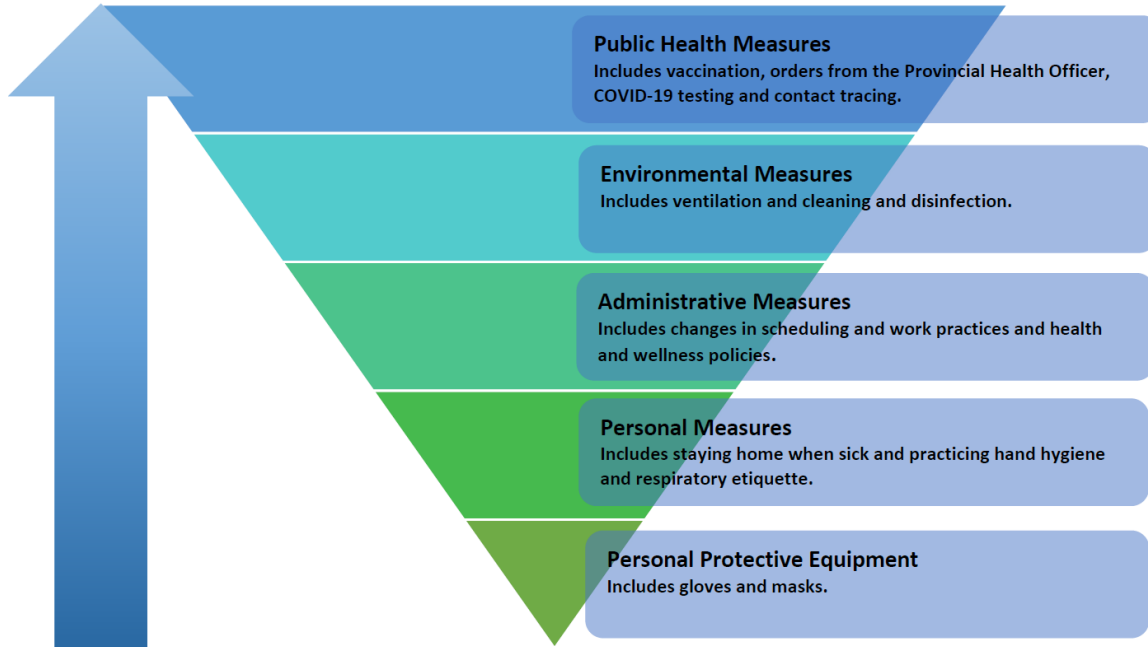
Joint Health and Safety committees in place and meeting regularly, including prior to any transitions between stages.

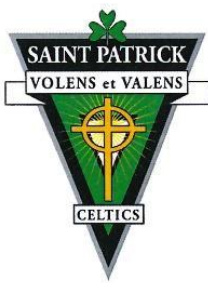


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The Hierarchy for Infection Prevention and Exposure Control Measures for Communicable Disease





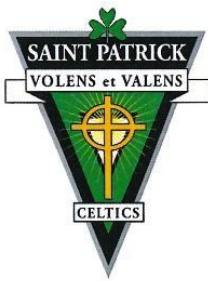
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Outlook of the Public Health Guidance for K-12 Schools: 2021-22 School Year

Public Health Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COVID-19 Vaccine: A significant proportion of the adult and youth (aged 12-17) population will have received at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine. Everyone eligible will be encouraged to get two doses for long-term protection against COVID-19. • Public Health Case Management: Public health will continue to monitor cases of COVID-19 and determine if actions should be taken to prevent or control spread. Schools should continue to maintain accurate attendance records and class and bus lists to assist with contact tracing. • Provincial Recommendations: Public health (including the Provincial Health Officer and BC Centre for Disease Control) will continue to offer individual and community guidance and recommendations to manage the risk of COVID-19 in B.C. • Regional Variation: Medical Health Officers continue to be able to place local Public Health Orders requiring additional health and safety measures beyond this guidance.
Environmental Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cleaning and Disinfection: Since the risk of COVID-19 transmission from surfaces is low, it is anticipated that transitioning to sector-specific cleaning practices will be recommended. • Ventilation and Air Exchange: Continue to ensure all mechanical heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) systems are working properly. Open windows when the weather permits.
Administrative Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gatherings and Events: It is anticipated that most gatherings and events will be able to take place by school start. Types and size of gatherings and events should align with those permitted as per related public health recommendations and Orders. • Cohorts & Physical Distancing: Cohorts will not be recommended. It is anticipated that physical distancing of two metres will not be recommended¹; however, schools will continue to be encouraged to spread people out within available space and to prevent crowding in indoor common spaces (e.g. entrances, hallways, etc.) as practical. • Extracurricular Activities and Field Trips: It is anticipated that all extracurricular activities and field trips, including inter-school sports, arts events and special-interest activities (e.g. overnight trips) will be able to take place by school start. These should be aligned with related public health guidance, recommendations and Orders. • Community Use of Schools: Continue to ensure use is aligned with related public health guidance, recommendations and Orders. • Visitors: Visitors should follow a school's health and safety plan, including completing a daily health check and not entering the school if they are sick. • Food Services: It is anticipated that food services (e.g. meal programs, cafeterias, fundraisers, etc.) can return to regular operational and food safety practices.
Personal Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete a Daily Health Check and Stay Home When Sick: Everyone should continue to complete a daily health check and stay home when they are sick. • Hand Hygiene: Hand hygiene should continue to be practiced regularly, in line with guidance from BCCDC.

A full update to the Public Health Guidance for K-12 Schools is expected in August 2021. It may differ from what is included here based on changes in serious outcomes from COVID-19. Additional guidance for topics not covered here, including but not limited to personal protective equipment (including masks), staff-only spaces and transportation will be addressed in the August update.



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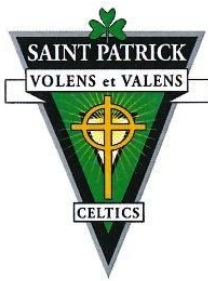
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Public Health Measures

- Students or staff who have flu-like, Covid-19 symptoms are sent or must stay at home, should contact a health-care provider, and may require testing. No notification to staff or the community of these incidents will be made unless advised by Public Health.

Vaccines

- Vaccines are the most effective way to reduce the risk of COVID 19 in schools and communities
- In VCH >85% of eligible population vaccinated with at least 1 dose
As long as COVID 19 is circulating we will see cases in schools, but vaccine is
- particularly protective against severe disease and when most people >12 are immunized, exposures are less likely to lead to further transmission
- Children continue to be less likely to get and spread COVID 19, as well as to experience severe disease
- Vaccination is encouraged, but not mandatory; disclosing vaccination status is not required
- Schools do not need to implement specific measures for people who are unvaccinated



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First level protection (elimination):

Limit the number of people at the workplace and ensure physical distance whenever possible

List your control measures for maintaining physical distance in your workplace, for example:

- Reducing the number of close, in-person interactions helps prevent the spread of COVID-19. Keep a safe distance from others. The BCCDC recommends at least two metres

Visitors

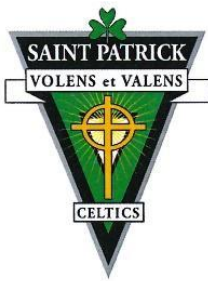
- School visitors, including parents, will be discouraged as much as possible, with educational visitors being prioritized.
- Visitor access during school hours prioritized to those entering to support activities that benefit student learning and well-being
- Visitors will be limited and are asked to make phone contact rather than coming in.
- Visitors will need to call before entering to be screened outside before entry.
- Visitor logs will be maintained

Daily health check

- No one should come to school if they are sick, or if they have been directed to self isolate by Public Health
- School will remind everyone of the importance of doing a daily health check

Hand Hygiene:

- Students and staff will be reminded to practice good hand hygiene. Hand sanitizing stations continue to be easily accessible throughout the school.



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Third Level protection: Administrative measures

Semester System for 2021/22

- This school year St. Patrick will use a traditional Semester System (4 blocks only per semester, 4 classes per day, every day). This system gives us the flexibility to make changes during the year if public health guidance requires it. A move to cohorts or any version of online learning is much easier for staff and students in this model. If students or staff at any point are asked to stay home for a period of time having only 4 classes to focus on will also help with success and alleviate stress.

Gatherings and events

- Gatherings and events should adhere to the relevant local, regional, provincial, and federal Public Health recommendations that apply to the community
- International travel should adhere to recommendations of local, regional, provincial, and federal Public Health
- Community use of school facilities can be allowed

Using space

- Schools can return to classroom and learning environment configurations and activities that best meet learner needs
- For gatherings and events, all available space should be used
- People should be encouraged to respect the personal space of others



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Fourth level protection: Using masks

Update Aug 24, 2021 -

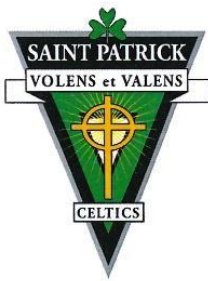
St. Patrick will follow the provincial mandates as they are updated during the school year.

Non-Medical Masks and Face Coverings Public health continues to monitor community risk of COVID-19 as we progress toward high levels of vaccine coverage. Schools continue to be considered low risk settings for COVID-19 transmission, particularly in the context of a highly immunized population; however, non-medical masks will be recommended for the start of the school year. This will allow for an added layer of protection as schools transition to new measures. The non-medical mask guidance is expected to be reviewed later this fall with the intention that wearing a mask will eventually transition to a personal choice. Regional recommendations may also be issued by local medical health officers based on community risk. Mask requirements should, at minimum, adhere with any regional or provincial public health Orders.

At the beginning of the school year, all staff, adult volunteers and visitors, and all students 12 years and older in “bricks and mortar” schools should wear a non-medical mask or face covering (a “mask”) at all times while indoors at school, subject to the following exceptions:

- If a person is unable to wear a mask because they don't tolerate it (for health or behavioural reasons*);
- If a person 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. actively playing a wind instrument, high-intensity physical activity, etc.);
- If a person is eating or drinking;
- If a person is behind a barrier (e.g., a divider, a cubicle, or in a room by themselves); While providing a service to a person with a disability or diverse ability where visual cues, facial expressions and/or lip reading/movements are important.

Those wearing masks must still seek to practice physical distancing. There must be no crowding or congregating of people, even if masks are worn. Masks should not be used in place of the other measures detailed in this document.



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ROLES

Employer (CISVA)

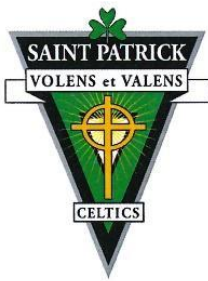
- Select, implement, and document risk assessments and appropriate site-specific control measures.
- Ensure that all resources (information, authorization administrative changes, technology, training, human resources) and materials (personal protective equipment, equipment, cleaning and disinfecting products and systems) required to implement and maintain plan are reasonably made available as practical when required.
- Ensure that supervisors and workers are informed about the content of safety policies.
- Conduct a periodic review of the effectiveness of the plan. This includes a review of the available control technologies to ensure that these are selected and used when practical.
- Maintain records of training and inspections.
- Re-examine all tasks in the workplace, especially those that require the direct care of students, and ensure that safe work procedures are updated with COVID-19 practices.
- Where possible, have workers perform only essential tasks to maintain the student's education and well-being. Tasks that are non-essential should be put on hold until directed otherwise by the provincial health officer.

Supervisors (principals and vice principals)

- Ensure that workers are knowledgeable regarding the controls required to minimize their risk of exposure to COVID-19.
- Direct work in a manner that eliminates or minimizes the risk to workers.
- Post or relay educational and informational material in an accessible area for workers to review.

Workers (teachers, education assistants, support staff and outside contractors)

- Know the controls required to minimize their risk of exposure to COVID-19.
- Follow established work procedures and instructions as directed by the employer or supervisor.
- Report any unsafe conditions or acts to the supervisor.
- Know how and when to report exposure incidents.



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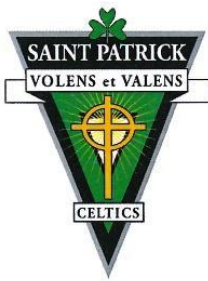
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TRAINING

Staff will be trained on the following:

- The risk of exposure to COVID-19 and the signs and symptoms of the disease.
- Safe work procedures or instruction to be followed, including hand washing and cough/sneeze etiquette.
- How to report an exposure to or symptoms of COVID-19.
- Changes you've made to work policies, practices, and procedures due to the COVID-19 pandemic and keep records of that training.
- Document COVID-19 related meetings and post minutes at a central location.
- Keep records of instruction and training provided to workers regarding COVID-19, as well as reports of exposure and first aid records.

First Aid Staff will be trained in protocols for [COVID 19 from Worksafe BC](#).



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Appendix A: CLEANING PROTOCOLS

Updated August 24

Cleaning

Custodial and Teaching Staff will be instructed on all necessary [cleaning protocols](#)

We will be following WorkSafe BC [Guidelines for Cleaning and Disinfecting](#)

Surface Cleaning

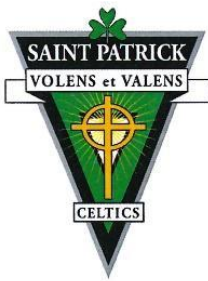
What surfaces and objects are workers likely to touch? Do they share any tools or equipment?

- Print Stations and photocopiers
- Door handles
- Sink handles
- Toilet handles
- Chairs
- Table and desk tops

Supplies

- Our Custodial Staff has purchased all appropriate cleaning supplies as directed by the protocols of WorkSafeBC
- Our cleaning staff has always used industrial PPE protection when cleaning and will continue to do so.

Surfaces (including those frequently touched) should be cleaned and disinfected once per day and when visibly dirty



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Cleaning Schedule/ Plan:

How often will you need to clean? Clean at least once a day for most surfaces and at least twice a day for high-contact surfaces. Consider how many workers are in the space; whether customers, children, or other members of the public are in the space; how long they're in the space; and how they use the space.

School building:

- High Traffic Touch areas to be cleaned everyday
- Washrooms will be cleaned throughout the day for basic surfaces and deep cleaned at the end of the day.
- Washroom door handles will be wiped down regularly as these doors will be opened and closed.
- Doors (door will be propped open to limit needs to touch)
- Railings

Staff Specific:

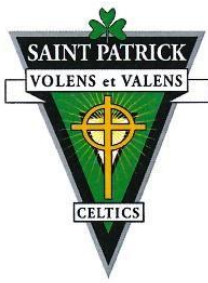
- Print station and keyboard, photocopier etc. Staff will wipe down after each use

When is the best time to clean?

- Cleaning and disinfecting of surfaces will be done every 24 hours. This will include a more thorough professional cleaning of each classroom at least once weekly, This will allow custodial staff to target key high use areas and washrooms during the day and begin deep clean starting at 3pm.

Who will do the cleaning?

- Custodial Staff will lead the deep cleaning.
- Staff will be asked to help with basic wipe downs after use of desks and staff room surfaces.
- Students will also be asked, when appropriate, to wipe down their work surfaces.



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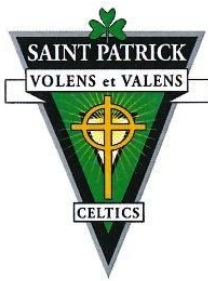
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Appendix B: Communication Plan

Everyone in the school community (staff, students and parents) will know the policies around staying home when they are sick. This information will be communicated in writing.

- All staff will be trained and informed as to how to keep themselves safe while at school.
- Staff will be informed of changes made to work policies, practices, and procedures due to the COVID-19 pandemic. During the daily check-in, updates will be provided when available.
- The health and safety measures in place prior to the pandemic are still in place.
- The administration will keep records of training meetings. Covid-19 related meetings are documented and minutes available in the staff room and the Principal's office.
- Signage will be posted around the school including effective hand washing practices. Signage will also be posted at the main entrance indicating who is restricted from entering the school including anyone with symptoms.
- The start plan, including schedules and safety protocols will be sent via email and posted to the stpats.bc.ca
- Weekly updates and reminders will be sent by the office team to keep families up to date on changes and to continually remind parents to screen students for symptoms.



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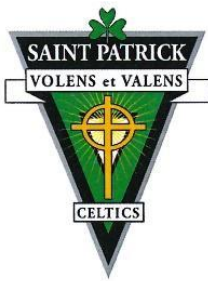
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Appendix C: Protocol if a student/staff develops symptoms of illness at school

Symptoms Develop at School If a staff member, student, or other person develops symptoms of illness at school:

1. Move the person to a space that is comfortable, safe, and supervised (if necessary). This can be a separate location (e.g., another room, a common space, or outdoors if weather allows), or in the same space (e.g., a classroom) if the person can consistently be 2-metres away from others.
2. Contact the student's parent or caregiver to pick them up as soon as possible (if applicable).
3. If the ill person requires assistance, where possible, maintain a 2-metre distance. If not possible, staff should wear a mask if available and tolerated.
4. Provide the person with a mask (if available and tolerated) or tissues if they are exhibiting respiratory symptoms (to cover their coughs or sneezes). Masks should not be worn if the person has gastrointestinal symptoms (e.g., is at risk of vomiting). Throw away used tissues as soon as possible and perform hand hygiene.
5. Avoid touching the person's body fluids (e.g., mucous, saliva, vomit). If you do, practice hand hygiene.
6. Practice hand hygiene after the person has left.
7. Staff responsible for facility cleaning should clean and disinfect the surfaces in spaces where the person's body fluids may have been in contact while they were ill (e.g., their desk in a classroom, the bathroom stall they used, etc.).

Some students may arrive at school sick, and/or unable to be picked up immediately, due to many reasons, including a lack of available childcare. Following the steps outlined above helps ensure there is not a significant risk of illness to others, including those who are supporting them while they are ill.



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What To Do When Sick

School Administrators can encourage staff and families to go to the BCCDC website to find information about what to do when they are sick with COVID-19 symptoms. Staff, students, and parents/caregivers can also use the BC SelfAssessment Tool app, call 8-1-1 or their health care provider for guidance. Information on region-specific services (e.g., testing and vaccination sites) is available on health authority websites.

Staff and families can also be encouraged to visit HealthLink BC or call 8-1-1 for support on what to do when sick with any symptoms of illness, including non-COVID-19 symptoms.

Returning to School

After Illness When a person can return to school after being sick depends on the type of illness they had.

- If they had COVID-19 or another communicable disease, they can return according to the guidance provided to them from public health.
- For other illnesses, generally, the person can return when their symptoms have improved and they feel well enough to participate in all activities at school.

If a person is unsure if they are well enough to attend school, they should call 8-1-1 or their health care provider for guidance.

[When to get tested](#)



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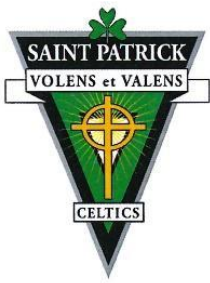
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Appendix D: Protocol in the event of a confirmed covid-19 case in a school

If a student or staff member is confirmed to have COVID-19, and were potentially infectious while they were at school:

- Public health will perform an investigation to determine if there were any potential close contacts within the school. (To learn more about contact tracing, visit the BCCDC website.)
 - Students and staff who have interacted with the confirmed case may be asked to stay home while public health completes their investigation.
- If it is determined that there are close contacts within the school, public health will notify the school administrators to request class and bus lists to assist with contact tracing and provide guidance on what steps should be taken.
- Public health may then:
 - Recommend isolation if necessary (for confirmed close contacts).
 - Recommend monitoring for symptoms if necessary.
 - Provide follow-up recommendations if necessary.
- The school must continue to provide learning support to students required to self-isolate.
- Together, the school and public health officials will determine if any other actions are necessary.



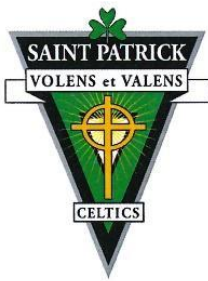
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Appendix E: Emergency Procedures and Evacuation

Emergency Procedures will remain the same as in full school operation as stated in the Critical Response Manual



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Appendix F: Physical and Health Education and Inter and Intra School Sport

1. **“School sport may operate in accordance with local, regional, and provincial health recommendations and orders on gatherings and events.”**

2. **“Masks are worn by staff, other adults and students in Grades 4-12. Students are NOT required to wear masks during high-intensity sport activities. Mask use during these activities is left to students’ personal choice. Schools are encouraged to move high-intensity sport activities outdoors whenever possible.”**

This means that students are required to wear masks in the school, during instructional and non-instructional time. This includes making their way to the field of play. Once on the field of play, for high-intensity activities, the mask may be removed at the student’s discretion. For low-intensity activities, certain sports such as golf, or periods of low intensity during practice (ie. stationary skill work, light warm-up, static stretching etc.) masks are required. Coaches and other support staff must wear masks at all times. Low-intensity activities can be identified as those that allow the participant to easily carry a conversation, whereas high-intensity activities, elevate heart rate, respiration rate and generally make carrying a conversation difficult.

3. Shared equipment can be used, provided it is cleaned and disinfected as per the guidelines in the Cleaning and Disinfecting section of this document.
4. Students should be encouraged to practice proper hand hygiene before and after using frequently touched pieces of equipment (e.g. before and after a sports game using a shared ball), as well as proper respiratory etiquette.