



COVID Practices and Protocols: Continuing to Keep Us Safe at Choice School

January, 2021



Cohorts

The Ministry has defined cohorts as groupings of students that will operate within the school as a unit for the purposes of scheduling and limiting the number of adults they interact with.

When students and staff assigned to classes in the cohort are with their cohort, they are not bound by the same social distancing protocols.

When students are in a situation where they are likely to interact with other students NOT from their cohort, social distancing rules apply and masks are to be worn.

Staff not assigned to a cohort are required to follow all the social distancing/protection protocols.

Staggered Scheduling by Cohort

Cohort	Arrival Time	Pick Up Time Monday - Thursday	Pick Up Time Friday	Recess	Lunch
One (Grades K - 5)	8:30 AM	3:00 PM	12:30 PM	10:20 – 10:40	12:30 – 1:00
Two (Grades 6 &7)	8:45 AM	3:15 PM	12:45 PM	10:40 – 11:00	1:00 – 1:30



Health and Safety: Arrival at School

- ▶ Parents are not allowed inside the school gate and are asked to keep socially distant in the parking lot
- ▶ On arrival, teachers greet students and parents and ask them to confirm they have assessed their child or children and they are not demonstrating COVID-like symptoms.
- ▶ All staff is to confirm daily that they have completed a Daily Health Check and are symptom-free.
- ▶ A Daily Health Checklist has been sent home with the message "Please DO NOT send your child to school if they have any of the symptoms listed."
- ▶ If a child is ill, they must stay home until they are symptom-free. If after 24 hours the symptoms have worsened and the child has a fever, they must consult with a health-care professional.
- ▶ Upon arrival, each classroom teacher will assemble their class and guide them into the school where they will
 - ▶ Wash hands
 - ▶ change from their outside shoes to their indoor shoes, and
 - ▶ deposit backpacks, outerwear and lunches in their cubby area
 - ▶ They will sanitize their hands before entering and leaving the classroom.



During the School Day:

- ▶ Art and Music have been scheduled with time in between classes to avoid crossovers in the halls, and to allow the cleaning and disinfecting of work areas and supplies.
- ▶ Students are asked to label their personal items, chair and work areas and not share them.
- ▶ Staff frequently reviews and reminds children to follow the procedures for respiratory etiquette: coughing or sneezing into an elbow or sleeve, or using and disposing of a tissue followed by handwashing.
- ▶ Staff continues to stress that students not touch eyes, nose or mouth with unwashed hands.
- ▶ Social distancing directions and signs are posted throughout the school and students regularly monitored and reminded.
- ▶ Traffic flows and safe-distancing zones are marked throughout the school to limit interactions between individuals.



Masks?

- ▶ Wearing a non-medical mask is a personal choice for students within their cohort.
- ▶ Masks are mandatory for students on the school bus or if they are to be interacting with students from other cohorts.
- ▶ The school has available two reusable masks for each student and member of staff.
- ▶ Students have been taught how to put on and remove a mask.
- ▶ Masks must be worn outside of a cohort, along with physical distancing.
- ▶ All non-cohort staff when interacting with students wear a mask, physically distance and/or work behind a barrier.





Cleaning and Disinfecting Procedures

- ▶ In accordance with *The BC Centre for Disease Control and the BC Ministry of Health: COVID Public Health Guidance for K-12 School Settings*:
- ▶ The school is cleaned twice daily using the prescribed disinfectants.
- ▶ Mr. Majid cleans and disinfects all high touch areas and washrooms once during the school day.
- ▶ Our newly-hired night custodian will again clean and disinfect all high touch areas, washrooms, and thoroughly wash floors. .
- ▶ ALL dishes must be run through the dishwasher, not washed by hand.
- ▶ Teachers are responsible for guiding and supervising students to clean their personal work spaces, keyboards, hard surface supplies and chairs at the end of each school day. This is a great life skill!
- ▶ Each cohort has a designated set of PE equipment.
- ▶ Students may not use a microwave to heat their lunches, and must bring their own utensils.
- ▶ Water bottles should be full on arrival, and may only be refilled at the water station by a member of staff.



Questions?

- ▶ What if a student begins to show symptoms while at school?
 - ▶ We immediately give the student a mask to wear, call his or her parents to pick them up as soon as possible and isolate the student in a supervised location (which will be cleaned and disinfected when the student leaves)
 - ▶ The student cannot return to school until they are symptom-free or have been cleared by a health professional.
- ▶ What happens if a child is required to isolate?
 - ▶ If a child needs to stay home we will provide work for the child that aligns with the classroom curriculum.
- ▶ What happens if a staff member becomes ill or is required to isolate?
 - ▶ If at school, they immediately return home and wait for the advice of a health professional before returning to work.
 - ▶ If while at home the teacher feels well enough, they can teach remotely while the class EA or another staff member supervises the class in person. If not, we will hire a TOC until the teacher returns.



Thank you to everyone in our Choice Community for your continued efforts to keep everyone safe and healthy. Please do not hesitate to call Ms Chartres or your child's classroom teacher with any questions you may have about our Health and Safety routines in the time of COVID.