

Communicable Disease Safety Protocols for SelfDesign

Introduction

Communicable disease prevention plans focus on reducing the risk of transmission of communicable diseases (including COVID-19). The prevention measures outlined below should be always in place. During times of increased communicable disease risk, public health may recommend additional prevention measures.

This page sets out the governing bodies of protocols relevant for SelfDesign and the protocols that are currently in effect regarding in-person SelfDesign activities.

It is important to note that protocols regarding communicable diseases are multi-layered. This means we are often required to follow multiple protocols, issued by multiple governing bodies, all at the same time.

Governing Bodies of Protocols for SelfDesign

1. Provincial Health Officer (PHO).
2. BC Centre for Disease Control (BC CDC).
3. WorkSafeBC.
4. BC Ministry of Education.
5. SelfDesign Learning Foundation (SelfDesign).

PHO & BC CDC Protocols Currently In Effect

The following individuals must stay home and take measures to limit the spread of infection:

- A person who has tested positive by PCR or rapid antigen test for COVID-19 ; or
- Anyone who has **symptoms of COVID-19** or another respiratory infection like influenza, until they are well enough to participate in regular activities and their fever has resolved without the use of fever-reducing medication.

NOTE: *Anyone under the direction of the PHO to self-isolate must follow those instructions.*

Please check the requirements if you have **traveled outside of Canada** as mask requirements may apply in public and in-person learning activities.

SelfDesign Protocols Currently In Effect

Adhering to SelfDesign protocols as well as those issued by the PHO and BC CDC is required when engaging in in-person SelfDesign activities.

The following types of in-person activities are allowed, except when prohibited by temporary and/or local/regional notice:

- Support activities:
 - in-person activities (indoors and outdoors), in accordance with public health orders.
 - At places of business, such as community centres, offices, sports gyms, music studios, etc., provided the business:
 - Meets the regulations outlined by all levels of government and has an in-person support plan approved by their governing body and/or WorkSafeBC.
 - Follows health and safety protocols and guidelines issued by the PHO, WorkSafeBC, and the BC Ministry of Health.
 - At learning centres, where the learning centres follow protocols outlined by the Public Health Guidance for K-12 School Settings.

Prevention Measures for SelfDesign In-person Activities

<p>Daily Health Check</p>	<p>Completing a daily health check is important prior to meeting in person with a SelfDesign learner.</p> <p>Parents and caregivers are responsible for assessing themselves and their children daily for illness before participating in a SelfDesign in-person activity. This K-12 Health Check can support families in doing so.</p> <p>If you are sick, stay at home - contractors, learners, and parents.</p>
<p>Illness</p>	<p>If you feel ill before or during an in-person activity, take the following action(s), as appropriate to the situation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cancel the activity immediately and maximize physical distance with other people. • Leave the activity as soon as safely possible. • Move the activity online. • Inform your team lead and submit a Hazard and Incident Report Form immediately (or have your team lead do so on your behalf). • If symptoms persist, use the COVID-19 assessment tool or speak to your healthcare provider to determine if you should seek testing for COVID-19. Health questions can be directed to 8-1-1 or your healthcare provider.
<p>Mask Use</p>	<p>The decision to wear a mask or face covering is a personal choice for learners, adults and visitors. A person's choice should be supported and respected.</p>
<p>Space Arrangement</p>	<p>Space can be configured for learning activities that best meet learner needs and preferred educational approaches.</p>
<p>Hand Hygiene & Respiratory Etiquette</p>	<p>Wash hands with plain soap and water for at least 20 seconds at the start and end of each visit. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available.</p> <p>Observe respiratory etiquette and teach children to do the same e.g., cough/sneeze into elbow, refrain from touching the face, refrain from sharing food.</p>

<p>Hygiene & Cleaning During Household Visits</p>	<p>Regular cleaning and disinfection can help prevent the spread of communicable diseases. Cleaning of frequently touched surfaces should occur in line with regular practices and when visibly dirty.</p> <p>Ensure the learning space is prepared by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Designating a specific space for the visit to take place. ● Cleaning the space before the visit. ● Disinfecting high-use surfaces, such as door handles and bathrooms where possible. ● Providing paper towels instead of cloth towels for visitors to dry their hands. <p>Print this Household Visit Hygiene checklist to take with you when visiting.</p>
<p>Transportation</p>	<p>When carpooling or transporting learners:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Consider continuing to use masks when in close quarters. ● Set the vehicle’s ventilation to bring in fresh outside air, do not recirculate air. ● Open windows when the weather allows. ● Clean hands before and after trips. ● Clean frequently touched surfaces regularly. <p>When using mass transit (e.g. municipal buses, SkyTrain, ferries, etc.):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Practice hand hygiene before and after trips. ● Follow safety guidance (including mask use guidance) as directed by the relevant transit authority.

<p>Using Public Spaces and Places of Business</p>	<p>Follow public health guidance and health and safety protocols of the business or organization. Additional recommendations include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carry hand sanitizer/disinfectant wipes. • Be vigilant with personal hygiene practices, including frequent hand-washing. • Evaluate potential transmission risks presented by public spaces and decide how to address them e.g. avoid touching surfaces whenever possible. • Select lower-risk public spaces e.g., outdoor public spaces such as parks.
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Prevention Measures for Learning Centres Attended by SelfDesign Learners

<p>Attendance and Record-Keeping</p>	<p>Learning Centres can return to routine sign in/sign out practices. Keeping a list of the date, names and contact information of visitors for communicable disease prevention purposes is no longer needed.</p>
<p>Space Arrangement & Physical Distancing</p>	<p>Space can be configured for learning activities that best meet learner needs and preferred educational approaches.</p>

<p>Ventilation and Air Exchange</p>	<p>Ensure heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems are designed, operated, and maintained to Occupational Health and Safety and WorkSafeBC standards. Specifically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Site-based safety plans must include provisions for when a school/worksite’s ventilation system is temporarily compromised. ● Open windows when the weather permits, if it doesn’t impact the functioning of ventilation systems. ● When using air conditioners and fans in ventilated spaces, air should be moved from high places to lower places instead of blowing air directly from one person’s breathing zone to another’s. ● Avoid horizontal cross breezes. ● Avoid the use of portable air conditioners and fans in unventilated spaces with doors and windows closed except when necessary during high or excessive heat events. <p>Notwithstanding the above, implementing prevention measures should always be balanced against the presence of other risks at a given point in time e.g., not opening windows if the air outside is full of smoke from wildfires.</p> <p>More information on workplace ventilation and air circulation is available from WorkSafeBC.</p>
<p>Cleaning and Disinfecting</p>	<p>Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces, and those touched by large numbers of people, at least once every 24-hours and when visibly dirty e.g., door handles, handrails, tap faucets, shared gym equipment, etc.</p> <p>Clean surfaces infrequently touched or touched by only a few people, at least once a day e.g., desks, lockers, manipulatives, etc.</p> <p>Continue other general cleanings as per regular practice.</p>
<p>Visitors</p>	<p>Centres can follow normal practices for welcoming visitors and community use. Visitors should follow applicable communicable disease prevention measures outlined in this document.</p>
<p>Food Services</p>	<p>Follow food safety training and best practices as cooking and meal programs are resumed.</p>