



VERITAS SCHOOL

4836 Straume Ave. Terrace, BC V8G 4G3

Phone: 250-635-3035 Fax: 250-635-7588

www.veritascatholicsschool.ca

veritas@cispg.ca



Communicable Disease Prevention Plan: COVID-19

Update: March 22, 2022

The purpose of this document is to communicate Veritas School's steps to maintain a safe and healthy school environment by minimizing the risk of spreading COVID-19 and other communicable diseases, and includes both ongoing measures (e.g., hand hygiene, cleaning) and additional measures to be implemented as advised by public health. Veritas School is committed to providing a positive and inclusive school learning environment for all staff and students.

1) Public Entry / Access to School

- a) Veritas School's front doors are open to visitors by ringing the bell to the left of the front doors.
- b) All staff use staff entrances and visitors use the main entrance to the school.
 - i) Visitors must have completed the daily health check before entering and are not required to wear a mask, though may choose to do so. Disposable masks are available at the office.
 - ii) Visitors must sign in and out of the school using the binder at the office. Visitor tags must also be worn for the duration that the visitor is present in the building.
- c) Students enter and exit through their class entrance doors, following the necessary signs and instructions regarding traffic flow in boot rooms and hallways.
- d) A Plexiglass shield at the office counter provides further protection.
- e) For all school gatherings with spectators, capacity will not exceed 50%. School gatherings with spectators can return to 100% capacity when the PHO Gatherings and Events Order is lifted (expected April 7, 2022).
- f) A copy of this Communicable Disease Prevention Plan is available at the school office and on the school website.

2) Drop Off and Pick Up

- a) Drop-Off: Students are dropped off at or arrive through the parking lot or back fields. Students wait in the assigned spot for their grade until the entrance bell rings and their classroom teacher greets them and invites them in.
- b) If students arrive late, students will enter the school through the main office doors and sign in.
- c) Pick-Up: Students will exit the school at 3:00 pm through their assigned exit doors and wait with their teacher in their designated area at the parking lot. When picking up your child, please respect the personal space and comfort level of others.
- d) The playground is closed before school as sufficient supervision in these areas is not available before school hours.
- e) The playground is closed after school as priority is given to our After School Care program.
- f) Parking Lot Safety: A staff member will be on parking lot duty from 3:00 – 3:15 every day to assist with vehicle movement and safety of students and parents.



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3) Health Check for Students, Staff, and Visitors Entering School

- a) A daily health check is a tool to reduce the likelihood of a person with COVID-19 coming to school when they are infectious.
- b) Parents / caregivers must assess their child daily for illness before sending them to school.
 - i) Parents/caregivers and students can utilize the provincial K-12 health check [tool](#) or [app](#) for daily assessment of symptoms.
 - ii) Staff and other adults must complete a daily health check prior to entering the school.
 - iii) If a student, staff, or other adult is sick, they must not enter the school.
- c) If a student/staff/visitor is required to self-isolate, they must stay home.
- d) A health-care provider note (i.e. a doctor's note) is not required to confirm the health status of any individual, beyond those required to support medical accommodation as per usual practices.
- e) If tested for COVID-19 and positive, all staff/students will stay home until they are told by public health to end their self-isolation.
- f) A box of 5 COVID self-tests for each child have been made available.

4) Students/Staff who Develop Symptoms while at School

- a) The student/staff will be provided with a non-medical mask if they don't have one unless they have a medical and/or disability related reason to not wear a mask.
- b) The symptomatic student is immediately separated from others and moved to a supervised area and cared for safely.
- c) The student's parent / guardian is contacted to pick up the student as soon as possible. Parents / Guardians are expected to pick up their child as soon as possible if notified they are ill.
- d) Where possible, staff will maintain physical distance from the ill student. If not possible, staff have the option to wear a mask.
- e) Staff will avoid touching the student's body fluids. If they do, diligent hand hygiene will be practiced.
- f) After the student is picked up, staff will practice diligent hand hygiene.
- g) Staff will clean and disinfect the space where the student was separated and any other areas used by the student.

5) Student Management: Hygiene

- a) Students will wash their hands (at a minimum):
 - i) When they arrive at school;
 - ii) Before and after any breaks (recess/lunch);
 - iii) Before and after eating and drinking;
 - iv) Before and after using an indoor learning space used by multiple classes and shared equipment;
 - v) After using the toilet;



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- vi) After sneezing or coughing into hands;
- vii) Whenever hands are visibly dirty;
- viii) Before and after using shared items that are difficult or impossible to disinfect (i.e. manipulatives, foam, playdough, or sand).
- b) Staff are encouraged to assist younger students with hand hygiene as needed.
- c) If a sink is not available, 60% (or greater) alcohol-based hand sanitizer can be used.
- d) Food and drink should not be shared between students.
- e) Veritas School water fountains remain in use for filling water bottles.

6) Student Management: Physical Distancing

- a) Students are reminded to respect others' personal space.
- b) Classroom and learning environment configurations and activities that best meet learner needs and preferred educational approaches can be returned to, while still considering strategies to create space between people.
- c) Strategies will continue to be implemented that prevent crowding during class transitions and break times. These include:
 - i) Specialist teachers (gym, music, library) collecting students from their classroom and delivering students back to the classroom.
 - ii) Staff leading classes through the hallways when other classes are not already in the hallways.

7) School Structure / Organization:

- a) Lunch recess will be an opportunity for the whole school to be outside together. Students are encouraged to respect the personal space and comfort level of others. Veritas School is fortunate to have a large outdoor space, which allows for students to avoid crowding and congestion when outside.
- b) Lunch is consumed in the classroom at the student's specific desk.
- c) Hallway traffic will be minimized with entire classes moving through the halls one at a time using the "rules of the road", walking on the right side of the hallway.
- d) Washrooms are divided by grade, with stalls being assigned to specific grades.

8) Staff Management: Physical Distancing and Masks

- a) Staff are asked to continue to respect the personal space and comfort level of others. The wearing of a mask or face covering is a personal choice, which will be respected and supported.
- b) Staff meetings may occur in-person while creating space to allow for the comfort level of all staff.

9) Staff Management: Hygiene

- a) Hand-washing supplies are available at all times (soap, clean towels, paper towels, 60% alcohol-based hand sanitizer). Staff will wash their hands (at a minimum):
 - i) When they arrive at school;



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- ii) Before and after any breaks (recess/lunch);
 - iii) Before and after eating and drinking;
 - iv) Before and after using an indoor learning space used by multiple classes and shared equipment;
 - v) After using the toilet;
 - vi) After sneezing or coughing into hands;
 - vii) Whenever hands are visibly dirty;
 - viii) Before and after handling food or assisting students with eating;
 - ix) Before and after giving medication to a student or self;
 - x) After contact with bodily fluids (i.e. runny noses, spit, vomit, or blood);
 - xi) After cleaning tasks;
 - xii) After removing gloves;
 - xiii) After handling garbage.
- b) Handwashing signs are posted near all sinks. All staff will wash their hands frequently to reduce the risk of transmission.
- c) Other hygiene practice signage is posted (see resources from WorkSafe BC).

10) Cleaning / Disinfecting During School Operation (On-Site Staff)

- a) Common, commercially-available detergents and disinfectant products are being used.
- b) Frequently touched surfaces are cleaned and disinfected at least once in a 24-hour period, including (but not limited to) doorknobs, light switches, toilet handles, tables, desks, chairs, stair railings, office barrier and shared office spaces.
- c) Garbage containers are emptied daily.
- d) Pillowcases and blankets are laundered after each use using the school facilities if they are not single-use items.
- e) The electrostatic sprayer will be used on all high touch surfaces a minimum of once a day.

11) Cleaning / Disinfecting After School Hours (Custodian)

- a) Veritas School is cleaned and disinfected in accordance with the BC CDC's Cleaning and Disinfecting for Public Settings (http://www.bccdc.ca/Health-Info-Site/Documents/CleaningDisinfecting_PublicSettings.pdf).

12) Communication

- a) Veritas School will maintain contact with Northern Health as directed.
- b) Joint Health and Safety Committee meetings are held monthly to review workplace practices while maintaining physical distance.
- c) Daily check-in meetings with staff are held to provide new information and review concerns.
- d) Veritas School is keeping parents / guardians informed about extra precautions occurring in the school setting.



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- e) All information relating to communicable diseases is posted on the school [website](#).

13) Concerns about Unsafe Work

- a) Veritas School Staff are to raise safety concerns in writing via email to the Principal.
- b) Staff have the right to refuse work if they believe it presents an undue hazard. An undue hazard is an “unwarranted, inappropriate, excessive, or disproportionate” hazard. For COVID-19, an “undue hazard” would be one where a worker’s job role places them at increased risk of exposure and adequate controls are not in place to protect them from that exposure.
- c) If the matter is not resolved, the worker and the supervisor / employer must contact WorkSafe BC (<https://www.worksafebc.com/en/contact-us/departments-and-services/health-safety-prevention>). A prevention officer will consult with workplace parties to determine whether there is an undue hazard and issue orders if necessary.
- d) Workers / employers with questions or concerns about workplace exposure to the COVID-19 virus can call WorkSafe BC’s Prevention Information Line at 1-888-621-SAFE to speak to a prevention officer to have questions answered. If required, a prevention officer will be assigned to assess the health and safety risk at your workplace.

14) Masks

- a) The decision to wear a mask or face covering is a personal choice. A person’s choice will be supported and respected.

15) Physical Education

- a) Students and staff will be spread out within the available space.
- b) Outdoor activities and programs will be encouraged when possible.
- c) Shared equipment can be used, provided it is cleaned and disinfected as per the guidelines in the Cleaning and Disinfecting section of this document.
- d) Students will 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.

16) Music

- a) Cleaning and Disinfecting guidelines and students will practice proper hand hygiene before and after music equipment use.

17) School Sports

- a) Intra- and inter-school programs and activities (e.g. intramurals, sports team practices, games), sports academies, and events can continue in alignment with guidelines.
- b) Shared equipment can be used, provided it is cleaned and disinfected as per the guidelines in the Cleaning and Disinfecting document. Students should be encouraged to practice proper



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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.

18) Regional Differences

- a) Local public health orders may be placed for entire regions or communities, or for specific settings or activities. Veritas School will follow all additional public health orders and will follow additional health and safety measures during times of elevated risk. This could include, but is not limited to: increased cleaning, room reconfigurations, visitor restrictions, and limits on gatherings or events.

19) Staff Mental Health Resources

- a) COVID-19 Psychological First Aid Service: Information and Signup (British Columbia Psychological Association) – Free virtual counselling provided by registered psychologists.
<https://www.psychologists.bc.ca/covid-19-resources>
- b) COVID-19: Staying Well In Uncertain Times (Canadian Mental Health Association – B.C.) – Tips and information on how to reduce and manage anxiety in the workplace due to the COVID-19 outbreak. <https://cmha.bc.ca/covid-19/>
- c) Managing COVID-19 Stress, Anxiety and Depression (Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions) - Tips and resources on things we can do as individuals and collectively to deal with stress and support one another during these challenging times.
https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/health-safety/covid19_stressmanagement_5_accessible.pdf
- d) Mental Health and Psychosocial Considerations During COVID-19 Outbreak (World Health Organization) – These mental health considerations were developed by the WHO's Department of Mental Health and Substance Use as messages targeting different groups to support for mental and psychosocial well-being during COVID-19 outbreak.
<https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronaviruse/mental-health-considerations.pdf>
- e) Mental Health and COVID-19 (Conference Board of Canada) – Videos on different aspects of mental health, including coping with anxiety, job loss, and dealing with isolation.
[https://www.conferenceboard.ca/\(X\(1\)S\(1tloqepagnh0xli4w2hckucy\)\)/insights/covid-19?AspxAutoDetectCookieSupport=1](https://www.conferenceboard.ca/(X(1)S(1tloqepagnh0xli4w2hckucy))/insights/covid-19?AspxAutoDetectCookieSupport=1)
- f) Taking Care of Your Mental Health (COVID-19) (Public Health Agency of Canada) – Tips and resources for taking care of your mental health during the COVID-19 outbreak.
<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/mental-health.html>