



# VERITAS SCHOOL

4836 Straume Ave. Terrace, BC V8G 4G3

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

[www.veritascatholicsschool.ca](http://www.veritascatholicsschool.ca)

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## Communicable Disease Prevention Plan: COVID-19

Update: August 30, 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 a 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.
- d) A Plexiglass shield at the office counter provides further protection.

### 2) Drop Off and Pick Up

- a) Drop-Off: Students are dropped off at or arrive through the parking lot or back fields. When the entrance bell rings, students wait in the assigned spot for their grade 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 their dismissal bell through their assigned exit doors and wait with their teacher in their designated area at the parking lot.*
- 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) *Morning Safety: A staff member circulates through the front area of the school between the parking lot and the grade 3 door.*
- g) Parking Lot Safety: A staff member is on parking lot duty from 3:00 – 3:15 every day to assist with vehicle movement and safety of students and parents.

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

- a) A daily health check reduces the likelihood of a person with COVID-19 coming to school when they are infectious.



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- b) Parents / caregivers must assess their child daily for illness before sending them to school. If a student, staff, or other adult is sick, they must not enter the school.
- c) 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.
- d) Individuals can attend school if their symptoms are consistent with a previously diagnosed health condition (e.g. seasonal allergies) or symptoms have improved enough to where they feel well enough to return to regular activities and their fever has resolved without the use of fever-reducing medication.
- e) If tested for COVID-19 and positive, the individual will stay home as per instructions on the BCCDC website.
- f) COVID self-tests are available for families while supplies last.

#### 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) Masks

- a) The decision to wear a mask beyond when it is recommended by public health is a personal one, based on individual preference. Some students and staff may choose to continue to wear a non-medical mask or face covering through the day or for certain activities. The choice of staff and students to choose whether they practice additional personal prevention measures will be respected.

#### 6) 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;



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- 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 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.

## 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.

## 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.

## 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;
  - 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;



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- 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) When cleaning disinfecting bodily fluids, staff will
  - i) Wear disposable gloves;
  - ii) Wash hands before wearing and after removing gloves;
  - iii) Follow regular health and safety procedures and regularly used PPE for blood and bodily fluids.
- d) Other hygiene practice signage is posted (see resources from WorkSafe BC).

## 10) Cleaning / Disinfecting (On-Site Staff and Custodian)

- 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) 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](http://www.bccdc.ca/Health-Info-Site/Documents/CleaningDisinfecting_PublicSettings.pdf)).

## 11) General Ventilation and Air Circulation

- a) All classrooms and closed spaces have portable HEPA filter units. The filters in the units are cleaned as needed and replaced every 6 months, as per instructions.
- b) Investigate upgrading upstairs air system to include fine grain filters, such as MERV 13.

## 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) 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



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“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.

## 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](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)



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- f) [Taking Care of Your Mental Health](https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/mental-health.html) (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>