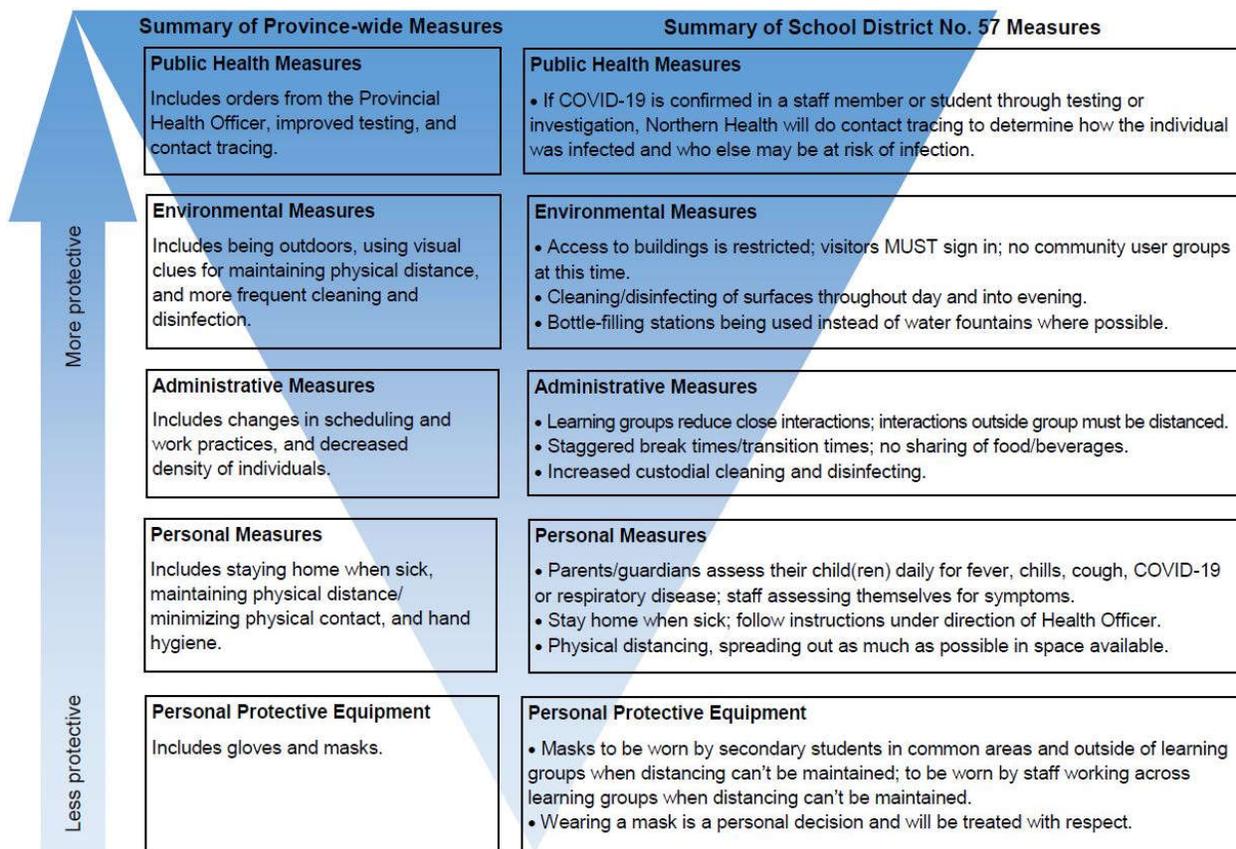


Although the Public Health Office has advised against mass gatherings of over 50 people, it does not apply to students and staff who are at the school engaged in educational activities, but it does apply to community events and user groups in the school. The only exception is for user groups with existing lease agreements (i.e., on-site childcare) who must follow the SD57 guidelines and any additional controls applicable to their setting.

There can be more than 50 students and staff in a school at any given time if they are not all in one area and are actively engaged in physical distancing to the greatest extent possible.

Refer to Appendix A.

The Hierarchy of Infection Prevention and Exposure Measures for Communicable Disease



PUBLIC HEALTH MEASURES

If there is a confirmed case of COVID-19, Northern Health will be involved in contract tracing, working with the school administrator about notifications within the school community, and advise the patient about how long to self-isolate. Public health staff determine when testing is required, whether to self-monitor or self-isolate, who is notified, and when to return to school.

Refer to Appendix B.

ENVIRONMENTAL MEASURES

Schools and the District Administration Building have restricted access. The only non site-based staff allowed to enter would be teacher candidates and TTOCs, public health nurses, meal program volunteers, in school mentors, and PAC – any person that benefits student learning and well-being.

Cleaning and disinfection happens twice every 24 hours with daytime custodians being added at all schools. This includes washrooms, high-touch surfaces, and shared items. Limit use of water fountains and use bottle filling stations/sinks instead. No need to limit the distribution of paper-based resources and textbooks. No additional cleaning of spaces used by different cohorts including gym, art, science lab, home economics, etc.

ADMINISTRATIVE MEASURES

For Stage 2, learning groups in elementary are up to 60 people, and secondary up to 120 people. This includes teacher and support staff. Learning groups are larger for older grades with the assumption that they have increased ability to minimize physical contact, practice hand hygiene, ensure physical distance where necessary, and articulate symptoms of illness.

Within a learning group there is minimized physical *contact*, but two-meter physical distance does not need to be maintained. Adults need to reduce the number of close, face-to-face interactions with each other, even when wearing a mask, including break times and meetings.

Itinerant staff can work with multiple learning groups but should maintain physical distance from students and other staff as much as possible. If distancing is not practical when performing their role, consider providing the service remotely, or putting a transparent barrier in place. If that is not possible, a mask should be worn and leave as much space as is available.

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

- PPE such as masks and gloves, is not needed for most staff beyond that used as part of routine practices for the hazards normally encountered in their regular course of work
- Non-medical masks or face coverings may be useful for secondary students and staff when physical distancing cannot be consistently practiced, and a person is interacting with people outside of their cohort.

Examples of when a non-medical mask should be worn include:

- secondary students on a school bus;
- secondary students in common areas when students are outside of their cohort and physical distancing cannot be practiced;
- staff working across cohorts when physical distancing cannot be practiced;
- staff in a break room where physical distancing cannot be practiced.

It is a personal decision to wear a mask and will always be treated with respect.

PPE required on buses – secondary students must wear a mask; no courtesy bussing at this time

- Bus drivers should wash their hands often and are encouraged to regularly use alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol during trips
- Bus drivers are required to wear a non-medical mask, face covering or shield (in which case a non- medical mask should be work in addition to the face shield) when they cannot maintain physical distance or behind a physical barrier in the course of their duties
- Parents and caregivers must assess their child daily for symptoms of common cold, influenza, COVID 19 or other infectious respiratory disease before sending them to school. **If a child has any symptoms, they must not take the bus or go to school**
- Students should clean their hands before they leave home to take the bus, when they leave school prior to taking the bus, and when they get home.
- Where possible, bus line up areas should be set up to prevent crowding, and allow for physical distancing of 2m (use tape markings etc.) where required
 - Schools should provide support for students who are not able to physically distance
- Have students sit in their own seat if space allows and prioritize seat sharing with a member of their household or learning group.

Unique situations when staff transport students (e.g., to/from DSAC meetings):

- In unique circumstances staff may transport students using the following guidelines:
 - Passengers must complete the Daily Self-Assessment
 - Staff and students must wear a mask
 - Only 2 students in the back- no riders in the front passenger seat
 - Staff and students must wash their hands before entering the vehicle and after leaving the vehicle
 - All hard surfaces must be wiped down before transport and after

PERSONAL MEASURES

Everyone must stay home if they have a fever or any of the other 6 symptoms (chills, cough or worsening of a chronic cough, shortness of breath, loss of sense of smell or taste, diarrhea, nausea/vomiting). Phone 8-1-1 and follow the instructions of public health or health care provider. If you have **one** of these Key Symptoms without a fever, self-isolate for 24 hours and if you feel better, return to school. If the person has regular cold/allergy symptoms (sore throat, runny nose, sneezing, headache, etc.) they can come to school. Refer to Appendix C. Pages 14-16 of the Restart Plan.

Managing illness – students and staff may still attend if a member of their household has cold, flu, or COVID-like symptoms, as long as that person is not showing symptoms. If a household member tests positive, public health will advise student/staff when they can return to school. Staff requirements including informing Principal and HR Wellness. School Administrator requirements including daily check-in for physical and mental wellness, continuity of learning, and ensuring they are not kept out of school longer than necessary.

Hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette suggestions.

OTHER

- Limit materials brought to school including backpack, water bottle, supplies, and no sharing items or food.
- Masks should be worn by STAFF when unable to maintain physical distancing when interacting with people outside of your learning group.

- Two classes from different learning groups can be in the same learning space or outside at the same time if a two-metre distance is able to be maintained between people from different learning groups.
- Gatherings no larger than the current learning group limits including the staff/visitors required to meet the event's purpose.
- In person inter-school events must not occur at this time.
- Extra-curricular activities can only occur if: 1) physical distance can be maintained between different learning groups and/or 2) reduced physical contact is practiced within learning group
- No Wednesday early dismissal for collaboration.

SUPPORTING STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES and IMMUNOCOMPROMISED SITUATIONS

Details on Page 24. Flexible learning options for students with disabilities or diverse abilities will be offered to ensure equitable access to education. Collaborative conversations with families, support informed decision-making, guidance on educational supports being provided.

- Parents/caregivers of children with complex medical conditions or underlying risk factors, or parents/caregivers who are immunocompromised themselves, are to consult with their medical health care provider to determine the level of risk regarding their child's return to in-class instruction.
- Parents /caregivers seeking an alternative to in-class instruction, and do not wish to register their child in a distributed learning program or homeschooling, will be required to obtain a doctor's note indicating the need for accommodations due to health-related risks.

MEALS PROGRAMS and FOOD SERVICE

Schools can continue to include food as part of learning and provide food services, including for sale.

- If food is prepared as part of learning and is consumed by the student(s) who prepared it, no additional measures beyond those articulated in this document and normal food safety practices need to be implemented (e.g. home economics and culinary arts).
- If food is prepared for meal programs, breakfast clubs and other food access initiatives, and is not regulated under the [Food Premises Regulation](#), no additional measures beyond those articulated in this document and normal food safety practices need to be implemented. Appendix D provides additional guidance that may be useful when offering school meal programs, breakfast clubs and other food access initiatives.
- **Schools should not allow homemade food items to be made available to other students at this time (e.g. birthday treats, bake sale items).**

[FOODSAFE](#) Level 1 covers important food safety and worker safety information including foodborne illness, receiving and storing food, preparing food, serving food, and cleaning and sanitizing. It is a helpful resource for those seeking education and training on food safety practices. Some schools offer food services that are regulated under the [Food Premises Regulation](#). These are typically cafeterias, though may include some meal programs.

- If food service is provided in schools that is regulated under the Food Premises Regulation, no additional measures beyond those articulated in this document and regular requirements as outlined in the regulation need to be implemented (e.g. a FOODSAFE trained staff member, a food safety plan, etc.).

For food contact surfaces, schools should ensure any sanitizers or disinfectants used are approved for use in a food service application and are appropriate for use against COVID-19. These may be different than the products noted in this document for general cleaning and disinfection.

Schools can continue to accept food donations to support learning and the delivery of meal programs, breakfast clubs and other food access initiatives.

Refer to Appendix D.