

Vancouver Island West School District 84
Pandemic Response Plan

Purpose

The District is committed to providing a safe and healthy workplace for all staff and students. A combination of measures will be used to minimize exposure to pandemic viruses. Work procedures will protect staff and students within the District. It is important that all staff follow the procedures outlined in this plan and provided to staff in order to prevent or reduce exposure to pandemic viruses.

Emergency Response Team (ERT)

- Superintendent of Schools and Secretary-Treasurer (S/ST)
- Director of Instruction (DI)
- Director of Instruction and Operations Supervisor (DIOS)
- Associate Director of Human Resources (HR)
- School Principals (P)

Pre-Pandemic Activities (Responsibilities)

1. <u>Planning and Coordination</u>	<u>Person(s) Responsible</u>
a. Responsibility for SD84 plan implementation, communication, and activation	S/ST
b. Update Emergency Program and Exposure Control Program to include a section on pandemics	HR
c. Advise staff of pandemic plan - Board Office, Hub and Maintenance Department - School Staff (P)	DIOS P
d. Plan for an <i>equipped</i> isolation room for staff and students that exhibit symptoms while at work/school	P
e. Educate and equip person(s) to care for ill students until parent arrives	P

2. <u>Continuity of Student Learning and Core Operations</u>	<u>Person(s) Responsible</u>
a. Consider impact of varying levels of student and staff absences and school closures	S/ST
b. Consider and develop alternative procedures to ensure continuity of education	S/ST DI/DIOS P
c. Develop cross training plans for essential services	HR
d. Develop a continuity of operations	S/ST HR DI/DIOS

3. <u>Infection Control Policies and Procedures</u>	Person(s) Responsible
a. Implement infection control practices and procedures that help limit the spread of infection	DIOS
b. Ensure that schools and facilities have an adequate supply of hand soap and paper towels	DIOS
c. Order additional cleaning supplies and ensure custodial staff are trained in pandemic cleaning procedures	DIOS
d. Advise staff and students that are sick with symptoms to remain at home	P
e. Educate children and staff on proper hand washing and cough/sneeze etiquette	P
f. Maintain a healthy work environment by posting tips on how to stop the spread of germs	P
g. Advise the Superintendent/Secretary Treasurer and public health when $\geq 10\%$ of school population over and above the normal level of absenteeism is away ill	P

4. <u>Communication Planning</u>	Person(s) Responsible
a. Develop and maintain contacts with other agencies	S/ST
b. Post relevant information on SD84 website on Pandemic Planning	S/ST
c. Establish method of communication with students and families to receive immediate information if child needs to be sent home or if school or facility is closing	P
d. Monthly topic at Health and Safety Committee meetings at worksites	P
e. Agenda topic for District OH&S Committee meetings	HR
f. Ensure that parents/guardians have provided up-to-date contact information to the school	P
g. Discuss Pandemic virus with staff including prevention, signs, symptoms and family preparedness at staff meetings	P
h. Media communications	S/ST

5. <u>Educate Staff / Student / Families</u>	Person(s) Responsible
a. Personal Planning articles, home hygiene, etc. in school newsletter	P

Pandemic Activities (Responsibilities)

1. <u>Planning and Coordination</u>	Person(s) Responsible
a. If school trips are planned, determine how children will be isolated and sent home should they exhibit symptoms	P
b. Closing of schools may be required	S/ST
c. School trips and school evening user groups may be cancelled	S/ST P
d. Schools may be used by officials for clinics, hospitals, daycare centres, etc.	S/ST

e. Depending on staffing or student shortages, classes may need to be combined	DI/DIOS P
f. Bus routes may need to be combined due to driver and/or student shortages	DIOS

2. <u>Continuity of Student Learning and Core Operations</u>	Person(s) Responsible
a. Evaluate capability of student learning continuity: adjust as needed	DIOS P
b. Reinforce cross training to ensure continuity of core operations i. Education (P) ii. Payroll (HR) iii. Custodial (DPO) iv. Communications (HR)	HR DI/DIOS P
c. Schools may be closed	S/ST
d. School trips may be cancelled	S/ST P
e. Plan for alternate delivery of instruction	DI P
f. Determine hardware / software requirements for alternate delivery	DI/DIOS P
g. Training for education staff in: - alternate delivery methodology (DI/DIOS) - technology for alternate delivery (DIOS)	DI DIOS
h. Assess family access requirements for alternate delivery	P
i. Develop procedures for lending of school resources to families for alternate delivery	DI/DIOS P

3. <u>Infection Control Policies and Procedures</u>	Person(s) Responsible
a. Continued use of infection control practices and procedures that help limit the spread of infection	DIOS P
b. Ensure that schools and facilities have an adequate supply of hand soap and paper towels	DIOS
c. Advise staff and students that exhibit symptoms to remain at home	HR P
d. Restriction of community, volunteer and visitors to schools and facilities	P
e. Rigorous cleaning of schools and contact surfaces	DIOS
f. Audit infection control practices	DIOS
g. Plan for children away on school trips to be isolated and/ or sent home if they become ill	P
h. Ongoing education for children and staff on proper hand washing and cough/sneeze etiquette	P
i. Advise the Superintendent/Secretary Treasurer and public health when ≥10% of school population over and above the normal level of absenteeism is away ill	P
j. Separation of ill students and staff until they can be sent home	P
k. Employ additional custodial staff as necessary	DIOS/HR

4. <u>Communication Planning</u>	Person(s) Responsible
a. Media communications	S/ST
b. Continue to work closely with outside agencies	S/ST
c. Maintain and evaluate SD84 website for information on Pandemic Planning	S/ST
d. Maintain method of communication with students and families to receive immediate information if child needs to be sent home or if school or facility is closing	P
e. Continue to provide the Board of Education, Managers and School Administrators with information on virus surveillance and preventative measures	S/ST
f. Remind staff, students, volunteers and families of SD84 website	P
g. If school is open, provide information in school newsletters	P

5. <u>Educate Staff/Student/Families</u>	Person(s) Responsible
a. If school is open, increase awareness by informing through bulletins etc., advise of School District website, communicate with DPAC	p

Post-Pandemic Activities Responsibilities

1. <u>Planning and Coordination</u>	Person(s) Responsible
a. Re-opening of schools	S/ST
b. Resumption of business activities	S/ST HR
c. Depending on staffing shortages, classes may need to be combined	P
d. Plan for bus driver shortages and combining routes	DIOS

2. <u>Continuity of Student Learning and Core Operations</u>	Person(s) Responsible
a. Evaluate capability of student learning continuity: adjust as needed. May take some time for schools to be re-opened	S/ST DIOS
b. Communications	S/ST
c. Resumption of school classes and activities	P

3. <u>Infection Control Policies and Procedures</u>	Person(s) Responsible
a. Continue with infection control practices and procedures that help limit the spread of infection	DIOS
b. Ensure that schools and facilities have an adequate supply of hand soap and paper towels	DIOS
c. Advise staff and students exhibiting symptoms to remain at home	P HR
d. Continue to audit infection control	DIOS

e. Ongoing education for children and staff on proper hand washing and cough/sneeze etiquette	P
f. Advise the Superintendent/Secretary Treasurer and public health when ≥10% of school population over and above the normal level of absenteeism is away ill	P
g. Separate ill students and staff	P

4. <u>Communication Planning</u>	Person(s) Responsible
a. Media communications	S/ST
b. Continue to work closely with outside agencies	S/ST
c. Maintain and evaluate SD84 website for information on Post-Pandemic Recovery Phase	S/ST
d. Maintain method of communication with students and families to receive immediate information if child needs to be sent home or if school or facility is closing	P
e. Prepare for Critical Incident Response (SD 84's "SCAP" – School Crisis Action Plan) if there have been deaths among students and staff	DI/DIOS P

5. <u>Educate Staff / Student / Families</u>	Person(s) Responsible
a. Direct staff, students and families to information on SD84 website	P
b. Use school newsletter to provide information to students and families	P
c. Keep staff informed	P

Separating Ill Students and Staff

1. Sick students and staff should always be required to stay home. Students and staff who exhibit symptoms at arrival or become ill during the day must be promptly separated from other students and staff and sent home.
2. Schools should update parent/guardian and emergency contact information as needed to ensure quick contact when a child becomes ill at school.
3. Recognizing that space is often in short supply, early planning on the location for a sick room is essential. This room should not be one commonly used for other purposes; for example, the lunchroom during non-meal times. It should not be a space through which others regularly pass. It is not necessary for this room to have a separate air supply (HVAC) system. Ill persons should be placed in well-ventilated areas where they can be easily observed and placed in areas where at least two metres of distance can be maintained between the ill person and others.
4. A limited number of staff should be designated to care for ill persons until they can be sent home. These caregivers should not be at increased risk of complications (for example, pregnant women or persons that have a chronic illness) and they should be familiar with infection control recommendations to prevent spread of the virus.
5. When possible and if the sick person can tolerate it, he or she should wear a surgical mask when near other persons.
6. Staff who act in this capacity are likely to come into close contact with students and staff with the virus. It is required that staff who provide care for persons with known, probable or suspected virus illness use appropriate personal protective equipment (mask, gloves).

Personal and Family Preparedness

What can you and your family do to minimize the chance of coming into contact with the agent that causes the pandemic virus?

1. Wash hands often. When soap and water are not available, use alcohol-based disposable hand wipes or gel sanitizers.
2. Cover nose and mouth with a tissue when sneezing or coughing or cough or sneeze into your sleeve. Wash hands after you cough or sneeze.
3. Avoid touching eyes, nose or mouth. A person can become ill by touching a contaminated surface and then touching their eyes, nose or mouth.
4. If you or a family member becomes sick with symptoms, stay at home, get plenty of rest and contact a health care provider as needed.
5. Practice other good health habits. Get plenty of sleep, be physically active, manage stress, drink plenty of fluids, eat nutritious foods and avoid smoking which may increase the risk of serious consequences if you do contract the virus.

What can you do to ensure your family is prepared?

1. Food - 2-week supply minimum
 - a. No refrigeration, preparation or cooking
 - b. Formula for infants or special nutritional needs
2. Pets
 - a. Food, medication, water
3. Water - 2-4 litres/person/day
 - a. Use clean plastic containers
 - b. No milk cartons or glass bottles
4. Medical
 - a. Have extra prescription and non-prescription drugs and supplies
 - b. Store health/cleaning supplies
5. Talk to your family about how they would be cared for if they get sick
6. Find out now about your child's school/day-care emergency policies.

Note: You can call HealthLink BC at 8-1-1, 24 hours/day, seven days/week to speak to a nurse if you have more questions or if you are feeling ill.

Hand Washing Education

Washing your hands properly consists of the following steps:

1. Remove jewellery and watches from fingers and wrists.
2. Wet hands under warm running water.
3. Apply soap and rub hands together for 10 seconds to produce lather.
4. Wash all surfaces thoroughly, including wrists, palms, backs of hands, between fingers and thumbs, and under fingernails, for 20 seconds.
5. Rinse hands with fingers pointing downward.
6. Dry hands with a clean or disposable towel.
7. Turn off the water with the same towel used to dry your hands. Do not turn off the taps with solely your hands as this will only re-contaminate them.
8. If single use, dispose of the towel in the nearest waste basket.

Sanitizing your hands with an alcohol-based sanitizer (≥60% alcohol) consists of the following:

1. Remove jewellery and watches from your fingers and wrists.
2. Apply an alcohol-based hand sanitizer to your hands.
3. Rub all surfaces thoroughly, including wrists, palms, backs of hands, between fingers.