

Kleos Recovery and Communicable Disease Plan

SEPTEMBER 7, 2021



KLEOS
OPEN LEARNING

Supporting the health and wellbeing of students, staff, and families continues to be a top priority for Kleos Open Learning. This Communicable Disease Plan is part of our commitment to promote the health and safety of staff and students by providing information that can be used to prevent the contraction and spread of communicable diseases, and to guide appropriate responses to any communicable disease outbreak.

A combination of preventative measures will be used to minimize employee, student, and visitor exposure to communicable diseases, including the most effective control measures available. Kleos will clearly communicate this plan to employees, students and visitors and encourage everyone to follow the procedures outlined in this plan.

Recovery Plan

As we transition to communicable disease prevention, Kleos will continue to focus on supporting the whole child, including efforts to identify and address pandemic impacts on literacy, numeracy, social-emotional development, and mental health. Kleos will actively be connecting with each learner and family to better understand their unique experiences and needs.

Learning:

- A range of approaches, strategies, and supports are already in place to assess the needs of each student at the beginning of the academic school year. In addition, Kleos will develop and implement recovery strategies, including services and supports to address any learning impacts.
- Process: The Kleos teacher acts as a key contact for families and learners. To begin the year, they will make intentional connections with families to build relationship and create space for each family to share their own unique experiences and needs. If the Kleos teacher identifies additional supports would be beneficial, they would follow standard Kleos processes to engage the School Based Team. Possible supports could include: LAT involvement, Resource Teacher involvement, professional services, assessments, etc.

Mental Health and Well-Being:

- Kleos believes strongly in a compassionate, relationship-first teaching practice. We are committed to supporting students and families to build resiliency, coping skills, and knowledge that contributes to overall wellbeing.
 - Some students may have experienced trauma during the pandemic. Educators should be aware of changes in student behaviour, including trauma related behaviours. To support educators and staff in identifying and responding to the needs of students who have experienced trauma, Kleos recommends the following resources:
 - [Erase website](#)
 - [Trauma informed practice resource](#)
 - Process: Kleos is working to introduce and implement capacity building for staff and mental health in the classroom (including access to and training for MindUp and OpenParachute)
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Communicable Disease Plan

The Kleos Communicable Disease Plan includes ongoing measures to reduce the risks of communicable disease and additional measures for when there is elevated risk.

This plan could change to respond to any additional measures required by a medical officer or provincial health officer to deal with communicable diseases in the workplace or region.

Definitions

Communicable Disease: an illness caused by an infectious agent or toxic product that can be transmitted to the workplace from one person to another.

Infection Prevention + Exposure Control Measures

- Robust illness policy
- Effective personal practices (hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette)
- Environmental measures (cleaning)

Vaccines

Vaccines are the most effective way to reduce the risk of COVID-19 in schools. Everyone eligible is strongly encouraged to be fully vaccinated (i.e., receive 2 doses) against COVID-19 to protect themselves and those around them – including those who are not eligible to be vaccinated. Both doses are needed to get the most effective protection against serious cases of COVID-19 and provide longer-lasting protection. The vaccines used in B.C. are highly effective against COVID-19, including among variants of concern. Vaccinated people aged 12 and older tend to have milder illness if they get infected and are also less likely spread COVID-19 than unvaccinated people 12 and older.

While children under 12 are not currently eligible to be vaccinated, they continue to be less likely to get and spread COVID-19 and have a low risk of serious outcomes if they do get COVID-19.

It is strongly recommended that adults interacting with children under 12 be fully vaccinated.

Kleos will share evidence-based information and promote opportunities to be vaccinated in partnership with public health.

While COVID-19 is present in our communities, there will continue to be COVID-19 exposures in schools and cases amongst students and staff. However, with people 12 and older highly immunized, exposures are unlikely to lead to further transmission. Public health considers vaccination status when investigating school exposures. Staff and students who are not at least 14 days past receiving their second dose (i.e., aren't fully immunized) and are identified as close contacts are more likely to be asked to self-isolate. Evidence-based immunization information and tools for B.C. residents is available from BCCDC and ImmunizeBC.

Physical Distancing and Space Arrangement

Although public health no longer recommends learning groups and physical distancing of 2 meters, there are a number of strategies that can be used to help create space between people and to support students and staff.

- Remind students and staff about respecting the personal space of others. Use visual supports, signage, prompts, video modelling, as necessary
- Use available space to spread people out
- Take students outdoors more often, where and when possible

Supporting students with Diverse Abilities

Supporting students with disabilities/diverse abilities may require staff providing support services in close proximity or in physical contact with students.

- When staff are working indoors with a student, staff are required to wear a non-medical mask.
- Students in grade 4-12 are also required to wear a non-medical mask when receiving services indoors and a barrier is not present.
- For students in grades K-3, the student or parent /caregiver should determine whether or not the student should be wearing PPE when receiving services in close proximity.

Cleaning and Disinfecting

Regular cleaning and disinfection are essential to prevent the transmission of COVID-19 from contaminated surfaces and objects.

Illness and Self-Assessment

A daily health check is required to reduce the likelihood of a person with COVID-19 receiving services while infectious.

- Parents and caregivers should assess their children for illness before sending them services.
- Staff and other adults should complete a daily health check prior to engaging in services with a student.
- If a student or staff are sick, they should not engage in services.
- If a student or Service Provider is sick, virtual services will be offered whenever possible.

Students and staff must stay home if they are required to self-isolate. No in-person services will be provided during this time.

Hand Washing

Rigorous hand-washing with plain soap and water is the most effective way to reduce the spread of infectious diseases. Follow these guidelines for effective hand hygiene:

- Practice diligent hand washing with plain soap and water for at least 20 seconds
- Facilitate regular opportunities for students and staff to practice hand hygiene
- Staff may assist younger students with handwashing

Respiratory Etiquette

Students and staff should:

- Cough and sneeze into their elbow, sleeve, or a tissue
- Throw away used tissues and immediately perform hand hygiene

PPE

Personal Protective Equipment can provide an extra layer of protection. Non-medical masks and face coverings have a role to play in preventing the spread of COVID-19. They provide protection for the wearer and those around them. Those wearing masks should still continue to respect others' personal space.

- K-12 staff are required to wear masks indoors.
- Grade 4-12 students are required to wear masks indoors.
- Grades K-3 students are encouraged to wear masks indoors, but are not required to do so. Their choice must be respected.

Exceptions:

- A person that cannot tolerate wearing a mask for health or behavioural issues
- A person who is unable to put on or remove a mask without the assistance of another person
- If a person is eating or drinking

Field trips

Field trips must align with relevant local, regional, and provincial public health recommendations and Orders.

Food Programs

Students are now able to prepare food as part of learning with a service provider.

- Continue to follow normal food safety measures and requirements.
- Implement the cleaning and disinfecting measures outlined above.

Travel Isolation

Students and families are encouraged to stay up-to-date on international travel quarantine guidance on the federal government's website:

<https://travel.gc.ca/travel-covid/travel-restrictions/covid-vaccinatedtravellers-entering-canada>

Kleos Headquarters + Visitors

Visitors to the Kleos Office are required to sign in and wear a mask.