



COMMUNICABLE DISEASE PLAN

January 2023

The Urban Academy Communicable Disease Plan has been created to help ensure not only the health and safety of students and their families, but also the ability to offer a high-quality educational environment that our parents/guardians have come to expect. This plan is regularly updated and provides information regarding keeping staff and students of Urban Academy safe and follows the [K to 12 guidelines](#) as set out by the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Health and BCCDC [K to 12 guidelines](#). We know that our families are familiar with many of these measures, and we are grateful for the ongoing support of the Urban Academy community.

Facility

Urban Academy is in a fortunate position to be able to reduce the student-to-student and student-to-staff interaction based on the design of our facility. All HVAC systems are operated and maintained as per standards and specifications and are working properly. HVAC filters are also changed regularly as per standards and specifications.

Urban Academy will continue the enhanced and thorough facility cleaning plan. We will ensure that the facility is cleaned and disinfected regularly, focusing on regular cleaning of washrooms, classrooms, shared spaces, and equipment during the day. Deep cleans will occur in the evenings to ensure the facility is prepared for the next day.

For staff and students, hand cleaning facilities are available and accessible throughout the school and are well maintained. Water fountain use is no longer limited.

PPE Expectations

As per the Provincial Health Order, masks are now optional.

Vaccines

Vaccines are not mandatory; however we strongly encourage all eligible members of our student, staff, and parent community to be fully vaccinated. This is the best way to help ensure the safety of everyone.

It is important to note that the personal health information of each of our students and staff members is private. Because the nature of this information is personal, we do not share the vaccination status of our staff or students. We can, however, say that we are very proud that the vast majority of our staff and eligible students have voluntarily shared with us their decision to get vaccinated. To reiterate, the school strongly encourages all members of our student, staff, and parent/guardian community to get vaccinated.



Field Study & Specialists

For music, drama, and physical education including clubs and extracurriculars similar to those classes, prevention practices specific to the activity are implemented. These include:

- Hand washing before and after using shared equipment and supplies

Field study and travel will occur in line with those permitted as per relevant local, regional, provincial, and federal public health recommendations and orders for local and/or international travel.

- All field study will be approved by Administration.
- All field study will follow transportation guidelines as set out by the Ministry of Education

UA Students will continue to be able to host and attend athletic games and competitions. Parent/guardian drivers may be used.

Health & Hygiene

Parents/guardians will be required to conduct a daily health check on their children to ensure they are in good health each day before arriving at school. If a child presents any symptom of illness, during the school day, parents/guardians will be contacted for pick up. Parents/guardians will be required to pick their child up as soon as possible and keep them at home until symptom free.

Hand washing will continue to be encouraged throughout the day. Sanitizing stations are available on each floor, and wipes and sanitizer will be available in all classrooms. Sinks are identified and designated per cohort, disinfecting soap and paper towels will be available and restocked as necessary.

Illness

Stay Home When Sick/What To Do When Sick: Staff and students are regularly reminded to stay home when they are sick.

Self-Management: Each person/family is responsible for conducting a daily health check before attending school everyday. A health check means a person regularly checking to ensure they (or their child) are not experiencing symptoms of illness (including but not limited to COVID-19 symptoms) that would limit their ability to participate fully in regular activities before coming to school to prevent spread of communicable diseases, such as COVID-19, within school settings.

Individuals with symptoms: Staff, children, or other persons in the school setting who have symptoms of being ill are to stay home until they are symptom free. If any staff, children, or other persons test positive for COVID-19 they should follow the guidance on the BCCDC website as to how long they should self-isolate. They can return to school when they no longer need to self-isolate as long as symptoms have improved, and they are well enough to participate in regular activities.

Absences: If a child will be away from school, parents/guardians are to email attendance@urbanacademy.ca and indicate the reason for absence.



If Illness Develops at School: Students who develop symptoms of illness at school are taken to the medical room and parents/guardians will be advised and required to pick up their child as soon as possible. If staff become ill, they will be relieved of their duties and coverage will be provided.

If Illness Develops Off School Property: Students who become ill on field studies or off campus will be separated from other students as much as possible. Parents/guardians will be advised and required to pick up their child as soon as possible from their trip/field study. If staff become ill, they will be relieved of their duties and coverage will be provided.

Returning to School After Illness: Health care provider notes (i.e., a doctor's note) are not required to confirm the health status of any individual, beyond those required to support medical accommodation as per usual practice.

Attendance & Record Keeping

Practices are in place to:

- Maintain daily attendance records for staff, students, and visitors
- Maintain accurate class and bus lists
- Maintain accurate whereabouts for all students in the event of an emergency

Visitors, TOC's, Itinerant Staff, Etc.

Processes are in place to ensure itinerant staff, teachers-on-call, and visitors are made aware of the school's communicable disease plan and their responsibility to follow measures at all times.

Community Activities

Urban Academy has an active and engaged parent/guardian community. Activities are planned and led by our Parent Auxiliary (PAX), Gala Committee, and supported by our Parent Volunteer Coordinator. School extracurricular and social gatherings and events (including those occurring within and between schools) are in line with those permitted as per relevant local, regional, provincial, and federal health recommendations and orders.

Staff Specific Spaces

Staff specific spaces at Urban Academy include all prep rooms, copy room, admin and staff offices, and the staff room. WorkSafe BC guidelines for workplaces are used to determine measures for staff-only spaces within a school and/or for non-school spaces operated by the school district/authority.

Staff-only gatherings (e.g. meetings, professional development days, etc.) occur in line with those permitted as per relevant local, regional, provincial, and federal public health recommendations and orders for workplace gatherings and events and any related WorkSafeBC guidance.