

COVID 19 Policy #4

Physical Distancing Policy

Purpose:

To reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19 by outlining physical distancing and hygiene procedures.

Application:

This policy applies to all students, participants, teachers, instructional assistants, staff, and directors.

Definitions:

1. **Cohort:** is identified as a classroom and within each classroom smaller groupings of students and staff members will be assigned. Cohorts and the smaller assigned groupings will remain together for the entire day.
4. **Personal Protective Equipment:** equipment worn to minimize exposure to hazards that cause serious workplace injuries and illnesses; i.e., gloves, masks, gowns.
5. **Cross contamination:** inadvertent transfer of bacteria or other contaminants from one surface, substance, etc., to another because of unsanitary handling procedures.
6. **Sanitizing:** Means to reduce the amount of microorganisms like bacteria, viruses, and fungi on a surface after it has been cleaned. The sanitizer used must reduce the number of bacteria to the level that is deemed safe by the public health standards.
7. **Disinfecting:** To disinfect means to kill specific viruses and pathogens on a surface using a disinfectant. These cleaning agents must kill 99.999% of infectious bacteria, viruses, and fungi within a 5-10 minute period. It is recommended to disinfect frequently touched surfaces.

Procedures within the Classroom:

1. **Implement Cohort Procedures**
 - a. To reduce the risk of viral transmission and cross contamination, the organization will utilize cohort and smaller assigned groupings that need to be communicated to staff in advance of student arrival. The members of a cohort and smaller assigned groupings must remain together during all activities throughout the entire day.
 - b. Mixing of cohorts or cohort spaces is not permitted without disinfecting the space between cohorts. Different cohorts cannot be within the same room or space at the same time.
 - c. Any and all persons who must enter the space of more than 1 cohort must wear appropriate personal protective equipment (a mask, gloves) and must change the PPE for each different cohort. Proper hygiene procedures must be completed when entering and exiting each cohort.
2. **Ensure adequate distance in spacing and seating**
 - a. Due to the organization's extensive entry protocol and hygiene procedures, the facilities will be considered "safe zones" as outlined by Alberta Education. **Therefore 2 metre physical distancing measures within the small groups within a cohort, will not be mandatory, however maintaining as much distancing as possible is encouraged between small groups within a cohort.**

- b. However, the performance of proper hand hygiene, and proper use of appropriate personal protective equipment are **mandatory** procedures.
 - c. Small groups within a cohort will be designated areas to enable physical distancing as much as possible through the use of physical blockades and markings
 - d. All seated surfaces (chairs, benches, stools, etc.) that come into contact with individuals must be thoroughly cleaned if visibly soiled and disinfected upon use.
3. **Omit or Adapt the Usage of Communal Spaces and Activities**
- a. Any activities that unnecessarily requires the crowding of students/participants or staff should be omitted from programming or adapted so that distancing measures can remain in place.

References: Current as of 06/08/2020 based on the most recent guidance from regulatory authorities.

Guideline for Proper Glove Use in Food Establishments

<https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/assets/wf/eph/wf-eh-guidelines-proper-glove-use.pdf>

Alberta Health Services COVID-19 Guidance for Preschools

<https://www.alberta.ca/assets/documents/covid-19-relaunch-guidance-preschools.pdf>

Guidance for Managers and Operators of Industrial Work Camps

<https://www.alberta.ca/assets/documents/covid-19-work-camps-fact-sheet.pdf>

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