

Healthy Schools

Public Health Nurses and Schools During a Pandemic

Information for School Principals and Teachers

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Public Health Nurses (PHNs) will need to prioritize the activities they will be able to support. Some priority activities include but are not limited to the following:

High Priority

Communicable Disease Follow-up

- Infectious disease follow-up triggered/initiated by greater than 10% absenteeism rates (i.e. respiratory or gastrointestinal illness) or by the Interior Health Communicable Disease Unit (i.e. meningitis, pertussis, measles, COVID-19).

Partnership with School Champions on COVID-19 Education and Support in Schools

- Educational support in schools for students and staff may include hand hygiene principles, respiratory etiquette, physical distancing, COVID-19 signs and symptoms recognition and self-monitoring, staying home when sick, etc.

Medium Priority

Immunizations

- Provincially funded immunization for all school aged children.

Staff Training and PHN Consultation

- General in person and/or virtual training sessions for school staff on topics such as anaphylaxis, glucagon administration, diabetes and seizures management.
- Consultation for students with unique health problems or medical alert conditions such as anaphylaxis, diabetes, or seizures.

Low Priority

- Providing information on health promotion and disease and injury prevention resources to school staff.
- Consultation and education on health topics such as head lice.
- Regular in-person visits to school to connect with staff and students, and offer student drop in-services for health questions/consultation. (i.e. School Wellness Clinics, Healthy Fridays, Drop in Wed, Youth Clinics).

To connect with the PHN for your school see the [School Health Nurses](#) list on the Interior Health public website.

Resources Available for School Staff

BC Centre for Disease Control Website

- Information about COVID-19 that can be included in newsletters or as links on school websites for families:
 - [If You are Sick](#)
 - [Information for Child care and Schools](#)
 - [COVID-19 Public Health Guidance for K-12 School Settings](#)

Interior Health Public Website

- Information that can be included in newsletters or as links on school websites for families:
 - [Head Lice Information](#)
 - [Developmental Stages in Sexual Health Teaching for Teachers and Parents](#)
 - [Opioid Overdose Information for Schools](#)
 - [Health Promotion Resources and Health Hints School Newsletter](#)
 - [Health Promoting Schools Newsletter](#) (monthly)
- Information on local community resources that offer services for youth.
Examples:
 - [Options for Sexual Health clinics](#)
 - Local [health unit services](#)
 - [Physician and Nurse Practitioner](#) offices
- [Sexual and Reproductive Health](#) services listed by community. Information and curriculum resources on the following topics are available through the Interior Health Public Website under the section [Teaching Toolkits](#):
 - Adoption and Foster Care
 - COVID-19
 - Hand Washing and Staying Healthy
 - Healthy Eating
 - Healthy Relationships
 - Positive Mental Health
 - Seizures
 - Sexual Health
 - Substance use
 - Tobacco Reduction
 - Vaccines and Immunology

Healthy Schools BC Resources

- [Healthy Schools BC](#)
- [Healthy Schools BC Newsletter \(monthly\)](#)
- [Healthy Schools BC Additional Assessment Tools](#)

Other Assessment Tools and Toolkits

- [Healthy Schools Assessment- "GOT HEALTH?"](#)
- [Joint Consortium for School Health](#)
- [Allergy Aware Canada - Anaphylaxis On-line Modules](#)