

## **FOR INFO**

**Provincial Communicable Disease Guidelines for K-12 Settings:** The Ministry of Education and Child Care has updated Provincial Communicable Disease Guidelines for K-12 Settings. As in previous years, the guidelines elaborate on BCCDC Public Health Communicable Disease Guidance and provide up-to-date information on managing the spread of communicable diseases. Future guideline updates will align with Public Health Guidance as needed. The guideline documents can be accessed on the [Safe and Healthy Schools](#) website.

Share with: **Superintendents and Principals/Vice-Principals**

## **FOR INFO, INDEPENDENT SCHOOL PRINCIPALS**

**Provincial Communicable Disease Guidelines for K-12 Settings:** The Ministry of Education and Child Care has updated Provincial Communicable Disease Guidelines for K-12 Settings. As in previous years, the guidelines elaborate on BCCDC Public Health Communicable Disease Guidance and provide up-to-date information on managing the spread of communicable diseases. Future guideline updates will align with Public Health Guidance as needed. The guideline documents can be accessed on the [Safe and Healthy Schools](#) website.

Share with: **Independent Principals & Teachers**

**From:** Erase ECC:EX(Erase@gov.bc.ca)  
**To:** Holly Keon (Holly.Keon@burnabyschools.ca)  
**Subject:** RE: 293987 Link  
**Sent:** 10/19/2023 20:06:47

Dear Holly Keon,

Thank you for your e-mail on September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023, to the Deputy Minister of Education and Child Care, Christina Zacharuk regarding COVID-19 safety in B.C. schools. We have been asked to respond on behalf of the Deputy Minister.

The Ministry of Education and Child Care continues to follow the direction of the Provincial Health Officer and [public health guidance from the BC Centre for Disease Control](#) in determining what communicable disease prevention measures are recommended for K-12 schools. The Provincial Health Officer continues to lead the response to the respiratory illness season and has the authority under the [Public Health Act](#) to issue provincial public health orders.

In September 2023, the Ministry released the [Communicable Disease Guidelines for K-12 Schools](#) to reduce the risk of transmission of communicable diseases (including COVID-19) in K-12 schools. The guidelines were developed in collaboration with the BC Center for Disease Control, Indigenous and education partners – including teachers, parents and school leaders – based on direction of the Provincial Health Officer. Boards of education, independent school authorities and schools use these guidelines in communicable disease prevention planning. The guidelines also support the latest ASHRAE Standards for advanced indoor air quality.

In the co-governance model of the B.C. K-12 education system, the Ministry of Education and Child Care is responsible for setting provincial regulations and policies, providing funding and monitoring student success. Local boards of education have authority to determine the delivery of education programs in their schools including decisions related to resource allocations, human resources, and specific student services. You may contact school districts to engage in further conversations about air filtration and ventilation in schools. We continue to encourage everyone eligible to get all recommended vaccines, including influenza and COVID-19 boosters, as getting vaccinated is the best way to protect against serious illness.

Thank you for writing.

Sincerely,  
Student Safety and Wellness Team

**erase** | EXPECT RESPECT &  
A SAFE EDUCATION

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**From:** Holly Keon <Holly.Keon@burnabyschools.ca>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 6, 2023 2:05 PM  
**To:** ECC DM ECC:EX <DM.Education@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** 293987 Link

**[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.**

Hello Deputy Minister Zacharuk,

Could you please advise when the Ministry of Education will publish their COVID-19 guidelines for K-12 settings? Also, could you please advise whether they will comply with the new ASHRAE Standard 241-2023 regulations? A government link was included in the BC CDC's letter to all BC staff and parents but the link provided does not work:

You may or may not be aware that BC wastewater indicates that we are at the beginning of a wave and there are a few new and very contagious variants in BC. Those same variants are causing a large uptick in hospitalizations and deaths in the United States, South Korea and Japan. The BC CDC has hidden the amount of deaths and hospitalizations that are occurring in BC for the past week so it is impossible to do a proper risk assessment for British Columbia. Tara Moriarty published the PHAC risk assessment and it states that COVID cases in BC are VERY HIGH.

As today is the first regular day of school for students across British Columbia, it is quite concerning that the Ministry has not provided Health and Safety guidance to K-12 schools. SARS CoV-2 is a RG 3 biohazard which means it is airborne and dangerous. Only Public Health Canada can determine the category of biohazards and every jurisdiction in Canada must comply with that determination. OHS regulations stipulate that employers must make ALL people safe in a workplace. School Districts and the Provincial government has a duty of care to ensure that students are safe in schools. If there is a RG3 biohazard in a school – it is the employer's responsibility to eradicate or minimize to a lesser extent, by law. The Supreme Court of Canada ruled that any agreement that a government enters in to must comply with all laws. Also, Public Health must comply with OHS laws as well. Not doing so can trigger the Westray law.

SARS CoV-2 can cause much long and short-term damage to anyone that is infected – despite whether they are vaccinated. Numerous peer reviewed studies show that becoming infected with COVID-19 causes micro-clots, cognitive, neurological, and vascular damage. It also causes many cardiac and stroke problems. Children are developing Alzheimer's and diabetes. COVID-19 shortens the lifespan of anyone that is infected and that risk increases every time a person is infected. The current variants spreading may be able to escape vaccines. Someone may not have any visible symptoms initially but that doesn't mean there isn't internal damage.

The Government of British Columbia has not provided any information or education about COVID risk to schools, parents, staff or students. They have not educated people about how the virus spreads through the air, nor have they educated people about the risk of long COVID. It is the government's OHS responsibility to do so.

I look forward to seeing a comprehensive response that educates workers, students and parents about risks and a plan to minimize risk and protect students and staff.

Thank you,  
Holly Keon

**Holly Keon (she/her)**

**Career Education Advisor**

Burnaby Central Secondary

6011 Deer Lake Parkway

Burnaby, BC V5G 0A9

604-296-6852

[Holly.Keon@burnabyschools.ca](mailto:Holly.Keon@burnabyschools.ca)

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*We live and work on unceded Indigenous land belonging to the Coast Salish peoples, particularly the territories of the x̱m̱θkw̱əy̱əm (Musqueam), Skwxw̱ú7mesh (Squamish), and Səlilw̱ətaʔ/Selilwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.*

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**From:** Erase ECC:EX(Erase@gov.bc.ca)  
**To:** Guravska, Olga ECC:EX (Olga.Guravska@gov.bc.ca)  
**Subject:** FW: The Law  
**Sent:** 10/19/2023 20:45:01

Hi Olga,

We have another correspondence that we can add to the 293987 open ticket.

Thanks!

Agnieszka

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**From:** Holly Keon <Holly.Keon@burnabyschools.ca>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 19, 2023 1:40 PM  
**To:** Erase ECC:EX <Erase@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** The Law

**[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.**

Thank you for your response.

First off, you provided links to guidance from the Education Ministry, WorkSafe BC and the BC CDC. Guidance is merely a suggestion -- it is NOT a law. The guidance that you provided does not follow what the laws stipulate for an RG3 biohazard in BC. I provided you with links to laws that your government is not following. You did not provide me with an answer as to why you are not following those laws.

In BC, OHS law (Reg 5.1.1) stipulates that it is Public Health Canada that has jurisdiction over the RG3 determination and not the BC CDC. Please help me understand why the Government is quoting the BC CDC guidance rather than PHAC and the law? In Canada, the rule of law still governs our constitutional monarchy. Suggestions and agreements are not laws. To be clear, because WorkSafe, the government, school districts and the BCTF are not following the laws as written, people are dying and being maimed through constant infection. This is due to your failure to protect and needs to stop. The Government of BC must act now in order to stop this. We are at a critical juncture.

Your education guidance committee was a ruse to mislead the public. It was stacked in favor of the employer. Laws are not something to be voted upon. They are pieces of legislation that were created by government and they are also supposed to be enforced by all government branches. Governments have a legal duty of care to citizens to ensure the government branches follow their own laws. Please provide me with evidence that you are doing this with regard to COVID-19.

#### **1. Statutory compliance**

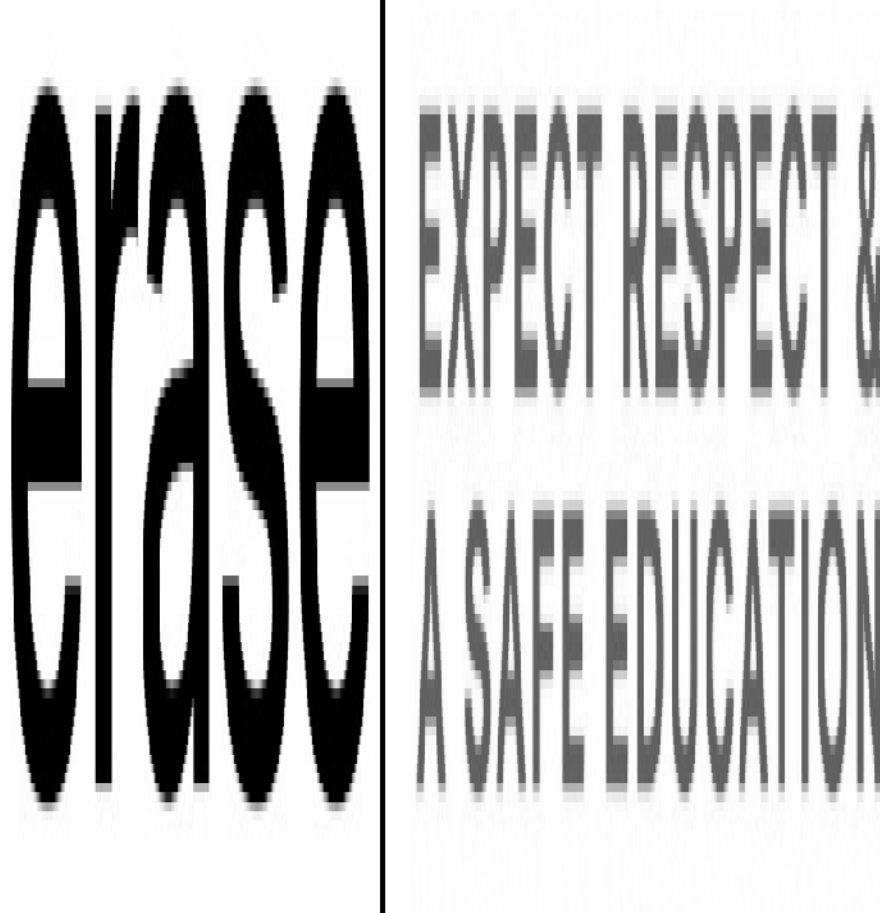
The parties note that the Workers Compensation Act and Regulations and the Occupational Health and Safety Regulations and the other statutes of the Province of BC pertaining to the work environment, must be complied with.

Why are our collective agreements being ignored by the government and unions?

I would like to point out that in the weeks since I wrote you, there has been a 58% spike in hospitalizations and deaths in BC: <https://vancouversun.com/news/local-news/covid-19-bc-hospitalizations-up-infections-deaths-spike#:~:text=and%20deaths%20spike-,COVID-19%3A%20B.C.%20hospitalizations%20up%2058%25%20in%20two%20weeks,the%20second%20week%20of%20August>

Seeing as PHAC and the CDC have designated COVID-19 as airborne, and hospitals are now requiring masks now, too — and what happens for one employment sector applies to other sectors. There is undue risk in schools. What is the BC NDP doing to protect Workers and students from this increased risk?

Also, there are as many teachers that have COVID-19 WorkSafe BC claims than registered nurses (1849 teachers had successful WorkSafe BC claims vs 1970 Registered nurses). That is evidence of undue risk. Why do nurses get masks and Teachers don't? Breathing is an aerosol generating procedure for an airborne virus. We all breathe, so why aren't we mitigating as such?



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**Sent:** Wednesday, September 6, 2023 2:05 PM

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<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/education/administration/kindergarten-to-grade-12/safe-caring-orderly/k-12-covid-19-health-safety-guidelines.pdf>

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