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GRACE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

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# BACK TO SCHOOL PLAN

## 2021-2022

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# **Back To School Plan 2021-2022**

## **Grace Christian School**

### **Overview**

Grace Christian School (GCS) is a vibrant, private/Christian co-educational school in Charlottetown (PEI), offering a dynamic 21<sup>st</sup>-century liberal arts curriculum from Junior Kindergarten through Grade 12. GCS currently serves approximately 200 students.

Grace Christian School is committed to working collaboratively with the Chief Public Health Office (CPHO) and the Department of Education to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission and to provide all students with the opportunity to return to school safely on September 8, 2020.

The wellness and safety of all GCS stakeholders will remain a priority throughout the school year. While the following operational plan provides the parameters necessary for Grace Christian School to begin the school year, changes to this plan may occur based on directives given by the Chief Public Health Officer of Prince Edward Island in response to elevated risk within our school community.

Grace Christian School will continue to develop high-capacity leaders, thinkers, and innovators. We will provide authentic and engaging learning environments that foster mastery of learning, meaningful relationships, and global service.

### **Section One: Public Health Measures for Students, Staff, Parents, and Visitors**

#### **Student and Staff Wellness**

Information will be provided to parents, students, and staff about signs of illness and the necessity to stay home when unwell. Due to serving a large international community, translators can be requested to clarify any information, if necessary. All information will be shared on our school social media pages and links to the PEI government website pertaining to COVID-19 will be shared throughout all communication platforms (email, My School Management, text messaging system, social media, website).

Symptoms of COVID-19 include:

- new or worsening cough
- shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- fever
- chills
- sore throat
- runny nose, sneezing, congestion
- headache
- muscle aches
- unusual fatigue
- acute loss of sense of smell or taste

Grace Christian School will be equipped with thermometers to take temperatures of anyone showing signs of illness. School leadership will have access to these thermometers from the main school office.

If a GCS staff member becomes ill with COVID-19 symptoms during the day:

- they will put on a non-medical mask immediately
- notify the Head of School or Elementary School Director that they will need to leave
- leave the school property as soon as possible
- the staff member will call 811 to arrange testing
- the classroom/workspace the staff member was in will be cleaned before students are returned to the room

If a GCS student becomes ill with COVID-19 symptoms during the day:

- they will put on a non-medical mask immediately
- be taken to a supervised designated location (School Armoury)
- family will be contacted to pick the child up
- parents are to call 811 or their Health Care provider to arrange testing
- the areas the student occupied will be immediately cleaned

## Vaccination

Being fully immunized is the best defense against COVID-19. Once fully vaccinated, most individuals will reduce their risk of serious illness, reduce the risk of transmission to others, provide optimal protection against the identified variants of concern.

It is strongly recommended that all eligible students, staff, volunteers, and school families be fully vaccinated.

## Pre-Screening of Students and Staff

Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses that cause respiratory illnesses. The virus is most commonly spread when an infected person coughs or sneezes, and the droplets land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or inhaled into the lungs. People may also catch the virus from touching contaminated surfaces, then touching the eyes, nose, or mouth without washing hands. When assessing for COVID-19 symptoms, it is important to think about the time of year and what is usual for the person.

Signage will also be posted at each school entry for staff, students, parents, and visitors to self-screen and to serve as a reminder to stay home if they are unwell.

Administration will monitor staff and students for illness or COVID-19 symptoms throughout the school day. Staff will frequently screen themselves and monitor their students for illness or COVID-19 symptoms.

Staff must sign a declaration at the beginning of the school year that indicates that they are coming to school free of COVID-19 symptoms and are not required to self-isolate.

Parents/guardians will report any symptoms of COVID-19 to the school and keep students with symptoms at home. Parents/guardians with students who have symptoms of COVID-19 are urged to call 811 for testing. Students will remain home until they are free of symptoms or, if required to test for COVID-19 under the direction of their healthcare provider, they will remain home until a negative test result is reported.

Any visitors to the school will be required to sign in each day, including a declaration indicating that they are entering the school visitor zone free of COVID-19 symptoms and are not required to self-isolate as per the current CPHO guidelines. Visitors and parents who are required to enter the school building to discuss school matters will be required to remain in the designated visitor zone until the main office staff provide further directions.

## Physical Distancing

Physical distancing (maintaining at least 2m/6ft from people outside of your own household) is extremely difficult to implement in a school and classroom setting without extensive classroom infrastructure and human resource investment, and/or alternative instructional models (for example, hybrid in-class and online instruction). As well, physical distancing is disruptive to regular social interaction that is central to childhood development.

In **low-risk scenarios** where there are minimal COVID-19 cases in the community, physical distancing is not required. However, preventing crowding in indoor common spaces (e.g., entrances, hallways, gymnasiums, buses) will be encouraged at GCS at all times.

In an **elevated COVID-19 risk situation**, physical distancing measures may be recommended in Grades 7-12, including, but not limited to, classroom desk configuration, locker access, and traffic patterns in hallways and in stairwells. Physical distancing may be recommended for staff areas.

## Personal Protective Equipment and Non-Medical Mask Use

Wearing a non-medical mask is an additional measure one can take to protect others around them. Mask requirements may be altered throughout the school year, based upon the COVID-19 risks within the community.

All students must have access to a personal non-medical mask daily. Masks are recommended for all staff and visitors that are not fully vaccinated, as well as for staff who work directly with students who are at a higher risk of severe illness and outcomes due to COVID-19 whenever physical distancing is not possible.

In **low-risk scenarios** where there are minimal COVID-19 cases in the community, masks are not required in school or on school buses. It is the choice of the student or staff to wear a mask should they choose to. Individuals who wish to wear a non-medical mask will be supported in doing so.

In an **elevated risk scenario**, as determined by the CPHO, masks will be recommended for staff, students, and visitors in all grades when transitioning through the school building. Masks will also be recommended for staff in K-12 classrooms when physical distancing cannot be maintained. Students in Grades 7-12, as well as all staff, will be encouraged to wear non-medical masks at all times when physical distance is not possible.

In response to the potential 4<sup>th</sup> wave of COVID-19, the CPHO recommends that some masking measures remain in place until October, with a further assessment at that time. These measures include the following:

- Masks are recommended for staff, students, and visitors in all grades when transitioning throughout the school building.
- Masks are recommended for staff in K-12 classrooms when physical distancing cannot be maintained.
- Masks are recommended for all staff and students while riding a bus.

Anyone wearing a non-medical mask must follow proper mask-wearing procedures:

<https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/information/health-and-wellness/wearing-non-medical-masks-community>.

## Hand Washing/Sanitizer Stations

Practicing good hygiene is an essential part of preventing the spread of COVID-19 and all illnesses. The following precautions will be taken by staff and students:

- frequent hand washing for at least 20 seconds
- if hands are visibly soiled, hand washing requires soap and water
- cough/sneeze into your elbow or tissue and throw away
- avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with your hands
- use alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available

Hand sanitizer will be available at the following locations:

- All classrooms
- Hallways/water-filling stations
- Entrances/exits
- Main office
- Visitor zone/school atrium
- Other areas as needed (gymnasium, administration offices, staff room, etc.)

\* Existing sinks within the school will remain as designated handwashing stations.

\* Hand sanitizer will be used only when hand washing is not available.

\* Hand washing will remain the preferred means of hand hygiene. Teachers will arrange for regular hand-washing and sanitizing breaks throughout the school day. These will be staggered and monitored.

## Policy for Exclusion of Students, Parents and Visitors: Self-Isolation Illness/Exclusion Policy

Any individual who enters Grace Christian School (e.g., staff, students, parents, visitors) will be asked to self-monitor for symptoms of illness. Individuals who are experiencing any symptoms will be required to return home immediately or to remain at home. In addition, individuals who are concerned about possible COVID-19 exposure must report this to the Head of School or Elementary School Director and follow the direction of the CPHO. For individuals who display symptoms, please call 811 to arrange testing and remain home until results are confirmed. If the test results are negative for COVID-19, but the staff/student/parent/visitor remains ill and/or symptomatic, they should remain at home until symptoms are no longer present.

## Protocols for COVID-19 Testing and Self-Isolation

Public Health will continue to manage cases of COVID-19 through isolation and contact tracing in the event there is a positive case associated with Grace Christian School.



## Contact Tracing and Attendance

In order to facilitate contact tracing in the event of a staff/student/parent/visitor testing positive for COVID-19, the attendance records and sign-in logs will be used to track those who entered the building each day.

Parents are responsible to notify the school of the reason for their child's absence from school. Follow up, and documentation of this follow up, will be required if a student is absent for more than five consecutive days.

Any parents/visitors who enter the building will be required to complete the visitor log in the school office upon entry. The information gathered may be used for contact tracing if necessary.

## Positive Cases

In the event of a positive case of COVID-19 among a student or staff, GCS will immediately provide all contact tracing information to the CPHO. The CPHO will be responsible for all contact tracing measures and schools will take direction from the CPHO.

An outbreak in a school is defined as two or more lab confirmed COVID-19 cases in students, students, and/or visitors in a school with an epidemiological link, within a 14-day period, where at least one person could have reasonably acquired their infection in the school. Two or more cases associated with a school would be considered a COVID-19 cluster and may lead to additional public health measures being recommended for all staff and students.

## Cohorts

Cohorts are established to better organize our students into smaller sub-groups that will facilitate easier contact tracing, as well as to mitigate unnecessary cross-contamination throughout the overall student body should a positive case of COVID-19 be identified.

In **low-risk scenarios**, where there are minimal COVID-19 cases within the community, the cohorting of students is not necessary.

In **elevated risk scenarios**, as determined by the CPHO, students and staff will be assigned to the following cohorts:

1. Elementary Cohort (Grade K - 6)
2. High School Cohort (Grade 7 - 12)

Within a physical school zone, students will be assigned washrooms, water bottle filling stations, lockers/hooks/cubbies, entrances/exits, sections of the playground, etc., and will use these designated spaces as much as possible.

When it is not possible for a staff person or a student to remain within a cohort the following measures will be practiced:

- Proper handwashing upon leaving one cohort and before entering another
- Maintain a record of which cohorts they visited each day (ex: class schedule)
- Wear a non-medical mask or personal protective equipment when physical distancing cannot occur.

## Staggering of Transitions/Movement In, Out, and Within Buildings

The arrival and departure times for GCS staff and students will be staggered and various cohorts will enter and exit the school building using designated doors. This is standard protocol. **If cohorting is recommended in response to an elevated risk, the following measures will be established:**

### Elementary:

The elementary school day will begin at 8:45am. Parents are asked to stay inside their vehicle and to drop off their child in the drive-thru drop off zone only. Drop off for elementary students will begin at 8:35am, with students entering their designated doors. Staff will be available to support students in their routines and assist them into the school building.

Kindergarten students will enter and exit through the side Flex Room entrance located in the elementary wing of GCS, while elementary students in Grades 1 - 3 will enter and exit using the main entrance. The designated entrance and exit for Grades 4 - 6 is located at the far end of the elementary wing. Students will promptly place their backpack in their assigned location before entering their classroom. In **elevated risk scenarios**, as an additional measure to minimize the risk of transmission, elementary students will be encouraged to wear a non-medical mask when entering and exiting for the school day.

Throughout the school day, transitions of classes will be thoroughly scheduled to ensure that multiple classes are not occupying the same spaces as much as possible. When cohorts must mix during transitions, it will be recommended that elementary students wear masks. All staff will be encouraged to wear their non-medical mask during transitions.

The elementary school day concludes at 2:45pm. Parents are asked to pick up their child promptly, once again using the drive-thru drop off/pick up zone.

### Junior High & Senior High:

Our junior and senior high school day begins at 9:00am. Students are asked to arrive beginning at 8:50am. They will enter through the main school entrance, collect their belongings for morning classes from their locker, then proceed directly to their homeroom. The day will conclude at 3:00pm with students exiting the school building from various exits. In **elevated risk scenarios**, as an additional measure to minimize the risk of transmission, junior and senior high school students may be encouraged to wear a non-medical mask when entering and exiting the building.

Please note that unless any parent needs to go into the school office or has a scheduled appointment, they must remain inside their vehicles. Parents with students in both the elementary and high school cohorts may drop off their children during the elementary drop off time, however they are required to use their designated entrances and to proceed directly to their classrooms.

#### Parents and Visitors:

All non-staff and non-student personnel will be required to enter and exit the school via the main entrance. They must remain in this visitor zone until given further instructions from the main office staff or individual with whom they have a scheduled appointment.

When GCS students and staff transition between classrooms, minimal contact between cohorts will occur. Staff will monitor transitions to support reasonable physical distancing among students. Intentional scheduling of classes and designated classrooms will reduce the use of multiple classroom areas between cohorts.

## Section Two: Public Health Measures for Facilities

### Custodian/Cleaner - Enhanced Cleaning and Disinfection of Shared Areas and Surfaces

Products used for enhanced cleaning purposes will include LaLema Twist and Mixx Oranet. LaLema Twist and Mixx Aliquat (200 ppm) will be used on all food prep and eating surfaces for disinfecting purposes, and LaLema Twist and Mixx Hyperquat (400 ppm) on all other surfaces.

Cleaning products will remove visible soil and/or dirt from surfaces, while disinfecting products are used to destroy bacteria and viruses. The cleaning process will be completed prior to the disinfection process.

### Cleaning of Common Areas

All frequently touched surfaces within the commonly used areas of the school will be cleaned and disinfected frequently throughout the day by custodial and support staff. This includes door handles, handrails, light switches, bathrooms, photocopiers, etc.

### Cleaning of Classrooms

All classrooms being used will be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected at the end of each school day.

Every classroom will have access to materials for students to clean/disinfect their desk/table space at different intervals throughout the day. Students will be instructed on how to do this appropriately.

## Classroom Physical Configuration

In response to an **elevated risk scenario**, each classroom throughout Grace Christian School will be arranged to maximize the use of space and to promote physical distancing when possible. This will include rearranging desks and tables to increase the space between students, reducing the number of students within group settings, and the use of live-edge surfaces around the perimeter of some classrooms. When small group instruction is necessary, staff will be encouraged to wear their personal, non-medical masks. Students in grades 7 – 12 may also be encouraged to wear non-medical masks during collaborative learning when physical distancing cannot be maintained.

## Furniture

GCS will ensure only necessary materials and furniture are located within classrooms. To maximize physical learning space, all unnecessary items and clutter will be removed. This will provide additional space for physical distancing in response to an **elevated risk scenario** and ensure ease of proper cleaning protocols.

## Classroom Technology

Each individual elementary student will be assigned a Chromebook which will remain inside their classroom. Students will be instructed on how to thoroughly clean and disinfect their Chromebook.

All students in Grade 7 - 12 will be required to bring their own personal laptop, iPad, and/or Chromebook to school each day. These devices will not be shared between students. Students are encouraged to clean and disinfect their devices daily.

School-owned digital devices (laptops, Chromebooks, tablets etc.) are to be disinfected after a student uses the device and at the end of the school day.

## Water Fountains/Water Filling Stations

Water fountains will remain closed; however, water filling stations will be open, and students will be strongly encouraged to bring a water bottle from home. Increased cleaning will occur at water filling stations throughout the school day.

## Signage

Main entrance signage will be posted outlining common messaging, as well as being visible throughout the school building. Such signs include the symptoms of COVID-19, self-screening questions, proper hand-washing procedures, and important school protocols. Other signage will identify cohort zones, the visitor zone, traffic patterns, and physical distancing markers in the event these need to be referred to in response to an **elevated risk scenario**.

## Section Three: Programming, Extra-curricular, and Co-curricular Activities

All GCS students will be returning to school in September 2021 and will have the opportunity to participate in all content areas. The public health measures shared in this document will allow for reduced risk of transmission within the classrooms and across all programming. Specific programs and activities will practice more specific guidelines as indicated below.

### Physical Education

Physical Education will be scheduled as per usual for all GCS students; however, minimal use of shared equipment will help reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19. When possible, physical education classes will be held outdoors. When necessary, staggered times for dismissal will allow for minimal interactions between students across different cohorts. A sanitation station will be set up outside the gym area. Students should hand wash/sanitize before they enter the gym area and whenever they leave.

The Physical Education and Health Association of Canada documentation will be referred to for guiding principles related to Physical Education (PE) during COVID-19.

### Music

Music will continue to be taught in the music room or, when available, inside the chapel area to allow for additional space. Minimal instruments will be shared. Any equipment that is shared will be cleaned/sanitized between classes. Instrumental programs will operate under the same restrictions. When possible, smaller ensembles will be encouraged over large performing groups. Singing will follow the current directives of the CPHO.

### Library

Library classes will continue by following the updated PEI Provincial Library guidelines [https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/sites/default/files/publications/pls-policy\\_manual.pdf](https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/sites/default/files/publications/pls-policy_manual.pdf).

## Athletics Program & School Intramurals

All athletic programs at GCS will continue by following the updated guidelines set out by PEISAA.

## Student Committees

Activities developed and organized by Student Council will be delivered within cohorts and virtual challenges could be strongly encouraged in response to an **elevated risk scenario**.

## After/During School Field Trips

Off campus activities involving student travel will be dependent upon the CPHO guidelines at the time. Considerations for student travel on-Island will consider the benefit of the outcome as compared to the risk associated with participation. Should it be determined that such trips will proceed, all guidelines associated with transportation will be followed. (See Section Seven)

## Organized and Multiple Gatherings Within a School

Planned events that typically take place at the school (e.g. Meet the Teacher, School Concerts, etc.) will follow the current CPHO Guidelines for large organized and multiple gatherings at that given time. Some school events may be delivered virtually to minimize the risk of transmission.

## School-Based Fundraising

Throughout the school year, the Advancement Department will work collaboratively with the CPHO to ensure that all events and fund-raising activities follow current community public health directives.

## Section Four: Student Breaks

### Duty and Supervision

Staff will supervise students within their own cohort, when possible, in response to an **elevated risk scenario**.

### Playgrounds

Dismissal for outside recess will be done by individual teachers on a staggered, scheduled basis. Designated doorways will be used for each cohort when entering and exiting the building. The end of recess will also be done on a staggered, schedule basis.

Grace Christian School will identify and assign multiple separate play areas to maintain low student-playground ratios during each outside recess time. Classes will remain in their designated play area with their classmates.

Children and staff are required to wash/sanitize their hands before and after the outdoor play time.

## Lunch

All students will wash their hands or sanitize prior to eating. Students at the elementary level will remain in their classrooms for lunch, while students in junior and senior high will remain inside their homeroom for lunch. Staggered dismissals will reduce crowding at lockers to acquire their lunches and designated outdoor space will be provided for specified cohorts in Grades 7 – 12 in response to an **elevated risk scenario**.

Any vendors delivering food will drop off food in the visitor zone. Food orders will be collected in advance and delivered to the individual classrooms for students that eat inside their individual classrooms.

Microwaves will be permitted usage and must be cleaned daily by teachers.

## Washrooms

When necessary due to an **elevated risk scenario**, GCS will assign cohorts to separate bathrooms. If a student needs to use the washroom and the maximum occupancy of that washroom has been reached the student must wait outside the washroom. No more than 2 individuals will be permitted to enter the washroom at a given time. Students in grades 7 – 12, as well as all staff, may be encouraged to wear a mask when in the hallways and washroom.

Signs will be posted for handwashing in all washrooms. Students will return to class immediately following each washroom break. Teachers will only allow two student per class to leave at a time to use the washroom.

There will be increased cleaning and disinfecting done in the washrooms by custodial and support staff.

## Section Five: School Supplies and Student Belongings

### Shared Materials (individually shared, classroom shared)

The sharing of materials will be kept to a minimum. In the event that materials must be shared by many in a classroom, effort will be made to disinfect the shared materials prior to use by the next group. Students will be required to wash/sanitize their hands following each activity.

Kindergarten students who often rely on play-based learning materials that are shared between various students will follow the same measures; however, transitions will be supervised and play areas assigned.

### Lockers/Storage Sites

When possible, student personal belongings will be stored inside classrooms or transported between classrooms from student lockers. In response to an **elevated risk scenario**, students in grades 7 – 12 will be encouraged to wear a non-medical mask while at their lockers.

#### Elementary

Access to storage hooks will be supervised. Students will remain within their cohorts (if necessary) when accessing these sites. Proper hand hygiene will be practiced.

#### Junior High/High School

Banks of lockers will be assigned to the various grades. Proper hand hygiene will be emphasized and access to lockers will be limited. Contact points for lockers and cubbies will be cleaned and disinfected throughout the day.

## Section Six: Transportation

Should travel be required to support athletic programming throughout the school year, parents will be encouraged to drive their child to the event. If necessary, GCS will use their school bus to transport students and coaches (less than 30 individuals) and physical distancing will be practiced. All individuals travelling may be encouraged to wear a non-medical mask during travel if physical distancing is not possible. This includes the driver. Throughout travel, staff will monitor for any symptoms of illness.



## Section Seven: Student Services

### Student Transfer Requests

Student transfer requests will continue to be monitored on an individual basis and follow all current guidelines set by the CPHO.

### International Registrations

International registrations will continue to be monitored on an individual basis and follow all current guidelines set by the CPHO.

### Educational Assistants (EA)

The sharing of EAs is common practice in schools. This will still be necessary in order to meet all students' needs. Schools should limit the number of cohorts that EAs work in during the day when working under an **elevated risk scenario**. Proper handwashing practices will be used when transitioning from room to room or student to student.

## Section Eight: Summary

The wellness and safety of all GCS stakeholders will remain a priority throughout the school year. To reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19, Grace Christian School will continue to follow the directives of our Chief Public Health Officer.

Minimizing COVID-19 transmission in the community is key to maintaining in-school learning, and in-person learning is vital to student learning and social development. Some on-going public health measures are recommended for school throughout the 2021-2022 school year, while other enhanced measures will depend on the level of risk in the community.

With the support of the Chief Public Health Office and the Department of Education, we look forward to safely welcoming all students back to school full time in September.

# Appendix 1: Summary of Public Health Guidelines

The following chart provides a general overview of the public health guidelines based on low and elevated COVID-19 risks in our school community.

	Low Risk (On-going Public Health Measures)	Elevated Risk (Enhanced Public Health Measures)
<b>Vaccination</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Vaccination rates for those eligible are expected to be 80% or higher by September.</li> <li>- When a vaccine is approved for students under the age of 12, everyone who is able will be encouraged to get fully vaccinated.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Continue following guidance for ongoing measures.</li> </ul>
<b>Screening &amp; Management of Symptoms</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Daily screening for COVID-19 symptoms is recommended for all staff, students, and visitors.</li> <li>- If experiencing symptoms, stay home and refer to the most current testing guidance of CHPO.</li> <li>- Staff, students, or visitors will be sent home if symptoms arise during the school day.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Continue following guidance for ongoing measures.</li> </ul>
<b>Hand Hygiene</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Frequent hand washing or using hand sanitizer is encouraged throughout the day.</li> <li>- Hand sanitizing stations will be present in each classroom and throughout the school building.</li> <li>- Respiratory etiquette should be taught using age-appropriate interventions.</li> <li>- Signage on personal hygiene will be posted.</li> <li>-</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Continue following guidance for ongoing measures.</li> </ul>
<b>Cleaning &amp; Disinfection</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Regular cleaning and disinfection will continue, with additional focus on frequently touched surfaces, objects, and shared supplies/equipment.</li> <li>-</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The frequency of cleaning and disinfection will be increased, particularly between cohorts if they are required.</li> </ul>
<b>Ventilation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ventilation systems will be maintained to appropriate standards.</li> <li>- It is recommended to open windows when possible and when weather permits.</li> <li>-</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Continue following guidance for ongoing measures.</li> </ul>

	Low Risk (On-going Public Health Measures)	Elevated Risk (Enhanced Public Health Measures)
<b>Masking</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Masks are strongly recommended for staff, students, and visitors who are not fully vaccinated.</li> <li>- Masks are recommended for staff who work with students who are at a higher risk of severe illness and outcomes of COVID-19 whenever physical distancing cannot be maintained.</li> <li>- Masks are not required for students travelling by bus for school trips/athletics.</li> <li>- It is the choice of the student, staff, or visitor to wear a non-medical mask.</li> <li>- Anyone who chooses to wear a non-medical mask will be supported in doing so.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Masks are recommended for staff, students, and visitors in all grades when transitioning through the school building.</li> <li>- Masks are recommended for staff who work with students who are at a higher risk of severe illness and outcomes of COVID-19 whenever physical distancing cannot be maintained.</li> <li>- Masks are recommended for staff in grades K to 6 classrooms when physical distancing cannot be maintained.</li> <li>- Masks are recommended to staff, students, and visitors at all times in Grades 7 to 12 when physical distance cannot be maintained.</li> <li>- Masks are recommended for students travelling by bus.</li> </ul>
	<p>The Chief Public Health Office requests that some mask measures remain in place as a short-term measure, with on-going further assessments. These measures include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Masks are required for staff, students, and visitors in all grades when transitioning through the school building.</li> <li>- Masks are required for staff in Grades K to 6 when physical distancing is not possible.</li> </ul>	
<b>Cohorting</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cohorting is not required.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cohorting may be recommended.</li> <li>- Cohorts include Elementary (Grades K to 6) and High School (Grades 7-12).</li> <li>- Visitors should be limited to essential activities that support learning.</li> </ul>
<b>Physical Distancing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Physical distancing is not required.</li> <li>- Prevention of crowding in indoor common areas is encouraged.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Physical distancing is encouraged for students in Grade 7 to 12.</li> <li>- Physical distancing may be recommended for staff areas.</li> <li>- Physical distancing may be encouraged between cohorts.</li> </ul>
<b>Gatherings &amp; Special Events</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Consideration should be given to hosting large in-school assemblies and activities for students in Grades K to 6.</li> <li>- School gatherings and school athletic programs will follow current CPHO measures regarding gathering limits.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Continue following guidance for ongoing measures.</li> </ul>
<b>Operational Plans</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Detailed operational plans for low and elevated risks are recommended for all Island schools.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Activation of the operational plan for elevated risk scenarios will be applied.</li> </ul>

	Low Risk (On-going Public Health Measures)	Elevated Risk (Enhanced Public Health Measures)
<b>Cases, Contact Tracing, &amp; Outbreak Management</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Public health will continue to manage cases of COVID-19 through isolation and contact tracing in the event there is a positive case associated with GCS.</li> <li>- Accurate attendance records and class lists will assist with contact tracing if required.</li> <li>- All visitors must sign-in to the school office.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Continue following guidance for ongoing measures.</li> </ul>