

DCMS COMMUNICABLE DISEASE PLAN

Ver 1.0 September 01, 2022

As Covid-19 vaccinations have become widely available to British Columbians, the overall risk of Covid-19 transmission and serious consequences has diminished. Despite this the virus will still circulate like other communicable diseases.

A communicable disease is an illness caused by an infectious agent or its toxic product that can be transmitted in a workplace from one person to another. Examples of communicable disease that may circulate include Covid-19, its variants, norovirus, and seasonal influenza.

As directed by BC's Public Health Authorities and WorkSafe BC, our Covid-19 Safety Plan is now replaced by a Communicable Disease Plan (CDP), and since risk of infection of a communicable disease continues, some policies and protocols must remain in place to mitigate the risk for instructors, staff and volunteers who utilize the school building. The level of risk may increase from time to time or on a seasonal basis which may require possible adjustment to the policies and protocols in the CDP.

1. The Risk

Our goal is to continue to reduce the risk of transmission of a communicable disease for anyone entering the school building. Therefore, guidelines provided by BCCDC as well as local health authorities including WorkSafe BC will be monitored for purposes of assessing any changes in the risk of transmission.

- 2. Policies and Protocols
- Anyone feeling ill for any reason should not enter the school.
- Hand hygiene will be important and washing or sanitizing the hands upon entering and leaving the building will be required.
- Daily cleaning of high touch areas will be done prior to lesson (doorknobs etc.), and a weekly deep clean of the facilities will be continued.
- Keys and high traffic surfaces on shared musical instrument keys (pianos and keyboards) will be sanitized before each student.
- Building ventilation will be maintained and kept functioning properly to ensure the essential exchange of air in the lesson studios.
- Masks generally will be optional except in cases where certain instructors or students may wish to wear masks while in the building as a personal preference. The school has a limited supply of masks, so students and instructors should provide their own.



• It is understood that instructors may require their in-person students to be vaccinated, and certain students may require their instructor to be vaccinated as well. These are individual preferences.

3. Communication of policies and protocols

A copy of the CDP will be posted on the DCMS website, as well as on the front door of the building and in each studio to ensure everyone understands the measures in place in the building.

All instructors, staff and students should familiarize themselves with the policies and protocols and if more information is required or if there are any questions about the protocols, these can be addressed to the school administrator.

Should the policies or protocols of the Communicable Disease Plan raise any issues of privacy or confidentiality, please address these with the Music Director and/or the school Administrator.

4. <u>Updates and Monitoring the Plan</u>

The CDP will be continuously evaluated and updated as necessary to reflect changing risk levels.

The Covid Committee has been guiding the risk evaluation and updates to the Covid-19 Safety Plan since the initial risk of Covid-19 was introduced in the province in 2020. The Covid Committee will be renamed and replaced by The Communicable Disease Committee for purposes of establishing guidelines, policies and protocols going forward.

Jim Matson Communicable Disease Committee DCMS Board of Directors