

Communicable diseases falling within the scope of this Plan are those typically caused by bacteria, viruses, fungi, or parasites and normally spread through direct or indirect human contact or through the consumption of contaminated food/water. Examples of communicable diseases include but are not limited to:

- Coronavirus (all variants)
- Hepatitis A
- Norovirus
- Influenza
- Measles
- Meningococcal Meningitis
- Mumps
- Rubella
- Tuberculosis

Preventing communicable disease involves taking ongoing measures to reduce the risk of communicable disease transmission in the workplace. Vaccines, antibiotics, antivirals, innate immunity, and/or acquired immunity can provide some protection against certain communicable diseases. Even with these layers of protection in place, it is important to implement additional measures to limit the spread of a communicable disease before it has the potential to cause serious illness/disease:

- Wash your hands or use hand sanitizer frequently.
- Use proper cough & sneeze etiquette.
- Routinely clean and disinfect surfaces.
- Practice a healthy lifestyle: exercise, eat a balanced diet, and get sufficient sleep.
- Handle and prepare food safely: keep foods at a correct temperature, cook foods (especially meat) thoroughly, wash produce, and observe expiration dates.
- Follow universal precautions if working with bloodborne pathogens.
- Avoid coming to campus when sick in order to prevent the spread of communicable disease.
- Maintain appropriate immunization with vaccinations based upon Interior Health guidance and any additional recommendations pertinent to your unique work or study circumstances. Okanagan College will continue to follow the guidance of the PHO and Interior Health and strongly recommend, encourage and promote vaccination among our students, employees and any visitors to campus in line with current public health conditions. If vaccination is required for your study or work.

Complete the personal daily health check as outlined above.

Follow all posted signage while on campus.

Follow information and guidance on any communicable disease responses shared by Okanagan College, Interior Health, BCCDC or PHO.

A visitor who is diagnosed with or believes they have a communicable disease should:

Avoid coming to campus.

- Seek medical attention from their primary care provider.
- Stay at home when sick and avoid close contact with others to the extent possible.

The following risk assessment table is adapted from WorkSafeBC Occupational Health and Safety Regulation Guideline G6.34-6. Using this guideline as a reference, we have noted the various risk levels for our employees, depending on potential exposure in the workplace.

Risk assessment for Communicable Diseases

Students / Employees

	Follow Provincial/Regional Public Health Guidance/Orders	Follow Provincial/Regional Public Health Guidance/Orders	Follow Provincial/Regional Public Health Guidance/Orders
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The follow table provides the level of risk and risk controls in place for students and employees.

Front Counter Staff Positions - Administration	Low to Moderate	Regular and effective hand hygiene/sneeze guards/masks
Facilities Front Counter Clerks, Instructors	Low to Moderate	Regular and effective hand hygiene/ sneeze barriers/masks
Advisors, Coordinators, Counsellors	Low to Moderate	Regular and effective hand hygiene / sneeze barriers / masks
First Responders	High	As outlined in Operating Guidelines
Engineers	Moderate	Regular and effective hand hygiene, or as outlined in Operating Guideline
Central Stores personnel	Moderate	Regular and effective hand hygiene/sneeze guards/gloves/masks

include the implementation of safe work procedures to reduce the risk of infection in the workplace. Administrative controls include hand washing and following cough/sneeze etiquette (cover your mouth and nose with a sleeve or tissue when coughing or sneezing), allowing a reasonable personal distance space to reduce human-to-human transmission, and an increase in cleaning frequencies for shared work surfaces and equipment, including College operated vehicles.

is the last level of mitigation and includes measures such as wearing of masks, respirators, coveralls, gloves, goggles and/or face-shields. The use of PPE is required in high-risk situations, such as dealing with infectious people. Please refer to the *Position Risk Assessment* Chart above.

During a communicable/infectious disease outbreak, large gatherings of people should be avoided, and, if possible, employees should be encouraged to work in ways that limit in-person contact. If employees must hold meetings, video conferences and conference calls should be encouraged.

OC encourages the College community to follow instruction from the PHO, MHO, Medical Doctor, WorkSafeBC and other applicable regulatory agencies, regarding the administering of vaccinations and their relationship to communicable disease management.

Hand washing, following proper coughing and sneezing etiquette, and not touching your face are the key to the prevention of transmission, which minimizes the likelihood of infection. Proper hand washing helps prevent the transfer of infectious material from the hands to other parts of the body – particularly the eyes, nose, and mouth – or to other surfaces that are touched.

Wash your hands “well” and “often” with soap and water for at least 20 seconds (the time it takes to hum the “Happy Birthday” song twice). If soap and water is not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer to clean your hands.

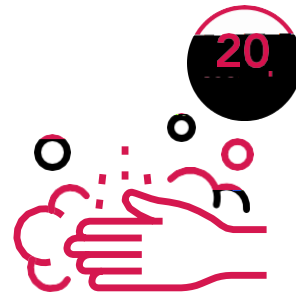
- upon arriving and when leaving work
 - after coughing or sneezing
 - after bathroom use
 - when hands are visibly dirty
 - before, during and after you prepare food
 - before eating any food (including snacks)
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- wet hands and apply soap

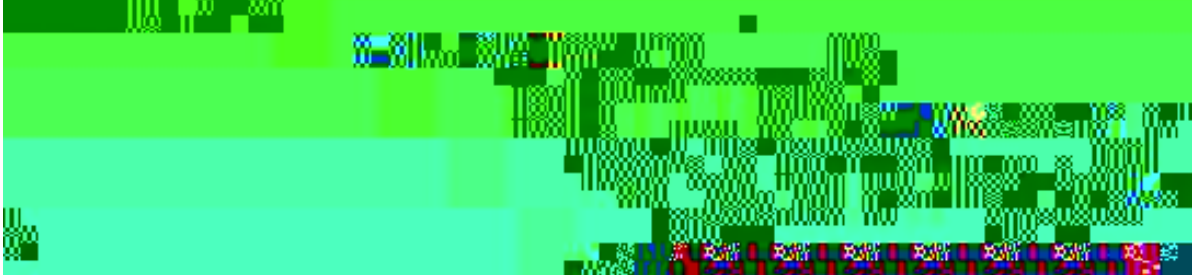
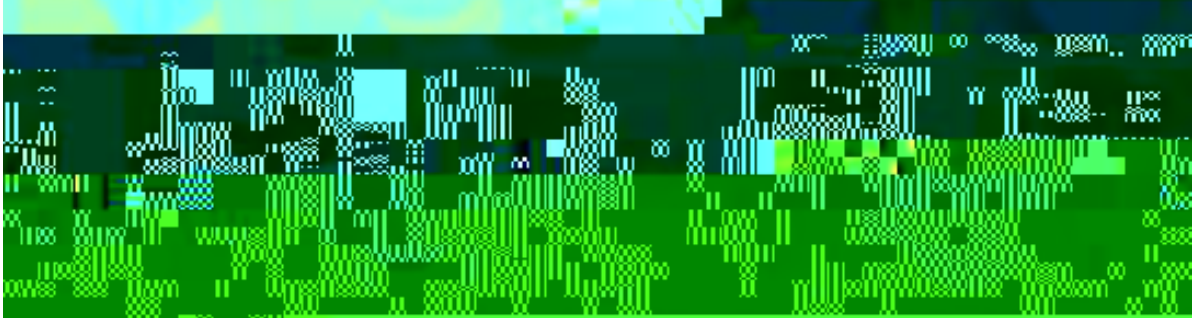
- rub hands together vigorously for at least 20 seconds ensuring the lather covers all areas
 - palm to palm, back of hands, between fingers, back of fingers, thumbs, fingernails (using palm) and wrists
- rinse hand thoroughly with water
- dry your hands with paper towel (or a hand dryer), use the paper towel to turn off the tap and open the door, then dispose of the paper towel
- avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands
- use utensils: consider using forks, spoons or toothpicks

PROTE

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When you ~~are~~ at work





required in all indoor spaces

For doing your part to keep BC safe and healthy.

at www.okanagan.ca

college



Learn more at www.okanagan.ca



Okanagan College is committed to maintaining a clean environment through routine cleaning protocols and implementing enhanced cleaning practices if directed by public health during any periods of elevated risk.

Following Return to Campus and BCCDC guidance, Okanagan College will continue to clean educational spaces, public spaces and high touch areas daily, and with increased frequency for high-volume, high-touch areas including lecture theatres.