

COVID 19 Policy #6

Cohorting Protocol

Purpose:

To reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19 by outlining physical distancing and hygiene procedures.

Application:

This policy applies to all students, participants, teachers, instructional assistants, staff, visitors, volunteers and directors.

Definitions:

1. **Cohort:** is identified as a classroom and within each classroom smaller groupings of students and staff members will be assigned. Cohorts and the smaller assigned groupings will remain together for the entire day.
2. **Personal Protective Equipment:** equipment worn to minimize exposure to hazards that cause serious workplace injuries and illnesses; i.e., gloves, masks, gowns.
3. **Cross contamination:** inadvertent transfer of bacteria or other contaminants from one surface, substance, etc., to another because of unsanitary handling procedures.
4. **Sanitizing:** Means to reduce the amount of microorganisms like bacteria, viruses, and fungi on a surface after it has been cleaned. The sanitizer used must reduce the number of bacteria to the level that is deemed safe by the public health standards.
5. **Disinfecting:** To disinfect means to kill specific viruses and pathogens on a surface using a disinfectant. These cleaning agents must kill 99.999% of infectious bacteria, viruses, and fungi within a 5-10 minute period. It is recommended to disinfect frequently touched surfaces.

Procedures within the Classroom:

1. Implement Cohort Procedures

- a. To reduce the risk of viral transmission and cross contamination, the organization will utilize cohort and smaller assigned groupings that need to be communicated to staff in advance of student arrival. The members of a cohort and smaller assigned groupings must remain together during all activities throughout the entire day.
- b. Different cohorts cannot be within the same room or space at the same time.
- c. Each classroom with its accompanying staff will be considered a cohort as noted in definition section 1 above.

2. Any and all persons who must enter the space of more than 1 cohort must wear a mask as per the masking policy.
3. **Ensure adequate distance in spacing and seating**
 - a. Due to the organization's extensive entry protocol and hygiene procedures, the facilities will be considered "safe zones" as outlined by Alberta Education. **Therefore 2 metre physical distancing measures within the small groups within a cohort, will not be mandatory.**
 - b. Communal spaces such as the gym, library space will be scheduled by cohorts following these principles:
 - No more than 1 cohort can remain in a single communal space.
 - Any diversions along these pathways should be addressed calmly and should be communicated to other cohorts in order for arrangements to be made.

Reviewed:

August 23, 2021