

Vancouver Island School of Art – Communicable Disease Protocol

Communicable Disease Safety Plan

Information for all students, faculty and staff:

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

Communicable disease prevention focuses on basic risk reduction principles to reduce the risk of the transmission of COVID-19 and other communicable diseases. The fundamental components of communicable disease prevention include both ongoing measures to maintain at all times and additional measures to be implemented as advised by Public Health.

Daily self-screening

All faculty, staff, students and visitors must assess themselves daily for COVID-19 symptoms or possible exposures before coming to the school.

- Do you present symptoms of a common cold, influenza, COVID-19, or other infectious respiratory disease?
- Have you been in contact with an identified confirmed case or outbreak?

If the answer is yes to any of these questions you must stay at home, self-isolate and seek care from a health-care provider.

Resources:

- [BC COVID-19 self-assessment tool](#)
- Call 811 for medical advice
- Public Health Authority, Island Health: 250-370-8699
- [First Nations Health Authority](#)
- WorkSafe BC: 1-888-621-SAFE
- Mental Health Support: [Here2Talk](#)
- [KUU-US Crisis Support](#)

Using the building

Hand sanitizing is required upon entry to the school at the front desk.

Building features a built-in ventilation system throughout the space as well as balconies and patio doors which may be opened to the outside provide further ventilation.

Masks are recommended, individual instructors may require mask-wearing for certain courses.

PPE (masks) are available at the office. Students may also pick up a COVID-19 rapid test kit from the office.

As of April 8, 2022 Vaccine passports will no longer be required to attend in-person courses and workshops.

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Personal hygiene

Wash your hands often with soap and water for 20 seconds and dry your hands with a paper towel. If soap and water are not accessible, use hand sanitizer. Hand sanitizer is available at reception and in washrooms. Cover your cough or sneeze into your elbow, or cover your mouth and nose with a tissue. Dispose of the tissue in the trash immediately and wash your hands after coughing or sneezing.

Class schedules and remote learning

Class schedules have been modified to maintain occupancy limits and reduce the number of people on campus. Half of all course offerings have been moved to an online teaching method.

Cleaning

We are following the BCCDC [guidelines for cleaning and disinfecting public settings](#).

This includes frequent cleaning of high-traffic areas and high-contact surfaces such as washrooms, counters, handles, faucets, doors, railings and the register. Classrooms are fully sanitized before and after each class.

What to do if you are ill

If you have any symptoms consistent with COVID-19 or are feeling sick, avoid contact with others and self-isolate at home in accordance with guidance from the [BC Centre for Disease Control \(BCCDC\)](#). According to BCCDC symptoms include: fever, chills, cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, stuffy or runny nose, loss of sense of smell or taste, headache, fatigue, diarrhea, loss of appetite, nausea and vomiting, and muscle aches. Symptoms can range from mild to severe.

If you are concerned that you may have COVID-19, use the [BC COVID-19 self-assessment tool](#) to help guide you on what to do. If you have health questions, you can call your doctor or call [HealthLink BC](#) at 811, or for the deaf and hard of hearing, call 711 or contact through [Video Relay Services](#). The province of BC has also set up a dedicated COVID-19 hotline for non-medical questions at 1-888-COVID19.

You may only return to school once you are medically cleared to end your self-isolation or when you meet the criteria set-out by the [BCCDC](#).

Students

Report absences due to illness as you usually would and notify your instructor and the office by email. Instructor emails can be found in your course syllabus as well as in the course welcome email.

Students who would normally attend a classroom course but are self-isolating as a result of the daily self-assessment process, who reside with someone who needs to self-isolate, or who are unable to attend due to community restrictions may request academic concession due to missed classes or course requirements. Notify the office of your situation and allowances will be made for course work to be completed virtually as needed.

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Faculty & staff

Faculty and staff who would normally attend campus but are self-isolating as a result of the daily self-assessment process, or who reside with someone who needs to self-isolate, should contact the director to report your absence and discuss temporary remote work arrangements. The affected class, or the whole course, may be moved online.

Resources:

[Working from home](#)

[Working from home: employers](#)

If there is a COVID-19 case at the school

- The symptomatic individual will be directed to return to their place of residence.
- The individual will be instructed to contact 811 or their local healthcare provider for further instruction.
- Spaces used by the individual will be cleaned and disinfected by staff.
- Vancouver Island School of Art will contact Island Health (250-370-8699).
- Vancouver Island School of Art will follow the instruction of local public health authorities.

International Students

Please refer to the [Government of Canada website](#) with regards to studying in Canada, and [requirements for fully-vaccinated travelers](#).

Additional Resources

- [BC Response to COVID-19](#)
- [Orders, Notices and Guidance Issued by the Provincial Health Officer](#)

Mental Health:

- [COVID-19: Staying Well In Uncertain Times](#) (Canadian Mental Health Association BC)
- [Mental Health and Psychosocial Considerations During COVID-19 Outbreak](#) (World Health Organization)
- [COVID-19 Road to Recovery](#) (Conference Board of Canada)
- [Taking Care of Your Mental Health During COVID-19](#) (Public Health Agency of Canada)
- [Multiculturalism and Anti-Racism](#) (Government of BC)
- [Social Stigma associated with COVID-19](#) (World Health Organization)

Prevention:

- [Help Prevent the Spread of COVID-19: How to use a mask](#)
- [Help Prevent the Spread of COVID-19: Handwashing](#)
- [Help Prevent the spread of COVID-19: Cover coughs and sneezes](#)

Testing and Vaccination:

- [Where to take a COVID-19 test in BC](#)
- [How to use different types of rapid tests](#)
- [How to get vaccinated for COVID-19](#)
- [Proof of Vaccination and the BC Vaccine Card](#)