Deputy Minister's Bulletin

Ministry of Education



COVID-19 Safety Measures for K-12 During the Summer – Q&A

June 25, 2021

Q: Is community use of school facilities allowed?

A: Yes, community use of school facilities is allowed in alignment with the current requirements outlined in the Ministry's K-12 Health & Safety Guidelines (p.23) which include:

- Must adhere to the Gatherings and Events Order of the Provincial Health Officer.
- Diligent hand hygiene
- Physical distancing among older youth and adults
- Ensuring participants stay home if they are feeling ill
- Where possible, limiting building access to only those areas required for the purpose of the activity
- Spaces and equipment used by community members should be cleaned and disinfected prior to students and staff re-entering the space.

Q: Do the current requirements for cleaning and disinfecting apply to buildings/spaces that are not being utilized by students or staff?

A: No, the current expectations for daily cleaning and disinfecting do not apply to buildings/spaces where there are no students or staff present. As per the guidance regarding after hours use of facilities (see above), spaces and equipment that have been used should be cleaned and disinfected prior to students and staff re-entering the space. Many schools and districts have implemented procedures such as sign-in sheets posted next to room entrances that help custodial staff focus cleaning/disinfecting activities on those spaces that have been utilized by staff or students.

Q: Are in-person staff meetings allowed?

A: Yes. While meetings should continue to be held virtually wherever possible, in-person meetings are allowed provided they adhere to the measures outlined in the School Gatherings and Events section of the Ministry's K-12 Health & Safety Guidelines (p.17):

- Staff should practice physical distancing (2m) for face-to-face interactions, whenever possible.
- If barriers between participants are not present, participants are required to wear masks.
- The number of participants gathered, and the length of the gathering should be minimized as much as possible.