



First Nations Health Authority  
Health through wellness

# Advisory for Schools and Child Care Facilities

British Columbia's health system has a detailed plan in place in the event that the coronavirus known as COVID-19 becomes widespread. It is important to note that as of the beginning of March there have been no reported cases in a First Nations community in the province.

**Therefore, the First Nations Health Authority is recommending schools continue with the standard precautions recommended for cold and flu season every year.**

**These are:**

- Ensure children with a fever and/or a cough stay home from school. We know this can be challenging but it keeps everyone safe, not just the children but staff and family members as well.
- Promote regular handwashing – use soap and water and wash for as long as it takes to sing Happy Birthday
- Make sure the school's facilities are thoroughly cleaned on a regular basis. Make sure hand sanitizer is available in supervised settings.
- Ensure staff and children cover their mouths with a tissue or their elbow when coughing or sneezing.
- Do not use masks as they may increase the risk of infection. They do not fit children well, and they may touch their face more often – putting them at more risk. Masks are for keeping germs in not out.
- Make school attendance and staff sick leave policies as flexible as possible to encourage people to take care of themselves.
- Treat each other with fairness and compassion.
- Clean surfaces like doorknobs, hand rails and water fountain knobs frequently.

**In addition, to keep our children happy as well as safe, remember to reassure them at all times that these are just precautions to keep them healthy.**

The FNHA will provide further updates as the situation evolves. For all the latest information please go to: [www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/information-on-novel-coronavirus](http://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/information-on-novel-coronavirus)