

COMMUNITY USE OF SCHOOL

Appendix I

April 6, 2021



Community use of schools will be permitted for community organizations that offer programs to **school age children** beginning on April 12th, 2021. School districts will assess their schools to determine availability and accommodations. This applies to arrangements of less than one year in duration. Long-term community use arrangements will be managed on a use-by-use basis between the school district and the other party or parties.

Community use of schools will be allowed based on Public Health's advice and/or provincial phase. In the event of an outbreak in a school, Regional Public Health will provide direction to the school.

Guiding Principles

- The Department's mandate of educating children must be the first goal for the use of school infrastructure. This includes the use of space and human resources.
- Additional school cleaning requirements will impact facility availability and user costs. Any additional costs for cleaning and oversight will be borne by the users.
- Early childhood services and programs will have access to school infrastructure, including the use of spaces, to provide quality services based on the needs of early learning childcare teams in the school district.

Directives

- Community organizations will follow the Public Health and WorkSafe COVID-19 guidelines. Physical distancing, self-screening, hygiene etiquette and any relevant health and safety measures will be respected by all participants. Community organizations will be responsible to provide their own hand sanitizer for participants.
- Any community organization who uses school facilities will provide the school district with its operational plan detailing how they will meet Public Health's directives. The plan must allow for appropriate cleaning and disinfection procedures for the use of school equipment and will meet the COVID-19 school operational plan requirements. Anglophone South will supply Health Canada approved cleaning supplies. Refer to Appendix G – Cleaning and Disinfection Standards for additional information.
- The use of changing rooms is not permitted for community use of school scheduled outside of the regular hours of operation of a school.
- There will be no spectators permitted at activities or events organized by community organizations taking place inside the school.
- The community organization must keep a record documenting the date, time and contact information of all in attendance for each activity or event. This is to facilitate contact tracing. This collected information must be stored in a secure location for 30 days and available upon request by Regional Public Health.

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- Outdoor fields may be used by community organizations subject to district direction, but users may not enter the school building.
- Visiting early childhood staff and clients must adhere to all relevant health and safety standards. Cleaning must be done by a custodian hired by the school district. School districts may contract this out to municipalities if they have an agreement in place to rent out a block of time. The municipalities must adhere to the cleaning and disinfection requirements and all other requirements.
- If at any time, the school, part of the school, or the area where the school is located is closed or restricted due to COVID-19, there will be no community use of school in that area.
- Community use of schools may be suspended for periods of time on a local basis, with little or no notice, based on the state of the pandemic in the area, as directed by Public Health, or due to the limited availability of custodian support.

Additional Measures

Early Learning and Childcare Services

- Early learning and childcare facilities (daycares) that are already established within a school may continue to operate.
- COVID-19 operational plans are required from the facility as indicated by WorkSafe New Brunswick. All COVID-19 related cleaning and sanitization within the early learning and childcare facility is provided by the operator.
- If services are being offered during the school day, clients and relevant staff will separate from the school population.
- Public Health may suspend services for periods of time on a local basis, with little or no notice, based on the state of the pandemic in the area.

Early Childhood Programs

- Early childhood programs such as Talk with Me, Family and Early Childhood, Early Years Evaluation-Direct Assessment and Preschool Autism Services will be offered in a school facility during the day and after-school hours. If no school space is available, the school district is responsible to arrange an alternate school location.
- Small group sessions are allowed under the Public Health Guidelines for Early Childhood Programs and aligned with the Direction for School Districts and Schools for COVID-19.
- School operational plans must include reference to early childhood programs and services.