

## Students with Allergies or Symptoms Protocol

### Background:

The allergy rate in Burnaby is around 10% of the population. Every school has students with allergies ranging in severities.

There are common symptoms from influenza, common cold, allergies and COVID-19.

### Approach:

If a student arrives at school presenting with cold symptoms, they will be asked to return home. If a student becomes ill during school time, they will be placed in an isolation room until their parent/guardian can pick them up.

### What if the student has allergies or suspects they may have allergies?

This as a case by case medical issue, based on severity (mild to severe), time of year, type of allergy (pollen, dust, mold), and type of symptom (dermatitis, respiratory, nasopharyngeal, etc. or other symptom)

### Decision process

1. Can the student manage their symptoms while at school? i.e. can they prevent overt symptoms by;
  - Personal practices (examples: nasal lavage, medication, diet)
  - Using the current school protocol for:
    - Handwashing frequency or using extra handwashing as required and using Kleenex.
    - Maintaining distancing, cough/sneeze etiquette, avoiding touching face

If so, the student may attend school.
2. If Students cannot manage allergies at school, parents may provide a note from the family physician stating the symptoms are a result of allergies.
  - Staff are to feel comfortable with the student's symptoms.
3. If unsure about the symptoms (cold, allergies or COVID-19)
  - Parents should contact their family physician for advice.
  - Parents can also access the online assessment tool at <https://bc.thrive.health/> and/or contact 811
    - Did the family physician and/or 811 recommend they be tested for COVID?
      - If yes, they can be tested for free now with the results available in 24 to 48 hours.
        - The student should stay at home until the results are available,
        - If the results are negative, and the student can manage their allergies as per (1) above, they can attend school,
        - If the results are positive, Fraser Health will provide instructions for quarantine and contact tracing,
      - If the family physician and/or 811 does not recommend they be tested for COVID, can they manage their allergies as per (1) above?

If so, the student may attend school.

4. The process for non-COVID-19 cold/flu symptoms would mean the student stays at home for 10 calendar days, following onset of symptoms, or until symptoms resolve, before returning to school.
  - The parent can access the online assessment tool at <https://bc.thrive.health/> and/or contact 811 for advice and be recommended to get tested for COVID-19
    - The student would stay home until the results are available;
      - If the results are negative the student would wait for 10 calendar days, following onset of symptoms, or until symptoms resolve before returning to school.
      - If the results are positive, Fraser Health will provide instructions for quarantine and contact tracing.