



## **COVID-19 Safety Plan**

COVID-19 Safety Plans have been developed in collaboration with Public Health, the Ministry of Advanced Education and WorkSafeBC.

### **Standard of Safety**

The safety of our clients, faculty, staff and students has always been a top priority, and our standard of safety is designed to keep our clients, students, faculty and staff safe. The safety plan is subject to change based on the requirements from the CDC (Centers of Disease Control), BCCDC (BC Centre or Disease Control) and the Federal and Provincial Government.

### **Our Cleaning Process**

Staff will use a disinfectant on all areas and all high touch areas multiple times every day.

All high touch areas including the lunchroom and classroom tables will be cleaned and sanitized at the end of each by our cleaning staff.

### **Before Your Class, In-Person Instruction or Practical Session**

Vancouver College of Dental Hygiene Inc. has developed safety plans to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission.



Students and clients will be required to wash their hands/hand sanitize as soon as they enter the building and encouraged to do so upon exiting. We will have hand sanitizer available in the classroom, inside the door of the upstairs (keypad) entrance and the lunchroom.

We highly suggest bringing only the necessities to class and your sessions.

The way our new safety process will be most effective is if we all make sure to do our part in it.

If you have a cough, fever, or symptoms of illness, please follow the Vancouver College of Dental Hygiene Inc. (VCDH) Illness Policy and CDC guidelines.

We have put a lot of changes in place – with details beyond what you see here.

Here is a list (not limited to) of some safety modifications/protocols to ensure the college campus community safety:

- Comprehensive Illness Policy
- Daily Pre-screening of students, staff and faculty for illness
- Night before and day of Pre-screening of clients for illness
- Confirmation of Pre-screening of all students, staff and faculty upon entry
- Electronic confirmation of Pre-screening of students during attendance in all classes, labs and clinics.
- Glass Partition installation at front desks in reception area and in the clinic



- Installed Air purification systems
- Hand sanitization stations upon entering the building
- Touchless forehead thermometer for students, staff, faculty and clients
- Spaced out waiting room chairs
- All students, staff, faculty and clients who are ill must not come to the school and follow the VCDH Illness Policy
- Student designated seat in the lecture room for the duration of the semester
- Lunch room schedule designed to minimize the amount of social contact
- Mandatory masks must be worn at all times in all areas of the school campus except when seated and eating (must resume wearing mask immediately after food has been eaten)
- Water fountain and microwaves– off limits until further notice.
- Additional Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) in clinic such as gowns, face shields
- Eliminated Aerosol Generating Medical Procedures (AGMP) in the clinic
- Extensive Safety Practice Guidance signage throughout the school.
- Continuous communication of all Safety plan updates
- COVID-19 vaccination is recommended as the most important preventive measure a member of a community can take to protect themselves and other members of the community from infection



If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the program director Ms. Carole-Anne Mrsic at [caroleannem@vancouver-college-dental.org](mailto:caroleannem@vancouver-college-dental.org) or call 604-215-7611.

## **Cleaning and Hygiene**

Students are required to wash their hands/hand sanitize before entering the classroom before each time they enter the classroom, after breaks and lunch. Students will be required to wash their hands again before beginning the practical component of the course.

## **Client and Student Safety**

- Students and teachers will be required to wear masks, while in the classroom.
- When speaking with clients during scheduling and appointment reminders, clients will be reminded to consider:
  - Rescheduling if they are experiencing illness and/or symptoms of COVID-19
- Where possible, payments will be accepted through contactless methods.
- Vancouver College of Dental Hygiene Inc. staff will be positioned behind glass partitions when possible.
- During clinical components, faculty and students will adhere to standard precautions (advanced due to the COVID-19 Pandemic)

- Effective hand hygiene will be used between each client by washing hands with soap and water or using an alcohol-based hand rub (ABHR)

## **Illness Policies**

Our workplace policies ensure that staff, faculty and students experiencing illness and/or symptoms of COVID-19 are prohibited from the workplace. If anyone feels ill or has a temperature, they will be asked to leave immediately. They will be told to follow the VCDH Illness Policy guidelines, in conjunction with guidance from the Provincial Health Officer (PHO) and the BCCDC.

Our policy addresses faculty, staff or students who may start to feel ill at work.

It includes the following:

- Sick faculty, staff or students should report to the educational assistant, educational coordinators, and/or the program director- even with mild symptoms.
- The staff, faculty or student will be asked to go straight home.
- If the staff, faculty or student is severely ill (e.g., difficulty breathing, chest pain), call 911.
- Clean and disinfect any surfaces that the ill staff, faculty or student has come into contact with.



- All visitors will be required to answer the visitor health questionnaire prior to admittance.
- All faculty, staff and students have been informed of the policies for staying home when sick

For further information, please refer to the VCDH Illness Policy found on the portal resources.

## **Monitoring Our School Campus Community and Updating the Plan as necessary**

As things change and evolve, we realize there will be different areas of this plan that will require modification and/or improvement. All Vancouver College of Dental Hygiene Inc. faculty, staff and students are encouraged to speak freely about ideas, concerns and improvements to the plan. All communication can be emailed directly to the Program Director, Ms. Carole-Anne Mrsic.

Vancouver College of Dental Hygiene Inc. protocols and policy will change based on the advice of local public health authorities, which may change based on the level of local transmission of COVID-19.

Vancouver College of Dental Hygiene Inc. has in place, cleaning and sanitizing protocols which are communicated to all students and staff.

Students are required to wear masks anytime when on school property.



## **Cleaning and Sanitizing**

The following protocols provide guidance regarding cleaning and disinfecting:

Vancouver College of Dental Hygiene Inc. will be cleaned and disinfected in accordance with the BCCDC's Cleaning and Disinfectants for Public Settings.

Frequent sanitizing will focus on cleaning high-contact surfaces.

The washrooms are stocked with adequate hand-washing facilities and its location is visible and easily accessed. Sanitizer is placed throughout the classroom and facility.

Faculty, staff and students are required to wash/hand sanitize their hands, upon arriving on campus.

The Cleaning staff have adequate instruction, training, materials and supplies (e.g., soap and water/hand sanitizer and disinfectant wipes).

## **Masks**

Students are required to wear masks while in-class as well as during movement in the school building.

## **Academic Concessions for Students Isolating**

Students 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, may request academic concession due to missed classes or course requirements. Formal requests for accommodation will continue to be managed through the processes outlined in the Vancouver College of Dental Hygiene Inc. Student Procedures and Policies Manuals.