

At School: Earthquake Actions for K-12 Staff and Students

When the ground starts shaking

- Students, teachers and staff should immediately “Drop, Cover and Hold On” where they are.
- If you are not near a desk or table, drop to the floor against an interior wall and protect your head and neck with your arms.
- Avoid exterior walls, windows, hanging objects, mirrors, tall furniture and large appliances.
- Teachers should reassure students by calling out a reminder to “Drop, Cover and Hold On.” Lead by example.
- Count aloud with the class until the shaking stops to distract students and provide comfort.



When the shaking stops

- Count to 60 before moving so anything that's come loose has time to settle.
- Be aware of your surroundings. Objects may have shifted in the shaking.
- Follow school procedures, collect class lists and the classroom grab-and-go bag/emergency kit.



Before an earthquake

- Schools should register for the annual ShakeOutBC drill, as well as hold regular drills to familiarize staff, students and parents with earthquake procedures.
- Secure furniture, shelving and other heavy objects to prevent injury.
- Assemble emergency supplies and materials in an accessible location for the school.
- For more about earthquake planning in schools, read the BC Emergency Management Guide for Schools, Districts and Authorities, <http://ow.ly/OhRn301dlIc>