

COVID-19 Guide for Families

2021-2022 School Year



Planning for return to in-person classes

There are many things that families can do to prepare students for in-person classes this September. Modelling healthy behaviours at home and talking to students about what changes to expect will help ease this transition back to school.

Family roles in keeping schools safe

Daily screening

- ◆ Check in with students each morning for signs of illness. If symptoms are present, keep student home and notify the school. ontario.ca/page/covid-19-stop-spread
- ◆ Make sure your contact information is current at school, including emergency contacts and individuals authorized to pick up student(s).

Keep a safe distance

Keep 2 metres between you and others when possible:

- ◆ During drop-off and pick-up.
- ◆ During interactions with a teacher, school staff, or other parents, caregivers, and students.

Plan for transportation

- ◆ Make sure student(s) riding the bus come prepared wearing a mask. Talk to your student(s) about the importance of following bus rules, including assigned seating and physical distancing, if possible.
- ◆ If carpooling, plan on student(s) in the carpool and the driver wearing face coverings for the entire trip. If your school uses the cohort model, consider finding families within student(s) group or cohort at school to be part of the carpool.

Plan for possible periods of quarantine.

- ◆ If transmission is increasing in our community or if multiple students or staff test positive for COVID-19, the school building might close.
- ◆ If a close contact of a student (within or outside of school) tests positive for COVID-19, student(s) may need to stay home and quarantine for 10 days.

Talk to your student(s) about health measures that will be in place in schools:

- ◆ Sanitize hands before entering school and classrooms.
- ◆ Wash or sanitize hands several times throughout the day.
- ◆ Wear a mask.
- ◆ Cover coughs and sneezes in the bend of your arm.
- ◆ Keep a distance between others and follow marks in hallways.
- ◆ Do not share food or personal items like pencils or erasers.
- ◆ Tell staff if they are feeling sick at school.
- ◆ Lunch and recess routines may change to allow for physical distancing.
- ◆ Students who take the bus will have to sit in the same seat every day.

