

Ottawa, July 30, 2020

## **IMPORTANT UPDATE - SCHOOL REOPENINGS**

Dear parents and guardians,

The provincial government announced today the chosen scenario for the reopening of schools for the next school year ([official statement](#)). It will be organized as follows:

### **For Kindergarten to Grade 8 students:**

- Back to class 5 days a week;
- Wearing a medical or fabric mask is mandatory for students from grades 4 to 8;
- Wearing a medical mask or a fabric mask suggested but not mandatory in closed indoors spaces for kindergarten to grade 3 students;
- Students will stay with their class all day, including recess and lunch.

### **For students in grades 9 to 12 students:**

- Return to class on an alternative model with cohorts limited to 15 students per class, which requires the adoption of a rotating schedule for each group of students;
- Wearing a medical or fabric mask is mandatory.

Please note that the *Conseil des écoles publiques de l'Est de l'Ontario* (CEPEO) has been designated as one of 24 school boards in the province that must offer the alternative model in high school.

It is important to note, however, that the board may, upon approval by the Ministry of Education, open its small secondary schools on a full-time basis. More details will be communicated to you.

You can read the Reopening Ontario schools guide prepared by the Ministry of Education [by clicking on this link](#).

We assure you that more concrete information on the modalities of the reopening, school transportation and the protocols to be followed will be communicated to you as soon as we obtain them. Our portal [Retour à l'école](#) continues to be updated regularly to assist you in this preparation.

### **Virtual learning optional**

Please be informed that parents who wish can also choose not to send their children to school and to continue online learning. In accordance with the request of the Ministry of Education, the CEPEO also developed a virtual learning plan. Details on the modalities of this plan will follow.

We wish to inform you that you will be asked over the next few days to officially let us know your choice of on site or virtual school for the next school year via the parents' portal.

## **Childcare services**

The provincial government has also provided details for child care centers ([official release](#)). Child care, EarlyON centers, before and after school programs are allowed to reopen to full capacity as of September 1. All of these programs will be subject to health and safety protocols to ensure the safety of children.

We are aware that this announcement may cause several reactions. Some of you will greet it with relief, while others will receive it with apprehension. In this regard, I would like to reiterate that all the staff of the *Conseil des écoles publiques de l'Est de l'Ontario* is mobilized to ensure that the return to class is safe. The health and well-being of our students and staff remain our priority and all measures will be taken so that everyone can learn and work in a safe environment, which respects the directives of government and public health authorities.

In closing, I would like to thank you for your cooperation over the past few months. It has been a privilege for me to serve as Acting Director of Education and to work for the welfare of your children. As of August 4, Sylvie C.R Tremblay will begin her mandate as Director of Education. Rest assured that she will work with all the administrative and educational teams to ensure that the next school year will be successful.

Once again thank you and have a great long weekend,

Ann Mahoney  
Acting Director of Education