

Ottawa, August 21, 2020

IMPORTANT UPDATE - BACK TO SCHOOL PREPARATION

Dear parents and guardians,

I hope you are doing well and enjoying the last few days before the start of the school year. All our teams are hard at work preparing for the return to class, whether at school or in virtual mode. Here are the most recent updates that will help you prepare for this new school year.

Your child's well-being and mental health

Back to school is always an important time and can arouse many emotions in students and parents. This is all the more true this year. We invite you to consult the many [wellness and mental health resources](#) on our Back to School portal. You will also find information on the virtual sessions on child and adolescent mental health offered by CEPEO teams. We invite you to register today.

Ottawa Public Health has also posted many resources online for parents, children and youth. You can read it by consulting the [following link](#).

Schedule for designated secondary schools

As mentioned in the previous communication, students in grades 9 to 12 of the following public high schools will attend school 50 % of the time, until further notice. These are the schools:

- De-La-Salle
- Gisèle-Lalonde
- Louis-Riel
- Maurice-Lapointe (newly added since August 21)
- Omer-Deslauriers

Grades 9 to 12 students from these five schools will attend the work-study program, depending on the cohort in which they will be placed, following this [calendar](#). They will be in school for full days, according to regular school hours, every other day. We inform you that the identification of cohorts will be available on the [Parents Portal](#) on August 26.

Lunch period

Whenever possible, we recommend that students eat dinner at school, in order to reduce travel during the school day and contact with people who are not part of their cohort. If your child eats at home, his or her name will be entered in a register allowing management to take account of travel. In addition, you will need to do a second self-assessment of your child before they return to school for the afternoon.

School transportation - REMINDER

We encourage students to use active transportation (on foot, by bicycle) or by parent-provided transportation if possible. Other students eligible for school transportation can take the bus.

The *Consortium de transport scolaire d'Ottawa* (CTSO) will communicate via email with each family to confirm student status and to share usual details related to stops and times of embarkation and disembarkation.

The *Consortium de transport scolaire de l'Est* (CTSE) invites parents to visit its [website](#) for relevant details.

To report any change in your child's status, please contact [CTSO](#) or [CTSE](#).

OC Transpo pass

Students who benefit from OC Transpo passes will receive them at school on their first day in class. Your child's school will let you know the details.

Guide to reopening schools

We remind you that you will find many answers to your questions in the [Back to School Guide](#), which is updated regularly. The guide is also available in [English](#).

If you have any questions, we invite you to contact your child's school.

I wish you an excellent weekend with your family,

Sylvie C. R. Tremblay
Director of Education