

Ottawa, August 27 2021

IMPORTANT UPDATE: BACK-TO-SCHOOL 2021-2022

Dear parents and guardians,

Our teams are looking forward to welcoming your child to school, in-person or remotely from home, on Tuesday, August 31st, 2021. We have put in place all measures to ensure your child's safety and, most importantly, to provide a caring learning environment.

I invite you to review the latest updates to our 2021-2022 Back-to-School Return Guide by following [this link](#). Those latest updates are highlighted in yellow and will allow you to prepare well for the new school year.

Due to the evolution of the pandemic, please be aware that the Back-to-School Guide is updated regularly in order to comply with the government and public health authorities' evolving instructions.

Junior Kindergarten and Kindergarten classes

Parents of junior kindergarten and kindergarten students will receive details on the dates of the staggered school year from their child's school.

Health and safety instructions

We ask that you familiarize yourself with the health and safety guidelines to follow. More information can be found on page 9 of [the Back to School Guide](#).

NEW - Mandatory Mask Use - Junior Kindergarten and Kindergarten

Wearing the mask is now mandatory for all junior kindergarten and kindergarten students in all CEPEO schools. It must be worn in classrooms, hallways and school buses. Students can remove their mask while outdoors with their cohort while maintaining physical distancing as much as possible. This decision was made to ensure the safest possible environment for students and staff given the prevalence of the Delta variant in the communities. Several neighbouring school boards have adopted or will soon adopt the same position on this issue. Public health authorities strongly recommend wearing the mask for this age group.

Mask use is therefore mandatory for all K-12 students in all CEPEO schools. More information can be found on page 10 of [the Back to School Guide](#).

REMINDER - Daily Self-Assessment

Daily self-assessment of COVID-19 symptoms remains mandatory for all students and learners prior to attending school. The self-assessment form is available on the CEPEO website [and on the website of your child's school](#).

REMINDER - Vaccination

Government and public health units encourage all children 12 years of age before the end of 2021 to receive their [first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine](#) and can book an appointment using the

Provincial Appointment Booking System. You may also book through the local public health office, pharmacies, or go to one of the vaccination centres in the province. We invite you to consult [this link](#) for more details.

Public Health Units

We invite you to regularly review the various updates from public health authorities by [following this link](#).

I thank you for your cooperation and wish you and your child a wonderful weekend.

Sylvie C. R. Tremblay
Director of Education