

Ottawa, January 13, 2022

IMPORTANT UPDATE | Return to the classroom on January 17th

Dear parents and guardians,

I hope you are doing well. I would like to begin by thanking you for your commitment over the past few days. We are aware of the challenges of virtual learning. Thanks to you and our school personnel, your child has been able to continue learning and regain some normalcy and we are grateful for that.

As you already know, the Ontario government has announced a return to face-to-face instruction as of Monday, January 17, 2022. This return includes new adjustments to make our schools even safer.

Masks

During the week of January 17, your child will receive two tri-fold masks. Although the three-ply mask is not required to be worn, it provides better protection than a single-ply cloth mask. We encourage your child to use the tri-fold masks. Regardless of which mask your child wears, it is important that the mask is washed daily and fits snugly around the face.

Distribution of rapid screening tests

During the week of January 17, each student will receive 2 rapid tests. We expect the tests to be delivered by Sunday. Every effort will be made to ensure prompt delivery to schools early this week. Therefore, it is possible that your child will not receive tests on Monday. The tests will be given to elementary school students and all staff first, followed by secondary school students.

We ask that you use these tests only if your child is symptomatic, as per the revised screening tool.

Reporting Student and Staff Absenteeism

The Ontario government has recently changed its expectations for reporting and monitoring the incidence of COVID in schools. Beginning January 19, 2022, principals will be required to report student and staff absences and school closures to the Ministry of Education on a daily basis. The data will be published on Ontario.ca beginning January 24, 2022.

Principals will also be required to report to public health authorities when the percentage of absences exceeds a certain threshold. We are awaiting further clarification from the Ministry of Education on this issue, which we will share with you as soon as possible.

Ventilation

The additional HEPA filtration units provided by the Ministry of Education have been deployed and installed in accordance with Ministry guidelines.

Vaccination

In order to facilitate access to immunization, clinics will be held in some schools during or after school hours. If a clinic is held at your child's school, you will be notified as soon as possible. Whether the clinic is held during or after school hours, parental consent will be required for the vaccination of children aged 5 to 11. The consent form will be shared with you at the appropriate time.

Vaccination remains the best way to prevent the spread of the virus. For more information on vaccination, we invite you to consult the following documents:

[COVID-19 Vaccine Information Sheet : For Children \(5-11 years\)](#)

[COVID-19 Vaccine Information Sheet : For Children \(12 years and older\)](#)

[COVID-19 Vaccination for Children and Youth](#)

Daily Self-Assessment

The daily student self-assessment form has recently been updated. We ask that you ensure that you or your child completes it each morning before going to school. It is essential that you follow the recommendations on the form. If your child has symptoms of COVID, he/she should isolate himself/herself regardless of his/her vaccination status and even if the result of the rapid antigenic test is negative.

Child Care

Before and after-school care will be available starting January 17. Emergency child care will no longer be available as of January 15.

Computers

Elementary students who received a computer prior to the holiday break or this week will keep it in their possession until the principal asks them to return it.

Suspension of Certain Activities

Athletic competitions and practices, multi-cohort choirs, wind ensembles, extracurricular activities and field trips, which were permitted in secondary school, are suspended at least until January 28 inclusive. The situation will be reassessed over the next two weeks and these activities can resume as soon as it is safe to do so.

Due to the current health situation, the school facilities remain closed to the community until further notice.

We understand that all of these changes can be stressful for you and your child and require a great deal of adjustment and resilience.

It is through collaboration and working together that we will get through this latest wave of the pandemic and continue to provide a safe and caring learning environment for your child.

Thank you for your cooperation and trust. Have a great weekend with your family.

Sylvie C.R. Tremblay
Director of Education

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