

Ottawa, March 10, 2022

IMPORTANT UPDATE | Lifting of several school health and safety

Dear parents and guardians,

I hope you and your loved ones are doing well.

Several health and safety measures lifted in schools

On March 9, the Ontario government announced the mandatory lifting of several health measures against COVID-19, including several in schools. You can read the details in this [Statement from Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health](#).

Of course, this announcement is generating a lot of reactions, ranging from relief to concern. These feelings are normal. Please be assured that we will do everything we can to listen to your concerns and those of your child.

Major changes in schools as of March 21, 2022:

- Masks will no longer be required in schools for staff, students, or visitors, except for staff who need to perform an aerosol-generating medical procedure (AGMPs). Wearing a mask will be a personal choice.
- Cohorting and distancing will no longer be required.
- Gatherings will again be permitted.
- In-person graduation ceremonies will be allowed in June.
- Non-vaccinated staff members will no longer be required to have rapid antigen screening three times a week.

Please also note that the [COVID-19 symptom self-assessment tool](#) has been updated with new isolation requirements based on vaccination status.

Measures that will continue:

- Improved ventilation, hand hygiene routines and increased cleaning.
- Daily self-assessment of COVID-19 symptoms by students and staff members is strongly encouraged.
- Attendance data will continue to be available on the Department of Education website until April 14, 2022.
- Rapid testing will continue to be available to staff and symptomatic students who request it.

Virtual School Learning Program (PAVÉ)

The School Virtual Learning Program continues to operate as usual.

- For more information on the PAVÉ, including registration and transfer of attendance, please visit [this site](#).

Resumption of activities

The resumption of activities (e.g., sports activities, assemblies, clubs, etc.) will be done in a gradual manner to allow schools to adapt to the new environment.

International travel and wearing of masks

Anyone returning from international travel must [follow the Government of Canada's requirements](#) and wear a mask at all times when in public places, including schools and child care facilities, for 14 days. They must also keep a list of all close contacts for the first 14 days in Canada and monitor for signs and symptoms of COVID-19.

Community Use of Facilities

Community use of the facility will be permitted (except for public secondary high school Pierre-de-Blois) as of April 1, 2022, on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. and on Saturdays from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. A rental may be canceled at any time if no janitor is available to provide increased cleaning after activities.

Summer Camps

Summer Camps will be available for educational centers and nonprofit partners to resume during the months of July and August 2022.

Visitors

Upon return from March Break, we will examine the possibility of allowing visitors to schools and new guidelines will be communicated in due course.

As these represent important changes, we encourage you to discuss these changes with your child and to contact the school principal with any questions or concerns.

Thank you for your cooperation and I wish you a wonderful week off with your family.

Sylvie C.R. Tremblay
Director of Education