



Conseil des
écoles publiques
de l'Est de l'Ontario

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**A Guide for Parents and Guardians of Students of the Conseil
des écoles publiques de l'Est de l'Ontario (CEPEO)
2021-2022**

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BACKGROUND AND INTRODUCTION

The health and safety of our students and staff remains our priority for the 2021-2022 school year.

School teams will put in place a series of measures to reduce the risk of COVID-19 spread (for example, hand-washing schedule, masking, physical distancing, frequent cleaning). You can read about these measures in the Ontario provincial government's 2021-2022 Reopening Ontario Schools Guide, which is regularly updated.

During the 2021-2022 school year, schools and school boards may have to adopt, at any time, alternative modes of operation depending on public health recommendations. CEPEO teams are mobilized to ensure the implementation of concrete plans, if necessary.

This guide is based on five guiding principles:

1. Health and safety of students and employees;
2. Students and employees well-being and mental health;
3. Continuity of learning and teaching;
4. Compliance with Ministry of Education guidelines;
5. Compliance with directives and recommendations of public health authorities.

The measures set out in this guide are subject to change, depending on the evolution of the health situation and the instructions of government and public health authorities. We ask that you regularly visit cepeo.on.ca/retouralecole, follow our social media and read your emails to stay up to date on the latest developments. Additional resources will also be available on the [CEPEO website](#).

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

GENERAL TERMS & CONDITIONS

For the 2021-2022 school year, parents and guardians can choose the mode of school attendance (face-to-face or virtual) that best suits them.

Face-to-face mode:

Parents can choose to enrol their children in the traditional in-school, in-person program. For more information on enrollment in CEPEO schools, please visit: <https://cepeo.on.ca/retouralecole/#inscription>.

Virtual mode:

Parents can choose to enroll their children in the Virtual School Learning Program (PAVE). For more information on how to register, please visit: <https://cepeo.on.ca/pave/>.

ELEMENTARY (Kindergarten to Grade 8)	SECONDARY (Grades 9 to 12)
Elementary school students, from kindergarten to Grade 8, will go to class 5 days a week. Students will receive 300 minutes of instruction per day and remain in the same cohort throughout the day.	All high school students will receive 300 minutes of instruction per day. You can consult the calendars by following this link (in French).

VIRTUAL SCHOOL LEARNING PROGRAM (P.A.V.É)

CEPEO continues to offer students from kindergarten to Grade 12 the opportunity to do their program remotely from home as part of the Virtual School Learning Program (P.A.V.É) during the 2021-2022 school year.

The program's website (<https://cepeo.on.ca/pave/>) explains how it works and how to register for the 2021-2022 school year. This information can also be found on the CEPEO Parent Portal.

ELEMENTARY (Kindergarten to Grade 8)	SECONDARY (Grades 9 to 12)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The full range of the elementary curriculum will be offered, including the new Mathematics Curriculum Framework for Grades 1 to 8. • For students from Kindergarten to Grade 6 students, parents must ensure that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Their child is connected virtually according to the school schedule that will be communicated to them and is accompanied during the day. ○ An adult remains in close proximity to the child or children for any emergency because online teachers will not be able to supervise and respond to an emergency at home. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students in Grades 7 to 12 are more self-reliant. However, parents remain an essential support to ensure that their children attend classes. • All courses offered at the secondary level correspond to compulsory subjects in accordance with the Ontario Ministry of Education. They are available on a demand basis, just as they are in a conventional school. • At the secondary level, students participate in synchronous learning programs with their teacher (by subject) and asynchronous (autonomous course work or curriculum-related teamwork, personal studies and support periods) during their school day. In addition to the schedule prescribed by the PAVÉ, students have the opportunity to register for a course offered by the Consortium d'apprentissage virtuel de langue française de l'Ontario (CAVLFO), by following the Consortium's prescribed procedures.

CHANGE IN SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Throughout the year, it is possible to change a child's mode of school attendance (for example, from virtual mode to face-to-face mode) by following these steps:

- After creating your account on the [CEPEO Parent Portal](#), you can request to change your choice of school attendance mode by selecting "In-person" or "Online" at any time.
- Your application will remain "Pending" until it is approved by the administration. Once your application is approved, you will receive a confirmation email and an integration plan for your child's new class.

- Available capacity and health measures required by government and public health authorities could affect the processing times of your application.
- CEPEO is committed to processing your requests as soon as possible, with courtesy, respect and professionalism.
- Applicable terms and deadlines can be found on the [CEPEO Parent Portal](#) and the [CEPEO website](#).

SCHOOL CALENDARS

ELEMENTARY (Kindergarten to Grade 8)	SECONDARY (Grades 9 to 12)
<p>You can consult the basic calendar by following this link (in French).</p> <p>The dates for the staggered start of kindergarten and garden students will be communicated by your child's school.</p>	<p>You can consult the calendars by following this link (in French).</p>

STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

SYSTEMIC CLASSES

- Systemic-class students will attend school full-time at the elementary and secondary levels.
- A transition period is planned for students who participate in separate classes at the end of August. Staff will accompany students to familiarize them with the staff, premises and routines. The school administration will contact parents to provide them with more details.
- The sensory room is a room where one can accompany and supervise students in case of difficulties with self-regulation. The room will be cleaned after each use.
- A space for active learning will be created in the classroom. Students will have access, one at a time, to different devices (e.g., stationary bicycle, trampoline, etc.). The equipment will be disinfected after each use.

SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS WITH AN INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION PLAN (IEP)

Pedagogical support and the implementation of an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) will continue to be provided based on the recommendations and strategies developed for each IEP student. These strategies can be adapted to virtual mode.

CLEANING, SAFETY AND HYGIENE MEASURES

To ensure maximum safety, schools will be vigilant in adopting a health plan with multiple reliable measures. These measures will help to limit the risk of COVID-19 spread while adhering to instructions from the provincial government and Public Health Ontario.

AWARENESS OF SAFETY AND HYGIENE MEASURES

Teachers will educate students about the symptoms associated with COVID-19. Teachers will also emphasize with learners the importance of immediately speaking to a staff member if they experience any of the symptoms and think they are infected.

HAND HYGIENE

Hand hygiene involves washing or disinfecting hands to reduce and eliminate germs that contribute to the spread of COVID-19. Please refer to Public Health Ontario's [How to Wash Your Hands \(PDF\) fact sheet](#).

- Soap and water will be preferred as this is the most effective method.
- Alcohol-based hand sanitizer dispensers (ABS) of at least 60% will be available in areas where hand washing is difficult. Alcohol-based hand sanitizer can be used by children.
- Hand sanitizer bottles will be installed near all school entrance doors, in portable classrooms and throughout the facility.
- Hand hygiene will be practiced systematically:
 - arriving at school in the morning;
 - before entering the classroom, resource center, computer lab and gymnasium;
 - returning from recess or lunch time;

- before and after eating (snack, dinner, etc.);
- before and after going to the bathroom;
- after blowing, coughing or sneezing;
- before and after the use of equipment or a shared surface;
- leaving school at the end of the day.

MASKS / FACE COVERINGS AND BREATHING ETIQUETTE

- Students, staff members and visitors in schools, school board offices and aboard school buses are no longer required to wear a mask.
- Students and staff members can choose to continue to wear a mask from time to time or on a permanent basis until the end of the year.

ELEMENTARY (Kindergarten to Grade 8)	SECONDARY (Grades 9 to 12)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wearing a mask will be a personal choice. • 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). • non-medical three-ply cloth masks will be made available to students. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wearing a mask will be a personal choice. • 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). • on-medical three-ply cloth masks will be made available to students.

SCHOOL / PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE CLEANING / VENTILATION

The cleaning of spaces will take place assiduously. In addition, frequently touched surfaces will be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected regularly (twice daily at a minimum). Cleaning frequency will be adjusted according to surface use.

Ventilation

The School Board meets all departmental ventilation requirements and will continue to optimize air quality in its schools by improving ventilation and filtration. Please refer to the Ministry of Education instructions [here](#) (in French).

For schools without mechanical ventilation ([follow this link to see the list of schools](#)).

- Portable air filtration units (HEPA) will be added in all learning spaces including gymnasiums, libraries, cafeterias, daycares, administrative spaces and prefabricated buildings.
- Windows will be opened to maximize fresh air intake and air circulation.

For mechanically ventilated schools ([follow this link to see the list of schools](#)).

- Portable air filtration (HEPA) units will be added in all kindergarten classrooms;
- MERV-13 air filters in mechanical ventilation systems will be installed and filters will be frequently changed throughout the year;
- Ventilation systems will be operated two or more hours before and after school occupancy;
- Heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems will be calibrated for maximum air flow and increased fresh air intake;
- The exhaust ventilation system will be verified based on an established inspection schedule and in accordance with industry standards.

STUDENT SAFETY

Six (6) evacuation (fire) drills and two lockdown drills will take place as mandated by law. Health and safety instructions will be applied during these exercises, which will be supervised by school staff.

VISITORS AND VOLUNTEERS

The following visitors are allowed in the school:

- Visitors related to an educational program (e.g., first aid training, expert in the field of construction or in numeracy for a class presentation, etc.);
- Guest artists;
- Guest speakers.

These visitors **MUST** provide proof of immunization and follow all health measures in effect at our schools. Please note that if the presence of these visitors affects custodial capacity, the principal may decide not to allow access during non-school hours in order to prioritize the work done by the custodian.

VACCINATION

Please consult the various Government of Ontario and Public Health resources on COVID-19 vaccination: <https://cepeo.on.ca/immunization/>

Non-vaccinated staff members will no longer be required to have rapid antigen screening three times a week.

WELLNESS AND MENTAL HEALTH

CEPEO is committed to creating a caring school environment that promotes mental health and well-being, and helps facilitate the return to school of all students. Mental health support services will continue to be provided to students in need, regardless of their chosen mode of educational delivery (face-to-face or virtual).

At the beginning of the school year, teachers will offer students an awareness module adapted to their school level.

Resources are also available to students and parents on the [CEPEO website](#).

If you are, or someone you know is confronted with a mental health or addiction emergency, please visit your local hospital emergency services or call 9-1-1. It is always important to get the immediate help you need to maintain your well-being. There are professionals who are ready and available to assist you.

If you are unsure of the extent of your mental health challenges or would like to discuss your situation, contact Telehealth Ontario at 1-866-797-0000 or the local Child and Youth Crisis Line at 1 (877) 377-7775.

Children and youth can also talk to a counselor 24 hours a day, 7 days a week by contacting Kids Help Phone at 1-800-668-6868 or by texting TALK at 686868.

The Hope for Wellness Help Line for First Nations, Métis and Inuit is also available at 1-855 242-3310 or <https://www.hopeforwellness.ca>.

DAILY STUDENT SCREENING / COVID-19 CASES AND SYMPTOMS

DAILY SCREENING OF STUDENTS

Parents whose children are attending school face-to-face should continue to complete the COVID-19 Symptom Self-Assessment Form each morning before arriving at school. Self-assessment forms are available on the [CEPEO website](#) and on the school's website. This self-assessment should not be sent to school.

Government COVID-19 screening tool for schools and child care has been updated. <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/school-screening/>.

COVID-19 Confirmed cases reporting for students

- School boards are expected to continue to report daily on absenteeism and closures through the absence reporting tool (ART) for posting on [Ontario.ca](#).

SCHOOL OPERATION

- Cohorting and distancing will no longer be required.
- Appropriate hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette will continue to be promoted and integrated throughout the school day.

STUDENTS ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE

- Schools can resume their usual student arrival and departure procedures.
- Hand sanitizing stations are located in every school entrance.
- Staff will be present at bus drop-offs to ensure the safety of all student groups.

CIRCULATION IN THE SCHOOL

- Students and staff members can move freely throughout the school according to regular practices.

WATER FOUNTAINS, WASHROOMS AND ELEVATORS

- All water fountains, washrooms and elevators will be used according to regular practices.

CLASSROOM LAYOUT

- Classrooms can be configured according to educational needs.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES AND PERSONAL EFFECTS

- School supplies and personal items can be used when needed for educational purposes.

OUTDOOR PLAY AND PLAYGROUND

- Cohorting and distancing is no longer required. Outdoor activities can resume according to regular practices.

REST PERIODS FOR PRESCHOOL AND KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS

- Rest periods can resume according to regular practices.

LUNCH TIME

- Lunch time practices and routines can resume according to regular practices.

COMMON SPACES

- Shared spaces, such as libraries, tech labs, theaters and music rooms will be fully utilized without distancing.

GYMNASIUM

- Indoor and outdoor physical activities can resume according to regular practices.

INTERSCHOOL SPORTS ACTIVITIES: K-12 (TEAM SPORTS, CEPEO SPORTS, OFSAA, ETC.)

- Interschool sports at all grade levels can resume according to regular schedules.

MUSIC ROOM

- The use of wind instruments is permitted without restrictions.
- If shared, wind instruments must continue to be thoroughly sanitized between uses.
- Singing is allowed indoors without restrictions.

GATHERINGS, FIELD TRIPS, SPORTING, ARTISTIC AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

- Indoor assemblies are permitted according to regular practices.
- Club and committee activities (e.g., student newspapers, chess clubs, student government, etc.) are now allowed.
- Field trips are permitted in grades 7-12.
- In person graduation ceremonies can be held in June.

INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL

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.

SCHOOL PICTURES

- Taking school year pictures is allowed following usual school procedures.

EDUCATIONAL CENTERS AND DAYCARE SERVICES

- Educational centers and daycare services will function as per usual. Presently, parents do not have access to these facilities.

SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION

- Wearing a mask and other protective equipment is a personal choice.
- Students, staff members and visitors aboard school buses are no longer required to wear a mask
- Students and staff members can choose to continue to wear a mask from time to time or on a permanent basis until the end of the year.

NUTRITION PROGRAM

- Nutrition and food programs administered by a third party as well as non-teaching food events (such as a pizza day) are permitted.

COMMUNICATIONS

CEPEO management and school principals will continue to communicate with parents on a regular basis through email, websites and social media.

The [CEPEO website](#) is updated regularly.

Please inform the school secretariat by email of any changes in contact information to allow us to contact you promptly.