Ottawa, August 16, 2022

IMPORTANT UPDATE | Ministry of Education guidelines

Dear parents and guardians,

I hope you and your child are having a great summer.

The Ministry of Education has recently released the COVID-19 public health guidelines to follow for the start of the school year.

Wearing of mask

Wearing a mask remains a personal choice and is no longer mandatory in schools and on school buses. However, every student and staff member who wishes to wear one will be able to do so. Masks will be available in schools for those who request them. Public Health Units recommend masks be worn by individuals who are at high risk of serious illness, recovering from COVID-19, or who are in close contact with someone who has COVID-19.

Rapid antigen tests

Rapid antigen tests will be distributed to parents who request them.

Self-assessment of symptoms

Self-assessment of symptoms each morning before school is encouraged. The self-assessment tool is available through the [CEPEO website](#). Public Health Units advise those who have symptoms of COVID-19 or have been in contact with someone who has symptoms or has tested positive to COVID-19 to complete the self-assessment tool from our website to find out if you need to self-isolate.

Cleaning and hygiene protocols

Hygiene and cleaning protocols adopted during the pandemic will continue. For example, hand sanitizer will continue to be provided in schools and all frequently touched surfaces will continue to be disinfected.

School ventilation

As required by the Ministry of Education, ventilation requirements will continue to be met. You can read about these requirements and what the CEPEO is doing by visiting the following [section of our website](#).

Your child's health and safety remains our priority. We are confident that with your support and that of our staff, we will be able to provide a safe and caring learning environment.

I thank you for your cooperation and wish you and your child a nice end of school break.

Sylvie C.R. Tremblay
Director of Education