

Ottawa, August 24 2021

IMPORTANT UPDATE: BACK-TO-SCHOOL 2021-2022

Dear parents and guardians,

I hope you had a great summer. A few days before our students return to class, I am pleased to provide you with information that will help you ensure that the 2021-22 school year is a successful one for your child.

This year, more than ever, the well-being of our students will be at the heart of all our actions and our priorities. Our staff will be committed, understanding, reassuring, attentive and caring for your child.

Start date of classes

The first day of school for our students, virtually or in-person, is Tuesday August 31, 2021. The 2021-2022 elementary and secondary school calendars are available here on the [CEPEO's website](#).

Your child's school administration will contact you shortly, if they have not already done so, to share with you more specific information about your child's school.

Virtual School Learning Program (PAVÉ)

The Virtual School Learning Program (PAVÉ) continues. For more information on how the PAVÉ works, please visit the following website: <https://cepeo.on.ca/pave>

Back to school guide

Our main 2021-2022 Back to School Guide is now available [here](#). This will help you prepare for the school year and better understand how our schools will operate. Of note, the Guide contains useful information on our safety and health measures to ensure everyone's well-being.

The measures listed in our Guide are subject to change, depending on the evolution of the health situation and provincial government and public health authorities instructions. We ask that you check your emails and social media channels from your child's school and our school board regularly to keep up to date. Additional resources to the Guide are also available on the [CEPEO website](#).

Masks

Wearing a medical or fabric mask inside the school, in the hallways, in the classroom is mandatory for students in Grades 1 to 12.

Wearing a mask is strongly encouraged for Kindergarten and Preschool students.

Wearing a mask is mandatory for all Kindergarten to Grade 12 students on school buses. You will find all you need to know about wearing a mask in the [Main Back-to-School Guide](#).

Ventilation

CEPEO meets [all Ministry of Education ventilation requirements](#) and will continue to optimize the air quality in its schools by improving ventilation and filtration.

You will find more details on our measures to ensure proper ventilation in our schools in the [Main Back-to-School Guide](#).

Daily Symptom Self-Assessment

The daily self-assessment for COVID-19 symptoms remains mandatory for all students and learners before they arrive at school. The self-assessment tools are available on the [CEPEO website](#) and on your child's school website. An update is expected from government and public health authorities in the near future.

Students in Grades 9 to 12 must confirm daily, in the classroom, that they have completed the COVID-19 Symptom Self-Assessment Form. This form is part of the tools available on the [CEPEO website](#) and on your child's school's website.

Mandatory Employee Immunization Disclosure Policy

The Ontario government has announced details of the mandatory disclosure policy for COVID-19 immunization for school boards and school employees. We invite you to read the press release by [clicking on this link](#). We are currently analyzing how to apply these new measures. We will communicate further details to you shortly.

Vaccination of Children Born in 2009

The government also announced that all children who turn 12 by the end of 2021 are eligible to receive their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. Appointments can be made using the [Provincial Appointment System](#), or contacting the public health unit or pharmacies in their region. Alternatively, individuals can go to one of the vaccination centers in the province. We invite you to consult [this link](#) for more information.

Public Health Offices

We invite you to regularly read the various updates from the public health authorities that are made available [here](#). This is where you can find communications addressed to you from the various health offices in our territory.

Mental Health and Well-Being

The well-being of our students remains at the heart of our concerns. We encourage you to review the following fact sheets, which offer tips to support mental health of your child.

- [2021-2022 Tip Sheet \(Kindergarten to Grade 6\)](#)
- [2021-2022 Tip Sheet \(Grades 7 to 12\)](#)

Many more resources on mental health and wellness are available on the [CEPEO website](#).

Stress and Anxiety Management Workshops

CEPEO's team of social workers also offers online workshops on managing stress and anxiety at the start of the school year.

- **For elementary school students (Grades 4 to 6):**
Thursday, August 26, from 2 p.m. to 2:45 p.m. : Transition workshop (elementary)
- **For intermediate and secondary students (Grades 7 to 9):**
Wednesday, August 25, from 2 p.m. to 2:45 p.m. : Transition workshop (secondary)

More information is provided in the [following document](#).

In closing, I want to assure you that we will continue to keep you informed of all updates related to the current situation.

I thank you for your trust and your cooperation and wish you and your child a wonderful last week of summer vacation.

Sylvie C. R. Tremblay
Director of Education