



# Fact Sheet

## Elementary Schools

Revised August 4, 2020

### **The health, safety and well-being of students and staff is a top priority as schools are reopened.**

Schools will continue to create a welcoming, respectful, inclusive, and supportive environment for all. They will educate students and staff about the importance of not stigmatizing those that may have been tested or exposed to the virus. Promotion of healthy coping strategies and pathways to help within the school and community will be a priority.

### **VOLUNTARY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE**

The return to school in the fall of 2020-21 will be voluntary and based on parent choice. For parents who choose not to send their child back to school, options will be available for remote education. The primary focus of instruction through remote learning will be on the achievement of overall expectations across all subjects and grades. Students participating in remote learning should be timetabled and provided with a schedule of classes that are teacher-facilitated and support all areas of curriculum, as they normally would in school instruction. This requirement will be in place for as long as public health circumstances require adapted delivery of education.

### **DELIVERY MODELS** (see Fact Sheet for more information)

Depending on the parent decision around voluntary school attendance we will be utilizing the first two of the bulleted models for learning that draws on two key aspects of health advice: “distancing” and “cohorting”. The third bulleted model may have to be implemented depending on outcomes using the first model.

- ✓ Conventional Model (normal school day routine) with enhanced public health protocols
- ✓ At-home learning with ongoing enhanced remote delivery
- ✓ Modified school day routine based on smaller class sizes (15 or less), cohorting and alternative day or week delivery.

### **CONVENTIONAL MODEL WITH SAFETY PROTOCOLS: SEPTEMBER SCHOOL START UP**

- ✓ All students in grades JK-8 will attend school every day classes are in sessions.
- ✓ Specialized teachers, like French, Ojibwe, and other Prep teachers, will still be able to go into classrooms to provide the full breadth of programming for students.
- ✓ Students will also be able to leave their classrooms to receive additional supports but direct and indirect contacts in schools for students should be limited to approximately 50.



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## PICKING UP AND DROPPING OFF STUDENTS

- ✓ Parents are asked to remain in their vehicles when picking up and dropping off students in the morning and at the end of the day.
- ✓ Parents and visitors will not be able to access the school unless a meeting has been previously scheduled and the COVID-19 screen has been completed prior to entry. Otherwise unscheduled pick-ups will be asked to remain outside in vehicles and to phone the school.
- ✓ Early notification will allow the school to ensure safety and timely communication.
- ✓ Schools may assign separate doors for students of certain grades to enter to better facilitate social distancing on entry and leaving.

## PERSONAL BELONGINGS

- ✓ Students are asked to limit the number of personal belongings in the school and ensure that the items brought in are not shared with others including but not limited to (clothing, writing tools, manipulatives, food etc.)
- ✓ Personal items should be labelled with the student's name for easy identification.

## MASKS

- ✓ Students in Grades 4 to 8 will be required to wear non-medical or cloth masks indoors in school, including in hallways and during classes. Outdoor times like recess can be used as opportunities to provide students with breaks from wearing masks within their cohorts.
- ✓ Students in Kindergarten to Grade 3 will be encouraged but not required to wear masks in indoor spaces.
- ✓ Students are encouraged to practice wearing masks and learn what type of mask is most comfortable for them. Students may wear their own non-medical masks, and non-medical masks will also be made available for students. Reasonable exceptions on the requirement to wear masks will apply.
- ✓ Medical masks and eye protection (i.e. face shield) will be provided for all teachers and other staff of school boards. All school-based staff will be required to wear masks, with reasonable exceptions for medical conditions.
- ✓ School-based staff who are regularly in close contact with students will be provided with all appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE).



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## RITUALIZED HAND WASHING

- ✓ Hand washing should become a ritualized activity practiced by all students and staff. Please see the Hand Hygiene and Respiratory Etiquette Fact Sheet for more detailed information. All staff and students should wash their hands before and after an activity, before and after using the washroom, before and after lunch, and before and after outdoor activity. Done together with explicit instructions will help students ritualize this important preventative measure.

## RECESS

- ✓ Students should have at least have two sessions or organized outdoor activity during the day, which is imperative for their mental health and well-being.
- ✓ The first session will be teacher led, as part of classroom instructional time and will be connected to the curriculum. These sessions will have to take place in designated parts of the school grounds and may have to be scheduled as part of the overall school timetable.
- ✓ The second session will be part of the lunch hour and will be supervised by school staff in a designated area of the school at a specific designated time, dependent on the size of the school. The outdoor activity should be structured using games of low organization or some other guide. Students can be part of choosing the activities, and schools/classrooms may use these games to develop friendly competition.
- ✓ Activities may have to be adapted to maintain safety protocols. The following link may be helpful, and is only an example of some possibilities: .  
[http://kumu.brocku.ca/gamesofloworganization/Main\\_Page](http://kumu.brocku.ca/gamesofloworganization/Main_Page)

## LUNCH

- ✓ Lunch protocols will be established by individual schools based on social distancing and limiting contact measures.
- ✓ Students will eat lunch in the classroom with their teacher, after which they will go outside for 40 minutes of supervised, organized activity.
- ✓ To facilitate social distancing and to limit the number of contacts during the day, students will remain with their class in a designated area of the playground. Depending on the size of the school, lunch will take place in up to 3 blocks to allow all students and staff a lunch break within the safe protocols.
- ✓ An example of a possible schedule: Group 1 (3 classes) will eat lunch from 11:15 – 11:35 and have outdoor activity from 11:35 – 12:15. Group 2 (3 classes) will eat lunch from 11:55 – 12:15 and have outdoor activity from 12:15 – 12:55. Group 3 (3 classes) will eat lunch from 12:35 12:55 and have outdoor activity from 12:55 – 1:35.



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## **COHORT TRACKING**

- ✓ Daily cohort tracking will occur to ensure safe arrival as well as the ability to quickly communicate contact tracing information to TBDHU.
- ✓ To help support contact management, schools will keep daily records of anyone entering the school setting (name, contact info, time of arrival/departure, screening completed).
- ✓ Student will be assigned seats in classrooms to the extent possible.

## **CELEBRATIONS, SPORTS & EXTRACURRICULARS**

- ✓ COVID-19 has resulted in the cancellation or delay of milestone events to recognize student achievement, such as graduation ceremonies, and will impact the kinds of sports and extracurricular activities that can safely be offered. Recognizing that these events and activities are an integral part of the school experience for many students, SGDSB will reschedule or restage these events when possible (either in-person or through online options), and resume sports and extracurricular activities that can safely continue based on input from local medical officers of health.

## **BREAKS AND WASHROOM ACCESS**

- ✓ Cohorts will have designated washrooms and each school will provide orientation to all staff and students with regards to access and sanitization.
- ✓ Each class will have a designated stall/stalls in the washroom allowing for safety guidelines to be followed.

## **FAMILIES COHORTS**

- ✓ Efforts will be made to schedule families living in the same residence to enter school on the same days.

## **ATTENDANCE**

- ✓ Attendance procedures will be established at each school to ensure that students are present either virtually or face to face.

## **STUDENTS LEAVING THE SCHOOL PREMISES**

- ✓ We encourage students to remain on the school premises during the school day unless travelling home for lunch.
- ✓ Should someone leave the school property, entry hygiene routines would be required.



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## TRAINING

- ✓ As school will have different routines and procedures we will be having training and a gradual entry of students in the first week of school.
- ✓ All staff and students must participate in this training prior to entry to school.

## CLASSES

- ✓ The primary focus of instruction will be on the achievement of overall expectations across all subjects and grades. Support will be provided for all students as usual, regardless of the delivery model.
- ✓ September will allow staff and students to establish routines and procedures while performing important diagnostics to best understand the needs of all students. We will ensure that the slow relational approach is taken to meet the diverse needs of all learners returning to school.
- ✓ Students across the world will have experienced learning gaps due to COVID-19. Our staff will work hard to be responsive to the learning needs of everyone.

## HEALTH AND PHYS ED

- ✓ The focus will be on non-contact activities for the first term and will engage in as much outdoor instruction as possible. Teachers will be encouraged to vary the activities to reduce the equipment required. Each class will keep any necessary equipment in the classroom for their use. Once the activity has changed, the equipment will be cleaned and returned to the gym for use by other classes.

## LIBRARY

- ✓ Library books will be delivered by the Librarian to classrooms. Upon return of the books, they will be placed in a container to allow them to sit for 72 hours prior to being re-shelved.

*This Fact Sheet has been designed to provide information for school communities considering the changes required by COVID-19. For any questions, concerns, or accommodations, please contact your child's school principal.*

*\*\*Adapted from the Ministry of Education "Approach to Reopening Schools for the 2020-2021 School Year"*