



Fact Sheet

Secondary Schools

Revision Date August 5, 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. Various options include online synchronous learning, e-learning, Independent Learning Centre (ILC) booklets, and Durham Booklets are possibilities to support remote education. This requirement will be in place for as long as public health circumstances require adapted delivery of education.

DELIVERY MODEL (CONVENTIONAL “Quadmester”)

The Ministry of Education has announced that using specific safety measures as well as limiting the amount of student contacts will allow all secondary students to return to school in September. The following messages are key to the re-opening of SGDSB schools:

- ✓ Normal school day routine with enhanced public health protocols (see Fact Sheets including PPE, Hand Hygiene and Respiratory Etiquette, Physical Distancing, etc.).
- ✓ All high school students and staff will be required to wear masks (to cover nose and mouth) indoors on school property.
- ✓ Hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette routines will be established in all schools, upon entry, before lunch, before and after using the washroom, etc.
- ✓ Timetables will limit the number of direct and indirect student contacts to approximately 100 students in the school.
- ✓ Schools will have 4 semesters in the year where students will take 2 courses per day.
- ✓ Students will have 1 course for 150 minutes in the morning and 1 course for 150 minutes in the afternoon.



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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. Individuals with unscheduled pick-ups will be asked to remain outside in vehicles and to phone the school.
- ✓ Early notification of pick-up will allow the school to ensure safety and timely communication.

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, makeup, food etc.
- ✓ Lockers will be assigned by cohorts with spacing where possible.
- ✓ Students will be required to carry backpacks to all classes.
- ✓ Classrooms will have assigned seating.

LUNCH

- ✓ Lunch protocols will be established by individual schools based on social distancing and limiting contact measures. Space for lunch will be provided and we encourage people to use the space as a preference to students leaving the school premises. Students able to go home for lunch will be encouraged to do so in order to provide greater social distancing. Hand hygiene practices will be followed.

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.

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.



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COHORT TRACKING

- ✓ Daily cohort tracking will occur in order to ensure safe arrival as well as the ability to quickly communicate contact tracing information to the Thunder Bay District Health Unit (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).

ATTENDANCE

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

CELEBRATIONS, SPORTS & EXTRACURRICULARS

- ✓ COVID-19 has resulted in the cancellation or delay of milestone events to recognize student achievement, such as proms and 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.

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.

COURSES

- ✓ Students and teachers will only have a maximum of 2 course per semester with small cohorts.
- ✓ Course work and participation requires 110 hours of learning in order to meet the ministry expectations for a secondary school credit. Support will be provided for all students as usual regardless of the model.
- ✓ September will allow staff and students to establish routines and procedures while performing important diagnostics in order to best understand the needs of all students. We will ensure that slow relational approaches are taken in order to meet the diverse needs of all learners returning to school.



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- ✓ 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.

WEEKLY MODEL

- ✓ Monday AM – Period 1
- ✓ Monday PM – Period 2
- ✓ Tuesday AM – Period 1
- ✓ Tuesday PM – Period 2
- ✓ Wednesday AM – Period 1
- ✓ Wednesday PM – Period 2
- ✓ Thursday AM – Period 1
- ✓ Thursday PM – Period 2
- ✓ Friday AM – Period 1
- ✓ Friday PM – Period 2

Semester 1: September 8 –November 6- (Exams November 9, 10)

Semester 2: November 11 – January 25 - (Exams January 26, 27, 28)

Semester 3: February 1 – April 14 - (Exams April 15, 16)

Semester 4: April 19 – June 22 - (Exams June 23, 24, 25)

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"*