



## At a Glance: Our Safe Return to School Plan

Updated August 2020

### Elementary School Information

#### Cohorts and Bubbles

All elementary students will attend school during normal school hours five days per week. To reduce interaction, elementary students will be cohorted (grouped) with their classmates and their homeroom teacher with only limited contact with others. Classes will be “bubbled” with other classes so that each bubble has, where feasible, their own entry/exit doors, hallways, washrooms, etc.

#### Phys Ed, Playgrounds and Outdoor Sports Equipment

Physical Education will be offered outside whenever possible. Playground equipment will be closed as they would be a common touch point between students, cohorts and bubbles. Outdoor sports equipment will be provided by the school for use during recess. The use of shared equipment will be limited and will be disinfected after each use.

#### Before and After School Programs and Daycares

We are working with Before and After School Program providers to examine appropriate locations given that classrooms must be fully cleaned before and after use. Daycares in LDCSB schools will operate under the direction provided by the Ministry. Daycare staff must enter/exit the daycares using their own door(s) and cannot enter the rest of the school.

### Secondary School Information

#### Cohorts and Schedule

All secondary students will be assigned to one of two cohorts (Cohorts A and B) and will attend in-school classes on a rotation basis (three days one week, two days the next week). On remote learning days, students will be assigned curriculum-linked independent work. A four semester (quadsemester) timetable has been adopted. This means at any given time students will have two courses rather than the normal four courses. In the fall students will be enrolled in their Period 1 and 2 classes for the first half of the semester (through to mid-November) and take their Periods 3 and 4 classes in the second half of the semester (through to the end of January).

#### Secondary Lockers

Secondary school lockers will not be used at this time.

### Information for All Schools

#### Transportation

Southwestern Ontario Student Transportation Services (STS) has a new mandatory bus registration process. Students will be assigned seats. Masking will be required for drivers and students in Grades 4-12. Students in Grades JK- are strongly encouraged to wear masks. Additional information is available on the STS website, [mybigyellowbus.ca](http://mybigyellowbus.ca).

#### Signage

Signs will be placed at all school entrances reminding parents, students and staff of the need to self-assess prior to entering the building. Additional signage and directional arrows will be used inside LDCSB schools and buildings.

#### Personal Belongings, Food and Water

Personal belongings students bring to schools (backpacks, clothing, sun protection, water bottles, etc.) should be labeled and must be kept separate from those of other students. Student belongings must be taken home each day (cannot be kept in the school overnight).

Litterless lunches are being encouraged as students will be required to take home any leftover lunch packaging/garbage. Water fountains and filling stations will be covered over and cannot be used. Everyone will be required to bring their own water and water bottle(s).

Third party food services, including nutrition programs, will be delivered in a way that any student who wishes to participate can do so. "Grab and Go format" are preferred.

#### Furniture

Other than classroom desks and chairs, any furniture items taking up valuable classroom space or items that are hard to clean will be removed.

#### Limiting Visitors

Visitors - including parents - will be prohibited except for emergency circumstances. Virtual meetings are strongly recommended. If on-site meetings are required, visitors must have a pre-scheduled appointment to ensure adequate safety planning prior to the meeting.

### **Large Gatherings and Field Trips**

No school assemblies or large gatherings, including concerts or dances. Field trips and activities requiring group transportation will not be planned at this time. Virtual Masses and individual classroom prayer services will take place.

### **Supporting Student Mental Wellness**

Mental health is a core element of our re-entry to school plan. Information sheets and webinars for parents and students will be available to support re-entry and assist in managing anxiety and stress related to transitions.

### **Supporting Faith and Spiritual Well Being**

Faith and spiritual well-being are fundamental to our system priorities. Resources will be shared with staff and families.

### **Supporting Students with Special Education Needs**

Meeting the needs of all learners remains a priority. Included within this group are our students on an Individual Education Plan (IEP) and with special education needs. Further, our students with very high special education needs have been given careful consideration with respect to full time attendance (Secondary Schools).

### **Community Use of Schools**

Community Use of School Programs will be extremely limited and highly unlikely to operate.

## **Remote Learning Information**

Families will have the option of full remote learning delivered by LDCSB if they choose not to have their child(ren) attend in person for this school year. Attendance will be taken, and students will be expected to work within a five-hour instructional day each school day. There will be restrictions on the ability of students to transfer between full remote learning and in-class learning.

## **Health Information**

### **Staff Training**

All board staff (including occasional teachers and casual support staff) will receive mandatory training on health and safety protocols related to COVID-19 prior to the start of the school year.

### **Enhanced Cleaning and Disinfecting**

Schools will have increased cleaning and disinfecting of high touch surfaces and common areas during the course of a school day. Cleaning and disinfecting will be completed on a rotational basis. Frequency will be determined by amount of use.

### **Hand Hygiene**

Hand sanitizing self-dispensing stations will be at school entrances. Hand sanitizer will be available in every classroom, as well as the main office. Students will be trained on appropriate hand hygiene during the first day/week of school and reinforced on a regular basis. Breaks will be scheduled to allow students to wash their hands as necessary.

### **Masking**

- **Students:** students in Grades 4-12 will be required to wear non-medical or cloth masks while in school. Students in Grades JK-3 will be encouraged to wear masks in indoor spaces.
- **Staff:** All staff will be provided with and be required to wear medical grade masks at all times within the schools, plus outside if two metres physical distancing cannot be maintained. In addition, for staff who are regularly in close contact with students, additional personal protective equipment (PPE) will be provided to staff as required.
- **Exemptions:** Students or staff with documented sensory or breathing difficulties may be exempted of the masking requirement.

### **Mandatory Self-Screening**

Everyone is expected to be responsible and accept their shared and collective actions to preserve public health. Parents/guardians are expected to monitor their children for signs of infectious illness every day. Students and staff who are sick should not attend school in-person.

All students and staff will be required to self-screen daily before attending school. If someone is experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, they must stay home from school and seek testing and appropriate medical attention.

### **Student or Staff with Symptoms at School**

Any student or staff member who develops COVID-19 symptoms while in school will:

- be immediately separated from others in a pre-designated isolation area until they can go home
- maintain physical distancing
- not take student or public transportation
- be supervised, from a distance where possible, after they are isolated (by persons wearing appropriate personal protective equipment)
- wear personal protective equipment that is consistent with health guidance

### **Students and Staff who Test Positive for COVID-19**

If a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19, they cannot return to school until they are cleared according to public health guidance.