



A Safe Return to Sunset Park: Parent Guide

For further detailed information, please refer to the **Return to School Guidance Document for Parents and Guardians** available at: <https://www.nearnorthschools.ca/blog/covid-19-updates-and-resources/20656/>

Within the above link you will find, links and resources related to *NNDSB RE-Opening Guidance for schools 2021-2022, Health Unit Frequently Asked Questions, Tracking COVID 19 cases in Ontario, Health Unit Information for Parents/Guardians, 2021- 2022 Letters to Families and a link to Resources and Supports for learners and their families.*

The NNDSB is following the Conventional Model with Enhanced Public Health Protocols as indicated in this document.

All students must complete a self-assessment and self-screen every day before attending school. the link is available at <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/>

- Any student experiencing symptoms consistent COVID-19 as identified in the screening tool must not attend school and should follow the guidance provided in the screening tool.
- Students who do not comply with strategies outlined in the policy and/or begin to exhibit symptoms during the school day will be isolated and sent home.
- No parents or visitors are permitted in schools except student service partners, support agencies and student nutrition supervisors.

Masks:

Students in Grade 1-6 are required to wear a mask while inside the building. Students are not required to wear masks outdoors, but distancing will be encouraged between cohorts as much as possible. Students may be asked to wear a mask outside in situations where it would be difficult to meet the 2 metres (6 feet) physical distancing requirement. This could include situations like bus or entry line-up and fire drill practice. Students will take direction from staff regarding when and where they can safely interact without a mask on.

Students in Kindergarten are strongly encouraged to wear a mask at school and may also be asked to wear it outdoors in certain situations.

Exemptions: Only those students with a documented medical difficulties or relevant Special Education needs will be exempted from wearing a mask. As per the NNDSB Return to School Guidance Document,

exemptions must be sent to the school Principal and decisions may be made in consultation with the School's Superintendent. A Physician's note may be required as part of the exemption request.

Bussing: All students JK-Grade 6 will be required to wear a mask while on the school bus. School vehicles are operating at full capacity. Please talk to you child about the importance of staying in their assigned seat and wearing their mask throughout the entire ride to prevent the spread of Covid-19.

Staff will be wearing Level 1 Medical masks throughout the entire school day.

Arriving to School between 8:10 – 8:30am

Each day: Whether arriving by Bus, Walking/Bicycle, or via Parent Drop-Off, all students will make their way to either the Junior or Primary yard. There they will line up, 6 feet apart, in front of their classroom mudroom door. While we understand that this is different from our regular morning arrival, it is necessary that students line-up in front of their mudroom door to maintain their classroom cohort (i.e. not be mixing with other cohorts). They are welcome to sit or stand and chat with the peers near them.

Kindergarten/ELK Students: Like in previous years our Kindergarten students will make their way to their classroom if they arrive between 8:10 – 8:30am. Mme Leger's class (room 18), Mrs. Kettner's class (room 17), and Mme Landry's class (Room 15) will enter via the Primary yard through their mudroom doors. Mlle Patrizio's class (room 19) will enter via the side door facing the Kiss N Drop area. Mme Brown's class (room 20) will enter via the main school doors and make their way to class from there.

On the First Day of School:

ELK Students: Prior to the first day of school a school messenger email will go out to families informing them who their child's Teacher/ECE is for this year. All ELK Students will gather in the Primary playground area closest to the ELK rooms, where staff will meet their students and connect students with their appropriate ELK Team.

Grade 1-3 Students: Students will enter the front doors and immediately enter the Gym. They will be seated by Grade with as much physical distance as possible. Teachers will call out class lists and bring their new students back to classroom.

Grade 4-6 Students: They will go to the Junior Yard and teachers will assist them in lining up in front of the proper mudroom doors.

Arriving to School after 8:30am Entry Bell:

If your child arrives after the 8:30am entry bell, they must enter the school via the front doors. They will notice that one door is marked 'entrance' and the other 'exit'. This is to ensure flow of traffic and allow for 6 feet between people coming and going. The student will report to the office window (in the foyer) for their late slip before going to class. Unfortunately, parents are not permitted to enter the school at this time.

Dismissal between 2:50 – 3:10

Bus students: Primary and Junior students will stand in their classroom cohort outside, maintaining 6 feet between them, with their masks on. When a bus is ready to receive students, a bus monitor will

collect all those students who are registered to ride that bus from both the Junior and Primary yards, walking them to their bus together. The same procedure will be repeated until all buses are loaded. Students are reminded to pay close attention and listen carefully for their bus number to be called. Kindergarten/ELK students will remain with their class and ECE until their bus is ready to load.

Before and After Child Care students: Those students who participate in the West Ferris Child Care After School program will also go outside and line up with their class. A staff will collect those students belonging to their group from their classroom line-up, like a bus student. They will then make their way to the gym as a group, where they can begin their programing.

Parents Picking-up Students: Similar to last year, parents will utilize the Kiss N Drop feature of our parking lot. Those students who are on pick-up will be escorted by a staff member to the pavement and grass area beside the Kiss N Drop, maintaining social distancing between them and keeping their masks on. As vehicles pull up, staff will identify the parent and allow the student to enter the vehicle. We anticipate a higher volume of pick-ups this year, so please help us keep it running as smoothly as possible; telling us your child's name through the passenger window when you pull up and staying in your vehicle will ensure a smooth and efficient process.

Hand Hygiene:

As per the NNDSB Guidance document, the Health Unit recommends frequent hand-washing. High touch surfaces will also be wiped down frequently with wipes and disinfectant provided to each classroom. Students will be required to hand wash with soap and water or hand rub with hand sanitizer as they enter the school. Alcohol-based hand sanitizer will be available at school entrances and in classrooms to promote frequent hand hygiene throughout the day. Scented sanitizers will not be permitted at school. We ask students to use school-provided hand sanitizing products.

- Students will be required to wash their hands or hand rub with hand sanitizer before and after nutritional breaks and when returning from outdoor learning or play.
- Respiratory etiquette (coughing and sneezing into one's sleeve) will be respected.

Shared Materials:

The use of shared items in classrooms is now permitted. The risk associated with transmission with shared objects is low. Shared items, such as classroom technology, will be cleaned between each use. Regular hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette to reduce the risk of infection related to shared equipment is the focus.

Shared materials outdoors, during recess are permitted, with appropriate hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette used by staff and students before and after recess.

Parents and Visitors:

While Sunset Park can receive community agencies into the school for specific, necessary supports, such as a HANDS workers or CAS staff, we are not permitted at this time to allow parents into the building unless for essential reasons. It is imperative that students come with all that they need for a day, such as their lunch. We recommend sending your child with a change of clothes in a plastic bag that could be stored at school in case they get wet in a puddle or have a lunch-time spill. As you may recall, Sunset

used to keep a number of clothes on hand to lend to children, but we are no longer able to lend out our clothes or indoor shoes. Parents who are dropping students off/picking them up must do so via our Kiss N Drop area and remain in their vehicles.

School Supplies:

All students will require a water bottle, indoor shoes, change of clothes and lunch. Due to Health and Safety measures, students are not permitted to drink from the mouthpiece on the water fountain. **They must bring a water bottle that can be reused at our water bottle filling station.**

Kindergarten/ELK to Grade 3: Students in the ELK Program and Primary Grades (1-3) are not required to bring any writing instruments or school supplies with them. This year, teachers will be providing all Primary students with their own individual set of pencils, colouring items, erasers, etc. This is to prevent sharing of personal materials. Please do not send your child with any other additional materials; it is best if all students in these grades have the same items as provided by the teacher.

Grade 4-6: Students in the Junior Grades (4-6) will be allowed to bring a small pencil case to school with them containing pens, pencils, erasers, colouring utensils, a ruler, sharpener, etc. This will be for their use only, sharing of personal materials is not permitted. Students do not have to bring these things, as they will be provided by the school, but can choose to if they wish.

Please note that students are not permitted to bring any other additional items to schools (such as toys, plush items, etc) due to our inability to clean them properly.

Nutritional Breaks:

This year, students will have two nutrition breaks as they have in the past. Last year, those breaks were staggered. They are **not staggered this year**. We will still maintain safety by having a portion of the division outside while another is inside eating and then vice versa. For example: Mrs. Corbett's class could be outside for the first 20 minutes of their 40-minute break while Mme Ginette's class is eating indoors. When Mrs. Corbett's class is finished their 20 minutes outdoors then they will come to in to eat and Mme Ginette's class will go outside for 20 minutes outside. This will enable us to supervise smaller numbers of students at a time and keep students as physically distanced as possible while they are enjoying their breaks. Your child's classroom teacher will communicate with you during the first week of school to inform you of their daily schedule. Please know that, should a child be hungry outside of those times, educators can make other opportunities for children to have a snack.

Thank you for your support in ensuring a Safe Return to School!