

# **Ontario's School Reopening Plan Technical Briefing**

July 30, 2020

# Key Context

- Approximately 2 million students attend over 4,800 publicly-funded schools across the province.
- On June 19, 2020, the ministry released the Approach to Reopening Schools for the 2020/21 School Year. School Boards were asked to plan for three (3) scenarios to be implemented in September, depending on the public health situation at the time:
  1. Normal school day routine with enhanced public health protocols
  2. Modified school day routine - an adapted delivery model designed to allow for physical distancing and a maximum cohort of 15 students
  3. At home learning
- Since that time, the public health data has changed considerably.
- School reopening is critical to learning and development for Ontario's students, and a critical support for families to get back to work and allow for the re-opening of the economy.

# Health and Safety

- **Multiple strategies** will be employed to ensure schools are healthy and safe environments for students and staff:
  - Self screening
  - Adapted school environments
  - Hand hygiene
  - Masking
    - Students in Grade 4 to 12 will be required to wear non-medical or cloth masks while in school.
    - Students in Kindergarten to Grade 3 will be encouraged but not required to wear masks in common spaces.
    - Medical masks will be provided for teachers and all other school staff.
    - Reasonable exceptions to the requirement will be put in place by schools and school boards.
  - Cohorting
  - Distancing
  - Limiting visitors in schools
  - Pre-registration

# Elementary School Reopening

- Elementary school children in Kindergarten through Grade 8 will attend school 5 days per week, with one cohort for the full day, including recess and lunch.
- Enhanced health and safety protocols will be in place.
- School boards will provide the full range of elementary curriculum.

# Secondary School Reopening

- All school boards will adopt secondary timetabling methods that emphasize cohorting of students as much as possible, to limit the number of student-to-student contacts.
- Secondary schools in designated school boards will open on an adapted model, with class cohorts of approximately 15 students, attending on alternate days, or alternate schedules that would represent in person attendance for at least 50% of instructional days.
- Secondary schools in non-designated school boards will be permitted to open with daily attendance by students. Secondary schools in these boards typically have smaller enrolment.
- Please refer to Appendices for the Designated and Non Designated Boards

# Support for Families

- Parents will make decisions regarding in-person attendance for their children for this school year and will have the option of remote learning, delivered by school boards.
- Students with a high level of special education needs who are unable to study remotely will be permitted daily attendance and instruction.
- School boards will be ready to implement adapted and remote learning models should they be required.

# School Health Monitoring System

- A new school health monitoring system will be established through a partnership between the ministries of Health and Education, school boards and local public health to monitor and respond to reports of COVID-19 symptoms.
- Students or staff members who develop COVID-19 symptoms will immediately be separated from others.
- Staff and parents will be directed to consult their health provider and should be provided with information about COVID-19 testing locations.
  - Persons who test positive may not return to school until they are cleared by public health.
  - Persons who test negative can return once they are symptom-free for 24 hours.
- Schools will immediately report any suspected or confirmed cases of COVID-19.
- Schools will ensure records of classes, transported students, and visitors to the school are maintained and readily available to be provided to public health for contact tracing purposes.
- School staff will receive training on required processes and procedures.
- The ministries of Education and Health are working together to provide testing capacity to keep schools safe and treat any affected student or teacher/staff member.

# New Investments

- The Ontario government is supporting the re-opening of schools through \$309 million in new funding for a range of investments, including:
  - Masks and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) - \$60M
  - Funding for Additional Staffing - \$80M
  - Cleaning Supplies - \$25M
  - Health and Safety Training - \$10M
  - Transportation – Cleaning Supplies and PPE - \$40M
  - Lab Testing Capacity - \$23.7M
  - Additional Public Health Nurses - \$50M
  - Additional Mental Health Supports - \$10M
  - Additional Supports for Students with Special Needs - \$10M
- These investments complement the additional \$25 million in new funding for mental health supports and technology to support school reopening that the ministry recently announced with the 2020-21 Grants for Student Needs (GSN).
- In June, the government announced an additional investment of \$736 million in public education for the 2020-21 school year.



# Appendix #1: Designated School Boards

1. Toronto
2. Toronto Catholic
3. Peel
4. Dufferin-Peel Catholic
5. York
6. York Catholic
7. Durham
8. Durham Catholic
9. Halton
10. Halton Catholic
11. Waterloo
12. Waterloo Catholic
13. Thames Valley
14. London Dist. Catholic
15. Ottawa-Carleton
16. Ottawa Catholic
17. Hamilton-Wentworth
18. Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic
19. Niagara
20. Niagara Catholic
21. Greater Essex County
22. Windsor-Essex Catholic
23. Conseil des écoles catholiques du Centre-Est
24. Conseil des écoles publiques de l'Est de l'Ontario

# Appendix #2: Non Designated School Boards



1. Algoma DSB
2. Algonquin and Lakeshore Catholic DSB
3. Avon Maitland DSB
4. Bluewater DSB
5. Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic DSB
6. Bruce-Grey Catholic DSB
7. Catholic DSB of Eastern Ontario
8. Conseil scolaire de district catholique de l'Est ontarien
9. Conseil scolaire catholique Mon Avenir
10. Conseil scolaire catholique Providence
11. Conseil scolaire de district catholique des Aurores boréales
12. Conseil scolaire de district catholique des Grandes Rivières
13. Conseil scolaire catholique Nouvelon
14. Conseil scolaire catholique Franco-Nord
15. Conseil scolaire public du Grand Nord de l'Ontario
16. Conseil scolaire public du Nord-Est de l'Ontario
17. Conseil scolaire Viamonde
18. District School Board Ontario North East
19. Grand Erie DSB
20. Hastings and Prince Edward DSB
21. Huron Perth Catholic DSB
22. Huron-Superior Catholic DSB
23. Kawartha Pine Ridge DSB
24. Keewatin-Patricia DSB
25. Kenora Catholic DSB
26. Lakehead DSB

# Appendix #2: Non Designated School Boards

Ontario 

- 27. Lambton Kent DSB
- 28. Limestone DSB
- 29. Near North DSB
- 30. Nipissing-Parry Sound Catholic DSB
- 31. Northeastern Catholic DSB
- 32. Northwest Catholic DSB
- 33. Peterborough Victoria  
Northumberland & Clarington Catholic  
DSB
- 34. Rainbow DSB
- 35. Rainy River DSB
- 36. Renfrew County Catholic DSB
- 37. Renfrew County DSB
- 38. Simcoe County DSB
- 39. Simcoe Muskoka Catholic DSB
- 40. St. Clair Catholic DSB
- 41. Sudbury Catholic DSB
- 42. Superior North Catholic DSB
- 43. Superior-Greenstone DSB
- 44. Thunder Bay Catholic DSB
- 45. Trillium Lakelands DSB
- 46. Upper Canada DSB
- 47. Upper Grand DSB
- 48. Wellington Catholic DSB