

NNDSB COVID-19 Operational Procedure 2021/2022

Updated February 16, 2022

Covid 19 Reopening Guidelines for NNDSB Schools**Table of Contents**

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Contacts and Cohorts

Elementary

1. Cohorted classes will stay together and with as few teachers as possible.
2. Students may be placed into small groups (for example special education support, English-language learning) with students from other cohorts.
3. Students may use common spaces (for example, cafeterias, changerooms, libraries observing social distance and masking)
4. Members of different cohorts can interact outside with distancing encouraged or inside with distancing and masking **(Note: Cohorting into Quadrants was reinstated in Jan 2022)**
5. Specialized education staff and teachers, such as French teachers, education support staff (for example, education assistants), and central program staff are permitted to go into classrooms, and multiple schools to provide the full breadth of programming for students.
6. Lists of students and staff must be maintained each time cohorts are interacting with one another.
7. Other Measures:
 - a. Virtual-only parent teacher conferences/interviews in elementary schools;
 - b. Starting in January, virtual-only assemblies in elementary schools
 - c. Restricting lunches/breaks to classroom cohort when indoors, where distancing between cohorts cannot be maintained in elementary schools.

Secondary

NNDSB has commenced the regular semester system for Semester 2, 2022.

1. Students may use common spaces (for example, cafeterias, changerooms, libraries observing social distance and masking)
2. Members of different cohorts can interact with distancing and masking
3. Specialized education staff and teachers, such as French teachers, education support staff (for example, education assistants) and central program staff are permitted to go into classrooms, and multiple schools to provide the full breadth of programming for student
4. Lists should be maintained for students mixing during extracurricular activities.
5. Virtual-only parent teacher conferences/interviews in secondary schools

Remote Learning

1. PPM 164 still applies.
2. Boards will continue to provide devices to support remote learning.
3. Boards should have a Remote Learning Plan in preparation for shutdown

February 2022 Ministry Update

Schools will be allowed to resume high-contact sports and activities effective immediately. All individuals participating in extra-curricular sports and high contact/high intensity activities will be required to wear a mask while on school premises but may temporarily remove their mask for active participation in the activities (e.g., masks may be removed while actively playing basketball, but must be worn while on the bench; masks may be removed while actively playing a musical instrument, but must be worn while waiting for the musical activity to begin and after it ends).

-Indoor curriculum-based programs (e.g. Health and Physical Education and Music) will also continue with the following requirements in place for students and staff:

- Wearing a mask while singing and maintain as much distancing as possible.
- Elementary students will also be required to stay within their cohort.
- Wearing a mask while participating in indoor sports where they can be worn safely.
- Masks may be removed during active participation but must be worn when not actively engaged.

All schools are required to continue with daily on-site confirmation of screening for all students and staff as an additional layer of protection. Schools and boards are expected to continue this practice until further notice.

Protective Strategies

Screening

All staff and students must self-screen every day before attending school. Schools should provide parents with reminders instructions to use the School Screening tool daily. <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/school-screening/>.

A hardcopy of this tool https://covid-19.ontario.ca/covid19-cms-assets/2021-08/COVID_screening_Student_Child%20Care_AODA.pdf must be provided to families enabling them to perform daily screening of their children before arriving at school in absence of internet connectivity.

Daily confirmation of self-screening is required until further notice (Dec 2022)

Self-assessment tools should be made available to staff to ensure awareness of possible symptoms of COVID-19.

The province will continue to provide a screening tool for use by all school boards and may update this throughout the school year. Local public health units may designate a commensurate or more restrictive screening tool for local use. All staff and students who are experiencing symptoms consistent with COVID-19 as identified in the screening tool, must not attend school and should follow the guidance provided in the screening tool, which may include seeking appropriate medical attention as required, and/or getting tested for COVID-19

1. The ministry may direct schools to perform daily on-site confirmation of self-screening, such as during a period of potential higher transmission (for example, after a holiday period). Schools are expected to continue to use the process implemented in the 2020-2021 school year to implement on-site confirmation of self-screening of individuals prior to or upon their arrival at school for two weeks following the winter break
2. If the ministry directs schools to perform daily on-site confirmation of self-screening students, staff, and visitors will need to provide **daily confirmation** that they have self-screened. Staff will continue to attest to self-screening daily using the eBase form on the Health and Safety portal. The principal and those designated within the school will be responsible for ensuring all students, staff and visitors have completed and passed their daily COVID-19 self-screen.

Any staff, student, or visitor that does not pass the screening procedures should not attend school.

Student Masks

Students in Grades 1 to 12 are required to wear properly fitted, non-medical or cloth masks indoors in school, including in hallways and during classes, as well as on school vehicles. Masks may be temporarily removed indoors for the consumption of food and drink (see Cafeteria Use and Lunch protocols for more detail). When masks are removed, students should maintain a minimum distance of two metres between cohorts and as much distancing as possible within a cohort. Students are not required to wear masks outdoors, but distancing should be encouraged between cohorts as much as possible.

Students may be able to remove their masks for physical activity indoors (refer to Health and Physical Education guidance), but only when it is safe to do so.

Students are not required to wear masks outdoors, but distancing should be encouraged between cohorts as much as possible.

Masks/face coverings should be changed when they are damp, dirty or damaged. Medical masks are not recommended to be reused and they are to be disposed of when crumpled, moist or visually contaminated. At the advice of the local public health unit, schools and school boards may choose to implement additional masking measures based on local circumstances

Masking Exemptions

Some students, staff and visitors will be exempt from wearing masks in NNDSB schools, buildings and while riding on school buses. We expect all staff and students to be respectful of those who wear masks and those who cannot wear a mask for medical and other reasons for which an exemption applies.

Students, parents and staff must expect that there will be individuals in the school, building, or bus who will not be wearing masks because they qualify for an exemption. In such cases, appropriate measures such as face shields, greater physical distancing, clear barriers and/or study carrels, enhanced cleaning, and other infection prevention and control measures will need to be considered. If increased distancing is employed, caution must be exercised so as not to stigmatize the student. The importance of increased distancing may depend upon current epidemiology and vulnerability (e.g., immune issues, etc.) of the staff/student or proximate staff/students.

Accommodations require consideration of the human rights needs of the person requesting an exemption, as well as medical and health and safety needs of others. Protecting students/families and staff who are at high risk for COVID-19 should be considered in relation to assessing the appropriateness and nature of a mask exemption. It is expected that all reasonable steps and considerations will be taken before a student is not permitted to attend school in person, or an employee is not permitted to attend work in person.

The following individuals **may** be exempt from wearing masks:

- Individuals with a medical condition/disability that make it difficult to wear a mask. This can include:

- Medical condition, mental health condition, cognitive condition or disability that prevents wearing a mask OR

- Medical condition that makes it difficult to breathe.

- People who require accommodation in accordance with the Ontario Human Rights Code.

If students, staff and visitors are able to wear masks but choose not to, they do not qualify for a mask exemption and in-person attendance at school or the workplace without a mask will not be allowed.

Exemption Request Process:

Staff, visitors, parents and students who seek an exemption based on one of the above noted categories must inform the school Principal/Manager as soon as possible of the request and exemption category, so that the request and possible alternative arrangements may be considered. When dealing with a mask exemption request, Principals should use the [NNDSB Exemption of Face Coverings Form](#) to acknowledge the request and document approval or denial of the request.

The parent/guardian may be required to provide appropriate documentation authorizing the exemption of wearing a face mask where the documentation does not already exist at the school (including related Special Education identification information).

For requests for exemption due to inability to breathe: Principals/managers should make reasonable inquiries regarding this request. Are there asthma-related issues? Could a different type of mask be suitable (disposable vs. non disposable, cloth masks or homemade masks)? Although not a substitute for a mask, a face shield may be an option. Face shields provide limited protection but may be better than no mask at all.

Staff PPE (Feb 2022)

The NNDSB will continue to provide school staff and school bus drivers, school bus monitors and student aides with required PPE, including medical masks (surgical/procedural), eye protection and other PPE based on their specific role/job functions (for example, gloves, gowns).

Medical masks are required to be worn by school staff and visitors indoors in school, including in hallways and during classes. Staff must wear masks outdoors if two metres of distance from others cannot be maintained. Staff must maintain at least two metres distance when consuming food/drinks. Reasonable exceptions to the requirement for staff to wear masks will apply.

Beginning January 2022, the Ministry of Education has provided non-fit tested N95 masks for education workers. It is important to know that the use of non-fitted N95 masks is not mandatory and they are being provided as an alternate mask type. The medical-grade masks previously provided to staff still meet masking requirements in schools. Staff can use either approved mask based on their preference. Medical-grade masks will continue to be made available. For staff who would like to use the N95 masks, the guideline for daily allocation is 1 mask per day. It is important to note that the non-fit tested N95s should not be worn outside, as the cold weather and moisture will degrade the mask, and another approved mask used instead.

Eye protection (face shields or goggles) must be worn by staff who work with students not wearing masks, such as Kindergarten teachers and Early Childhood Educators. Other staff may be directed to wear eye protection as per occupational health and safety requirements.

Eye protection is also required if a staff member comes within two metres of an unmasked individual both indoors and outdoors, as per occupational health and safety requirements.

Eye protection for school bus drivers should not interfere with the safe operation of vehicles and is intended to protect drivers during close contact with students, such as during boarding and exiting.

Special Education Considerations

Where necessary for faces to be seen for lip reading to support students who are deaf or hard of hearing, masks with clear sections may be appropriate. Where staff are required to perform an Aerosol Generating Medical Procedure (AGMP) or required to be in the same room when an AGMP is being performed, N95 respirators (fit tested) will be provided.

Hand Hygiene and Respiratory Etiquette

On the first day of classes, schools should train students on appropriate hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette, including the use of alcohol-based hand rub (ABHR), and reinforce its use. Appropriate hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette are among the most important protective strategies. Schools should train students on appropriate hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette, including the use of alcohol-based hand rub (ABHR), and reinforce its use. Resources, teaching tools and videos to support this can be found at <https://www.myhealthunit.ca/en/health-topics/schools-and-covid-19.asp> or [Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) - How to Wash Your Hands \(publichealthontario.ca\)](#)

Distancing and Congregating

As much distance as possible between students, between students and staff, and between staff members should always be promoted. Physical distancing measures are to be layered with other public health measures such as screening, hand hygiene, cohorting, enhanced cleaning, and masking. Schools are encouraged to remove unnecessary furniture and place desks with as much distance as possible and to allow teachers as much teaching space as possible. Desks should face forward rather than in circles or groupings. Periods of student movement should be staggered, if possible, to limit student congregation in the hallways. Congregation of teachers/staff should be limited to minimize potential for adult-to-adult transmission.

Where possible, special consideration for physical distancing should be taken for classrooms with fixed equipment (for example, science labs or technological education classrooms). School

arrival and departure and signage will remain in use. Schools should develop school arrival and departure procedures that support physical distancing where possible.

Approaches may include:

- Determine entry procedures to avoid crowding by students.
- Maximizing the use of all possible entrances and exits to support the beginning and end of the school days
- Providing visual cues or physical guides, such as tape on floors or sidewalks and signs/posters on walls, to guide appropriate distances in lines/queues and at other times (for example, guides for creating “one-way routes” in hallways)
- Place tape, signs or other visual markers on floors, tables, seats and in play areas.
- Consider installing cues such as stickers or signs at frequently touched surfaces (e.g., water fountains, doors) to encourage students to avoid directly touching with their hands (e.g., use your elbow or the back of your hand).
- Where appropriate, design and implement a walking flow for the school, such as one-way routes with prominent signs and/or floor markings to prevent crowding (e.g., entrances, hallways, classrooms).
- Designate a room(s) in the school as an isolation room/wellness room for sick individuals. Schools with large populations can consider more than one room for this purpose. This room should only be used as an isolation/wellness room and not for other purposes. It should contain only minimal items and equipment so that cleaning and disinfecting is easy to perform after an ill individual leaves the room.
- Hand sanitizer should be available in school entrances and exits and in classrooms.
- During recess and breaks outdoors, students do not need to stay within their cohort during recess and breaks outdoors, but distancing should be encouraged between cohorts as much as possible. (Cohorting at recess is in effect at Elementary schools Jan/22)

Cleaning and Disinfection Standards and Protocols

Enhanced cleaning routines and protocols previously developed will remain in place for the 2021/2022 school year. Refer to Public Health Ontario’s [environmental cleaning fact sheet \(PDF\)](#). Refer to Health Canada’s [hard-surface disinfectants and hand sanitizers \(COVID-19\)](#) for approved products

Shared Materials

Shared materials are important for learning (for example, toys for imaginative play in kindergarten, manipulatives for math, computers and other tech materials, books, art supplies, indoor physical education equipment and shared outdoor equipment). **The use of shared materials is permitted.** The risk associated with transmission with shared objects is low. The focus should be on regular hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette to reduce the risk of infection related to shared equipment, particularly when regular cleaning of shared objects is not feasible.

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

Shared spaces, Lockers and Cubbies

Shared homerooms, libraries (for group and individual use, for example, drop-in study time, etc.) and computer/technology labs, are permitted. Use of lockers/cubbies is permitted. When different cohorts interact in shared indoor spaces, masking and as much distancing as possible should be maintained between cohorts.

Food Practices for Snacks and Meals/Lunch Time

Students may eat together:

- Outdoors, without distancing
- Indoors, with a minimum distance of two metres maintained between cohorts and as much distancing as possible within a cohort

Use of cafeterias or other shared lunch spaces is permitted as follows:

- Capacity limits should be established to enable consistent distancing of at least two metres between cohorts, and as much distancing as possible within cohorts
- **For secondary schools:** where two metres of distancing between cohorts is not possible, school boards are encouraged to develop a plan that reduces the number of students and cohorts eating in proximity to each other as much as possible
- Secondary students are permitted to eat off-campus
- **For elementary schools:** where two metres of distancing between cohorts is not possible, students are to eat lunch in their classroom with their cohort or outdoors
- Each student is encouraged to bring their own drink bottle that is labeled, kept with them during the day and not shared
- Use of shared microwaves/kitchen space is permitted
- Since eating requires the removal of masks, additional measures should be considered to reduce the spread of COVID-19.
- Open windows and doors, if possible, to allow for circulation. When possible, have lunch outdoors.
- Ensure students and staff perform proper hand hygiene before and after eating.
- Ensure students have their own individual meal or snack.
- Reinforce no food sharing policies.

Nutrition/third party food programs and non-instructional food events such as pizza day are permitted to operate, provided that food handlers use adequate food handling and safety practices.

- Offer a variety of nutritious foods that are minimally processed, pre-wrapped or ready-to-eat, including fresh fruit and vegetables, dairy products and whole-grain products. Portion foods in the food preparation area. If not feasible, food can be portioned with minimal food handling in the area where it will be served.
- Grab-and-go-formats are preferred.
 - For example, food items can be put together in one container (e.g., paper or plastic bag) for each student, or each item can be available for students to take from their own bin/tray.

- Students should either wash their hands with soap and water, or use hand sanitizer, if their hands are not visibly dirty, prior to selecting and eating food.
- Students should select and touch only the food they are taking.
- Common utensils should not be used.

Nutrition/third party food programs and non-instructional food events (such as a pizza day) are permitted to operate, provided that food handlers use adequate food handling and safety practices and follow all COVID-19 follow staff health and safety guidelines.

Water fountains and bottle filling stations

Water fountains and bottle filling stations can be used and are recommended to be cleaned and disinfected daily, or more often if needed. Fill water bottles rather than drinking directly from the mouthpiece of water fountains. Post [signs](#) near water fountains emphasizing public health measures.

Assemblies

School assemblies or other student/school gatherings are permitted and should follow the relevant provincial requirements under the Reopening Ontario Act. This can include multiple cohorts in alignment with provincial capacity limits.

Effective January 2022, Elementary in-person school assemblies or other student/school gatherings will not be permitted. Virtual options should be offered instead. Based on advice from the local public health unit, a school board may be required to implement virtual assemblies in advance of January 2022

For Secondary Schools, school assemblies or other student/school gatherings are permitted and should follow the relevant provincial requirements under the Reopening Ontario Act

This can include multiple cohorts in alignment with provincial capacity limits and includes allowance for in-school student to student peer support programs such as “reading buddies”

Mandatory Vaccination (Nov 19)

1.0 PURPOSE

Effective September 7, 2021, Dr. Kieran Moore, MD, Ontario Chief Medical Officer of Health issued a directive entitled *Instructions issued by the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health* which mandates all district school boards to achieve 100% vaccination policy compliance by September 27, 2021. The purpose of the Vaccination procedure is to outline the expectations and requirements with respect to COVID-19 and vaccination.

Achieving high immunization rates in Ontario’s schools through vaccination is part of a range of measures and actions that can help prevent and limit the spread of COVID-19 in schools and supports our goal of keeping schools open and safe for in-person learning. For this reason, it is the Board’s position to strongly encourage all staff to become vaccinated against COVID-19, as recommended by the Ministry of Health and Ontario Chief Medical Officer to ensure all reasonable precautions are taken to protect against the spread of COVID-19 and associated

variants. Vaccinations have been approved for emergency use and are considered an effective intervention in reducing the impact and spread of COVID-19 in the workplace.

2.0 OBJECTIVES

2.1 Ensure 100% compliance on the NNDSB COVID-19 immunization disclosure procedure for all staff and individuals this procedure applies to (see 3.0 scope).

2.2 Ensure that all individuals have access to information required to make informed decisions about COVID-19 vaccination.

3.0 DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of this document,

“Fully vaccinated against COVID-19” means having received all of the doses required for a COVID-19 vaccine(s) approved by the World Health Organization (e.g., two doses of a two-dose vaccine, or one dose of a single-dose vaccine); and having received the final vaccine dose at least 14 days ago.

“An attestation” is formally certifying or declaring information covered in section 4.0.

“Individuals” means all persons that this procedure applies to as outlined in section 3.0

3.0 SCOPE

This Procedure applies to:

- All Board employees.
- Occasional employees on a supply list.
- Contractors, and any other individuals employed or contracted to provide service in any capacity to the Board who regularly interact with or are in the presence of students and/or school board staff.
- School Board Trustees
- Students on an educational placement, including professional services students on a placement / work-integrated learning visit (e.g., teacher candidate practicums, nurse, psychologist, behavioural therapist, speech-language pathologist, etc.).
- Those who provide professional services to children at school.
- Student transportation drivers; and
- Regular volunteers and visitors.

[Staff Procedure \(Feb 2022\)](#)

Mandatory Vaccination and Disclosure

4.1 Staff who are fully vaccinated are expected to submit a formal attestation that they are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 using the [Staff Vaccination Attestation Form](#) or

4.2 Staff who are partially vaccinated with the intention to become fully vaccinated are required to indicate their vaccination status on their attestations and:

- a. Undergo antigen testing three times weekly until fully vaccinated and provide verification of a current negative test result using the Thrive App
<https://my.thrive.health/registration/code/enter?code=NNDSB-573qpm>
- b. Testing is to take place at an individual's residence prior to attending work. Testing should be implemented consistently on a weekly basis. Testing should not take place more than 48 hours before attending work. Sun./Tues./Thurs.
- c. Test kits may be obtained from Near North District schools or workplaces across the district. A regular supply of test kits will be maintained and re-ordered, as needed. As much privacy as possible will be maintained in the distribution of antigen test kits.

4.3 Individuals with medical reasons for not being vaccinated, must attest to their immunization status and:

Provide proof by either a physician or a nurse practitioner that a medical condition prevents vaccination and,

Undergo rapid antigen testing three times weekly and provide verification of a current negative test result (see above).

4.4 Where an individual covered by the procedure has not met the requirements in section 1.1, 1.2 or 1.3 above, they are required to:

Complete an educational program approved by the Ministry of Education,

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lylv8yFnjcM> and

Attest to completing this program and

Undergo rapid antigen testing three times weekly and provide verification of a current negative test result using the Thrive App (as outlined in 1.2).

Please note that rapid antigen screening is only for individuals who are asymptomatic.

Anyone who has symptoms should seek testing at their local assessment centre consistent with provincial testing guidance. A positive result on a rapid antigen test is considered a preliminary (presumptive) positive and requires confirmation with a PCR test.

Any individual that receives a preliminary positive result on a COVID-19 rapid antigen test is required to:

1. Seek a confirmatory PCR test immediately (ideally within 48 hours) at a designated testing centre.
2. Isolate immediately until the result of their confirmatory test is known.
3. Safely return to work only after they receive a negative result on a confirmatory test at a designated testing centre.

Any positive confirmatory test is routinely reported to the local public health unit, consistent with public health legislation, to support case and contact management and surveillance.

Testing numbers will be provided to the ministry per mandate, excluding all personal health or employee information.

Effective January 2022, all Staff and Non-Staff will need to confirm if they have received a booster dose by downloading their receipt using the [Staff Vaccination Attestation Form](#)

Mandatory Vaccination: Non-Staff Procedure

1.0 Mandatory Vaccination and Disclosure:

1.1 Individuals who are fully vaccinated are expected to submit a formal attestation that they are fully vaccinated against COVID-19

1.2 Individuals who are partially vaccinated with the intention to become fully vaccinated are required to indicate their vaccination status on their attestations **and**

- a. Undergo antigen testing three times weekly until fully vaccinated and provide verification of a current negative test result.

1.3 Individuals with medical reasons for not being vaccinated, must attest to their immunization status **and**

- a. Provide proof by either a physician or a nurse practitioner that a medical condition prevents vaccination **and**
- b. Undergo rapid antigen testing three times weekly and provide verification of a current negative test result.

1.4 Where an individual covered by the procedure has not met the requirements in section 1.1, 1.2 or 1.3 above, they are required to:

- a. Complete an educational program approved by the Ministry of Education, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lylv8yFnjcM> **and** attest to completing this program, **and**
- b. Undergo rapid antigen testing three times weekly and provide verification of a current negative test result.

Testing numbers will be provided to the ministry per the mandate, excluding all personal health or employee information.

2.0 Disclosure of information to the Near North District School Board:

2.1 All companies or agencies are required to ensure that their employees have met the above requirements and attest to this using the following form:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=sKPKiflHuUa3UOlzFotsTo4P-AGgTM9LqFg0k31xL31UMzk4TlpHUVE0RzMwWDBNSUcwTEVNT1RGSCQIQCN0PWcu>

This form needs to be updated weekly by Thursday if there are any changes.

If an organization does not have the legal authority to collect this information staff will be required to provide proof of vaccination upon entry into an NNDSB building. Individuals who are unable to show proof of full vaccination will be required to complete the following steps.

1. Complete the NNDSB attestation [form](#)
2. Attest to having a medical certificate from a doctor or nurse practitioner exempting the individual from being vaccinated **or**
3. Watch a mandatory education video **and**
4. Undergo COVID-19 rapid antigen testing twice per week **and**
5. Provide visual confirmation of a negative COVID-19 Rapid Antigen Test upon entering the school (information on obtaining a rapid test will be provided upon completing the attestation.)

2.2 Service providers visitors not connected to an agency or company

Regular visitors or volunteers not associated with a contractor or community partner the as outlined above must show proof of being fully vaccinated upon arrival at a NNDSB facility.

Individuals who cannot show proof of being fully vaccinated, will be required to complete the NNDSB Attestation form [here](#) and attest to having a medical note and/or be prompted to complete the educational video and antigen testing.

Individuals must follow the specific directions provided by the NNDSB to complete antigen testing and provide proof of a negative test using the Thrive App. Instructions for antigen testing and for access to the Thrive App will be provided to the individual via email.

Upon completion of antigen testing and viewing of the educational video, the individual will receive an email receipt from the NNDSB that must be shown upon entry to a school.

An individual may show their receipt at a school to request a kit for the completion of a rapid antigen test.

3.0 Screening

All visitors must continue to confirm they have completed the revised school and daycare self-screen found at [COVID 19 School and Childcare Screening Tool](#).

If multiple properties are being accessed daily, the same copy of the daily screening report will be sufficient for that day.

Failure to comply with this policy will result in exclusion from all NNDSB facilities.

We appreciate your cooperation in this matter. If you require assistance or have questions about the COVID-19 immunization disclosure policy, please contact Darren McDiarmid at Darren.McDiarmid@nearnorthschools.ca.

School pictures

Student pictures indoors are permitted with the current regulations though outdoors is preferred. The requirements under the regulations must be followed. If taking pictures indoors, choose a large room with good ventilation, and follow these measures:

- There should be two metres/six feet or more between the client and photographer at all times.
- Clean and disinfect surfaces that are touched between cohorts.
- To reduce movement in the room, the photographer should organize their equipment/lighting, etc. before calling in the student.
- The photographer and any assistants should wear a medical mask (and consider a face shield).
- Students should keep their mask on until the actual photo shoot.
- The photo shoot with each student should be kept as short as possible (less than 15 minutes).
- If a cap and gown are used, they must either be purchased for personal use or they must be laundered between uses. If they cannot be laundered, they can be disinfected and/or quarantined for 72 hours between uses. Students can make their own scroll with a sheet of paper and ribbon. Consider other ways for students to make their own cap.

Field Trips

Day trips and overnight stays are permitted, however, they must follow Board guidelines for field trips, including the need to obtain approval from the principal and/or superintendent, as appropriate, prior to planning the field trip(s). The mandatory vaccination rules must also be applied to all adult participants as stated in the provincial regulations. For venues requiring proof of vaccination, students/parents should be made aware of this requirement well ahead of the excursion. Schools may not collect this medical information and therefore the venue must have a system in place to verify/collect this directly from students.

All day trips and overnight stays will also be subject to current provincial and local health guidelines. In consultation with school administration the lead teacher (the one responsible for the activity planning) or Head Coach will review current restrictions and guidelines for each public health unit and/or school board for which the activity will take place prior to final approval for travel. If the requirements are less strict in the district of destination, the measures used in our district must apply.

The plans for the field trip must include specific measures on how to treat a participant who has developed COVID-19 symptoms. This plan must include the designation of a space to isolate the student away from all other participants, and the manner in which they will be sent home.

For day trips and overnight stays, everyone on the trip must be screened before boarding the bus. During an overnight stay, anyone participating in the trip must be screened every morning before beginning the day's activities.

Student arrival and departure must take place in a designated area where screening can be completed prior to entering the activity site or on the bus, as appropriate. All participants must follow school board policies regarding student cohort(s), spectators, transportation, and supervision, as applicable. Staggered arrival and departure times are recommended to support cohort and physical distancing measures.

To assist with contact tracing, accurate records must be maintained of all student participants and activity leaders in attendance at any game(s), competition(s), practice(s) or any other event (e.g., off-site meals, visits...) and must be kept on file for one month readily available to the principal and available to health units upon request.

The [Field Trip Approval Form/Checklist](#) must be completed by the Trip Leader and signed off by the principal prior to the trip. Also included in this document are some suggestions and considerations to assist the principal in ensuring compliance with the NNDSB COVID-19 Field Trip Guidelines.

School-Focused Vaccination Clinics

NBPSHU will work with schools to host school-focused clinics into the fall, aimed at youth, their families, school board employees and students of local private schools who have not yet received a first or second dose. Principals are asked to prioritize the use of school space to support clinics. School-focused clinics can operate before, during, or after school hours. Clinics can either be on school property or be off-site in partnership with school boards and operate like any other vaccine clinic.

Like all other medical procedures, COVID-19 vaccines are only provided with informed consent. In Ontario, there is no age limit that sets out when people can provide informed consent and make medical decisions on their own. Consent can be provided by anyone who is capable of doing so, including those aged 12 to 17. This means they understand the treatment, why it is being recommended, and the risks and benefits if they accept or refuse to be vaccinated. It is the role of the health provider to determine if their patient can consent to treatment and it is a regular and routine process that health providers undertake before performing any medical procedure. If a child or youth is incapable of consenting to receiving the vaccine, they would need consent from their substitute decision-maker, such as their parent or legal guardian. The health care provider, school, and family must respect a young person's decision regarding vaccination.

Schools are asked to disseminate information from local public health units on the informed consent process to all students, parents, and guardians prior to hosting/participating in a school-based clinic. Schools are also asked to provide notification to students, parents, and guardians on when a school-focused vaccination clinic will be hosted at a school

Management of COVID-19 in Schools (Feb 2022)

This operational guidance is intended to support school boards and school authorities in the safe reopening and operation of schools for the 2021-2022 school year. This guidance also applies to child care centres and before and after school programs that operate within schools.

In the event of a discrepancy between this guidance and a directive of the Chief Medical Officer of Health, the directive prevails.

In response to the evolving situation related to the COVID-19 Omicron (B.1.1.529) variant of concern (VOC), the Ministry of Health is providing public health units with [Interim guidance for schools and child care during the Omicron surge](#). This guidance is to be used as an interim update (until otherwise specified by the ministry) to [COVID-19 Guidance: school case, contact, and outbreak management](#) and is also to be used in conjunction with [COVID-19 integrated testing & case, contact and outbreak management interim guidance: Omicron surge](#). These guidance documents provide direction for local public health units on the management of COVID-19 cases and contacts.

While the focus of this guidance is on the updated health, safety and operational measures that are required in order to safely reopen and operate schools, please note that every effort should continue to be made to uphold the welcoming and caring environment that schools provide for children and families. There may be variability in scenarios based on local context and epidemiology and the information in this document is intended as guidance only.

Additional information is available on the provincial [COVID-19 website](#), including resources to help stop the spread and sector specific resources, such as helpful posters and mental health resources.

Responsibilities (Feb 2022)

As part of the COVID-19 response, there should be well defined roles, responsibilities, and processes within the school board, school and the local PHU.

Schools are responsible for reporting:

- occupational illness to the Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development, as well as to the workplace joint health and safety committee, the worker's labour union (if any), and the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB)
- absenteeism to the Ministry of Education through the daily reporting tool, in accordance with provincial direction.

Schools are to notify the local PHU when absenteeism of specific schools rises to a defined level (approximately 30% above baseline), and:

- Work with the PHU to review absenteeism data when the particular threshold has been met, to assess whether there may be alternative causes for the increase.
- When a school or childcare has an absenteeism rate of **30% or higher for two consecutive days** during which inclement weather and/or bus cancellations did not contribute to absenteeism, it is required to notify North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit. Please complete the [School Absenteeism Tracking Survey](#) if your school or childcare's absenteeism rate is at or above 30% for two consecutive days. If you have any

questions about completing the form, please contact the Healthy Schools program at 1-844-478-1400.

- Communicate in writing with school community (including staff, students, families) about absenteeism, if recommended by the PHU.

Daily Attendance Reporting (Feb 2022)

Principals have a duty to complete daily reporting of information to both the Ministry of Education and their local health unit.

Reporting using the ART tool at school level

Using the Attendance reporting tool through an MOE “GO-Secure” account, principals are responsible to ensure the following:

- Schools must report to the Ministry of Education on a daily basis the number of staff and students absent each day from school. The expectation is that the reporting will be completed by the school Principal or their designate (i.e., Vice-Principal, Administrative Assistant, etc.) by **11 a.m.**

Additional Duty to Report known or suspected cases of COVID-19. (Feb 2022)

In accordance with Section 265 (1) (K) of the Education Act and section 28 of the Health Protection and Promotion Act, principals have a duty to report confirmed or suspected cases of communicable diseases. Where it is reported to a school that a student is suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19, principals (or designates) shall communicate the following information using this Microsoft form. <https://forms.office.com/r/dkT42zpN5y>

- Name of principal or vice-principal.
- Name of school.
- Number of confirmed or suspected new cases of COVID-19

Schools will not report individual names of students unless requested by the health unit. Schools should only report new cases and not cases reported in the previous five days. Once completed, the MS form will automatically generate an email with the above information to the appropriate Health Unit.

COVID-19 Protocols for Emergency Management and Fire Safety

School principals are responsible for Maintaining Emergency Procedures for their schools, while respecting public health guidance outlined in this document.

Conducting Emergency and Crisis Response Drills:

- A minimum of two lockdown drills must still occur each school year, however, the way they are conducted may be modified for the 2021-22 school year.
- A discussion, visual demonstration or combination of both could be used to provide an overview of the Emergency and Crisis Response Plans, including
 - Identifying an emergency.
 - Procedures; and
 - Roles and responsibilities
- Drills are conducted while maintaining physical distancing and wearing a face mask (as required)
- While a response to bomb threats may have historically been practiced through evacuation of the school, the requirement to ensure that boards' staff, students, and other stakeholders are aware of their obligations/responsibilities within individual school plans, can be accomplished through discussion and/or visual demonstration.
- Teachers must do drills within classroom cohorts
- Schools should notify local emergency services in advance of scheduled drills and of changes to any floor plans.
- Other programs operating within the school (e.g., childcare and early years programs) should be notified of changes to the Emergency and Crisis Response Plans.

Conducting Fire Drills

On August 3, 2021, the Office of the Fire Marshal issued Fire Marshal revised its 2020/2021 fire drill directive. "[Total evacuation fire drills in schools during COVID-19 pandemic](#)". Schools must plan for procedures to conduct fire drills aligned with public health advice. We emphasize a continued flexible and balanced approach when conducting fire drills in schools in accordance with the document linked above.

During the 2021-2022 school year, the term "total evacuation fire drill" must allow for procedures that will ensure fire drill evacuations can be conducted safely, in accordance with public health guidance, to minimize the risk of COVID-19 transmission. For the 2021-2022 school year, assistants to the Fire Marshal are directed to deem the following procedures to be compliant with the requirements of total evacuation fire drills as set out in Article 2.8.3.2. of Division B of the Fire Code for schools, private schools, extended day programs or third-party programs, and to day nurseries (i.e., childcare centers) that are operated in schools and provide services to children that are pupils of a board:

1. On the scheduled Fire Drill day, a one-time sounding of the fire alarm during an all-school announcement in order to familiarize all students and staff with the sound of the fire alarm.
2. On the same day, following Item 1, evacuation of individual classrooms in a manner that ensures physical distancing is maintained in accordance with public health guidance. As only a few classrooms may be able to evacuate simultaneously, the total evacuation of the school may extend over the course of the school day. The teacher/supervisory person may use a cell phone ringer, a bell or a similar type of device to commence the individual classroom evacuation, at the scheduled time.

For clarity, these allowances are only for purposes of undertaking a total evacuation fire drill and only where needed to ensure compliance with public health guidance. **Where a fire alarm sounds outside the scope of a planned fire drill, the total evacuation of the school shall proceed as per procedures outlined in the approved school Fire Safety Plan.**

Sample Modifications for a Total Evacuation Fire Drill On designated “fire drill days” (minimum 3 times for each fall and spring term):

Sounding the Alarm:

- A “one-time” sounding of the fire alarm is conducted in the morning, so that students become familiar with the sound of the alarm. Principals may choose to notify staff and local fire services of this procedure the day before the fire alarm is sounded.
- On the fire drill day, a school announcement can be made on the PA system that outlines how the total evacuation fire drill will be occurring. This may include instructions related to:
 - Staff and student roles
 - Physical distancing
 - Masking
 - Staggered or scheduled evacuation process

Evacuation Procedure:

- The total evacuation of the school will take place per procedures outlined in the approved school Fire Safety Plan. As only a few classrooms may be able to evacuate simultaneously, the scheduling of individual classroom evacuations may be required.
- Individual classrooms will evacuate in a manner that ensures physical distancing and the wearing of masks (as required) is maintained in accordance with public health guidance.
- Teacher plays recording on cell phone or other device to simulate the sound of the fire alarm to commence the individual classroom evacuation, at the scheduled time.
- Teacher practices duties assigned under the Fire Safety Plan (e.g., closing windows and doors).
- Individual classes or cohorts practice evacuation procedures by walking the primary and secondary exit routes, while maintaining physical distancing.
- If the building has more than one exit (e.g., east and west wing), multiple classes may be able to participate simultaneously while adhering to public health advice in common areas, such as hallways.
- Exit paths can be identified using colour coding that can serve as a reminder for primary students, where they need to go.
- Once the class has safely evacuated from the building, students walk to assigned meeting areas before returning to the classroom, all while physically distancing and wearing masks (as required).
- Once the students and teachers have returned to the classroom, they will sanitize/wash their hands.
- Teacher/school administration documents the fire drill participation.

Note:

- Schools should notify local fire services in advance of the scheduled fire drill to ensure fire trucks are not dispatched.

- Other programs operating within the school (e.g., childcare and early years programs) must also be notified to ensure children and staff understand that the sounding of the alarm relates to a fire drill.

Student Transportation

Capacity

School vehicles can operate at full capacity. Vehicles for elementary students should reduce capacity where possible. The seat directly behind the driver in school buses should remain empty to maintain physical distance between the driver and students. This distancing measure may not be applicable to other vehicle types such as vans or cars. Where school vehicles are able to operate at less than full capacity, students should be seated in a manner that maximizes physical distancing. Active forms of travel (for example, walking and cycling) are encouraged to ease pressure on transportation demand. Windows should be opened when feasible to increase ventilation.

Masks: School Transportation Vehicles

The use of non-medical masks for students in grades JK to 12 is required on school vehicles. Students in kindergarten should be directed to wear a mask on school transportation in accordance with directions received from the North Bay-Parry Sound District Health. However, *“Children under the age of five years either by birth age or mental development who refuse to wear a face covering and cannot be persuaded to do so should be exempt from wearing masks”*.

Exceptions may be made for students with medical conditions or special needs that prevent masking using the NNDSB Face Covering Exemption process.

Students should be assigned seats and a record of the seating plan should be kept assisting with contact tracing in the case of a student or driver contracting COVID-19. Students who live in the same household or are in the same classroom cohort should be seated together where possible.

Cleaning

School vehicles should follow an enhanced cleaning protocol of disinfecting high-touch surfaces (for example, handrails, seatbacks) at least twice daily.

Academic Programs and Requirements

Cooperative Education

For students enrolled in cooperative education courses, in-person community placements can be arranged in alignment with the relevant provincial requirements under the Reopening Ontario Act, the direction and recommendations of the local health unit, and with the safety and curriculum requirements of the Cooperative Education curriculum. If in-person placements are not possible, students should be offered virtual placements. In the event that public health guidance or direction changes during a placement and the student cannot complete their co-op placement in-person or virtually, educators should work with the student to modify their co-op learning plans that allow the student to achieve the curriculum expectations and earn the credit(s).

Music

Music programs are only permitted in areas with adequate ventilation requirements have been met. **(Read ventilation section for requirements)**. Singing and the use of wind instruments will be permitted as follows:

Secondary

- Use of wind instruments is permitted indoors. As much distance as possible should be encouraged and use of large, well-ventilated spaces should be prioritized.
AND if a minimum distance of two metres or more can be maintained between individuals. If shared, proper sanitization of wind instruments should occur between use.
- Singing is permitted indoors. Masking is encouraged but not required for singing indoors if a minimum distance of two metres can be maintained between individuals.

Elementary

- As much distance as possible should be encouraged and the use of large, well-ventilated spaces should be prioritized
- Use of wind instruments is permitted indoors **within a cohort** if a minimum distance of two metres or more can be maintained
- If shared, proper sanitization of wind instruments should occur between use
- Singing is permitted indoors for elementary schools.
- Masking is encouraged but not required for singing indoors if a minimum distance of two metres can be maintained **between cohorts** and as much distancing as possible maintained within a cohort.

Health and Physical Education

In elementary and secondary health and physical education courses, the use of gymnasiums, swimming pools, change rooms, weight rooms, indoor physical education equipment and shared outdoor equipment are permitted with distancing.

High and low-contact activities are permitted indoors and outdoors as follows:

- Masking is not required when playing high or low contact activities outdoors.
- Masking is encouraged for indoor sports and activities where they can be worn safely.

- Windows should be opened, when possible, to increase air flow.
- It is not advisable to wear a mask during intense cardiovascular activities. At this time, it is recommended that high intensity activities are held outdoors where physical distancing is possible. Alternatively in well ventilated areas indoors, cardiovascular activity can be considered if there is adequate physical distancing of 2 metres/6 feet or more.
- Students should practice hand hygiene before and after participating in physical activity and equipment uses. The risk associated with transmission with shared objects is low therefore the focus should be on regular hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette to reduce the risk of infection related to shared equipment especially when the cleaning of shared objects is not feasible.
- The whole gym itself does not need to be cleaned after each cohort, unless visibly dirty, but high-touch surfaces should be cleaned twice daily or more often as required.
- Playground structures do not need to be cleaned or disinfected between uses. Hand hygiene should be practiced before and after using playground equipment.

Examples of High Contact sports include Basketball, Football, Hockey, Lacrosse, Rugby, Soccer and Wrestling

Examples of Low Contact sports include Badminton, Curling, Gymnastics, Swimming, Track and Field, Running and Volleyball.

EQAO

For the 2021-22 school year, regular EQAO assessments for grades 3 and 6 will resume in the new digital format for Math, Reading and Writing. Students in Grade 9 Math will write the Grade 9 Math digital adaptive assessment and the results of the assessment may count towards up to 10% of the student's final mark. EQAO assessments are required to be done in-person at the school. Students learning remotely can choose to participate in the EQAO COVID-19. Assessments can be completed in person at the discretion of the school board, as long as all applicable health and safety measures can be met.

Literacy and Community Involvement Graduation Requirements

The Literacy graduation requirement is waived for students graduating in the 2021- 22 school year. The Literacy graduation requirement will be restored for students graduating in the 2022-23 school year. Students in Grades 10 and 11 and non- graduating students, including those who are learning remotely, are required to work towards the literacy graduation requirement, through participation in the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT), adjudication or the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Course (OSSLC).

The community involvement graduation requirement has been reduced from 40 hours to a minimum of 20 hours of community involvement activities for students graduating in the 2021-22 school year. Temporary changes to reduce barriers students may face to earn their community involvement hours and provide greater flexibility in how they earn their hours will continue for the 2021-22 school year. The community involvement graduation requirement of 40 hours will be restored in 2022-23 and students working towards their OSSD should be supported to meet these requirements in time for their graduating year.

Adult and Continuing Education

Delivery options for programs offered by through Adult and Continuing Education such as International and Indigenous Languages, Adult Credit as well as Literacy and Numeracy, may vary in approach, in alignment with this return to school direction, to include remote and in-person models while taking into account the health and safety of students

Mental Health

Student Mental Health and Well-Being should be considered a top priority, as good Mental Health is fundamental to a student's ability to learn and to succeed at school and in life. Schools are expected to adopt the NNDSB Mental Health initiatives. In addition, [School Mental Health Ontario](#), is providing schools with comprehensive back to school resources.

RECORDS MANAGEMENT (Feb 2022)

PHUs may request essential information pertaining to staff and students. This information needs to be accessible by school administrators on short notice, both during and outside of school hours, if requested by the PHU.

The following information should be available:

- attendance records
- student portfolio
- class lists and seating charts
- before-and-after child care lists
- transportation lists and seating charts
- up to date contact information for parents, staff and students
- special assignments and programs (for example, Education Community Partnership program (formerly Care Treatment Custody Corrections), Special Education)
- records of essential visitors

Ventilation

School boards are expected to continue optimizing air quality in classrooms and learning environments through improving ventilation and/or filtration. This is a key element in the multiple protective strategies to support healthy and safe learning environments for students and staff.

For schools with full mechanical ventilation, school boards are expected to:

- use the highest-grade filters possible, preferably MERV 13 filters
- undertake frequent filter changes through the school year
- operate ventilation systems 2 hours or more before and after school occupancy
- calibrate HVAC systems for maximum air flow and increased fresh air intake

This guidance also applies to schools with mechanical ventilation for parts of schools, such as additions.

For schools or parts of schools without mechanical ventilation, school boards are expected to place standalone high efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filter units in all classrooms, learning environments and shared spaces including gyms, libraries, lunchrooms, childcare spaces, administrative spaces and portables. All Kindergarten classrooms, even those in schools operating mechanical ventilation systems, will have a HEPA filter unit placed in their classroom as an extra preventative measure to account for kindergarten students not wearing masks. HEPA filter units ensure particle filtration of air and improve air exchange. These units must be sized for the classroom or learning environment that is being used. In larger classrooms and learning environments, more than one HEPA unit may be required. In addition, school boards are encouraged to support outdoor education where possible and open windows where this augments ventilation for classrooms and learning environments.

Extra-Curricular Activities and Community Use of Schools

Intramural Clubs and Sports

Clubs, activities, sports teams, bands (without wind instruments), and extracurricular activities are permitted. Cohorts may interact outdoors with physical distancing encouraged, and indoors with masking and appropriate physical distancing. Direction in sections on protective strategies and specific academic programs and requirements apply to all extra-curricular activities.

Inter-school sports and activities

In consultation with the NBPSDHU a protocol has been created to support Inter School Sports and Activities. It is our intention to take part in OFSSA programming. Please refer to the following document: [NIPISSING DISTRICT COVID-19 PROTOCOL FOR INTER-SCHOOL EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES, SPORTS AND CLUBS](#) for more information. (Feb 2022: This document will be updated soon to be consistent with current guidance)

Extra-curricular Media Protocol (Oct 6)

Media will be permitted at school extra-curricular events both indoors and outdoors, to provide the opportunity to broadcast events and results to the community. The co-terminus boards have developed a media pass that must be displayed to gain entry to an event.

- To obtain a pass, members of the media must show proof of being fully vaccinated.
- Media contacts must register prior to the event.
- Upon arrival to the game/event, member of the media verifies self-screening and signs in visitor log (as per usual process).

For more information about the Media Protocol and/or to register as a member of the media, please contact Deb Bartlett, Information and Communication Coordinator at Deb.Bartlett@nearnorthschools.ca or 705-472-8170 ext. 5010.

Before and After School Programs

Schools, childcare operators and authorized recreation providers in schools should follow the guidance for before and after school programs and collaborate to ensure that student lists and information are maintained and readily available to be provided to public health if needed, in accordance with all applicable legislation, including the [Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act](#).

Community Use of Schools

The NNDSB has not yet authorized the resumption of Community use permits.

Once authorized by the NNDSB, Community use of schools is permitted provided activities are aligned with public health guidance and direction. The NNDSB will work with the NPSDHU to develop a plan. Once the NNDSB has authorized the resumption of community use of schools all programs should ensure that they are complying with the applicable provincial requirements under the [Reopening Act](#).

Community organizations wishing to use school facilities must work with their local PHUs to develop a plan for community access to school property and facilities. Any visitors to a school are required to self-screen and to wear a mask while on school premises. At the advice of the local public health unit, the NNDSB may be asked to restrict community access.

Community groups must maintain daily student/visitor lists and contact information. This should be readily available to be provided to public health for contact tracing purposes in accordance with all applicable legislation, including the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

International students

The NNDSB is continuing to update our international students plan that will include:

- a plan respecting COVID-19 that has been approved by the Minister of Education
- operates in accordance with the approved plan

Further direction may be shared throughout the year should there be federal or provincial changes regarding international students.

Continuity of Learning (New Oct 4th)

The Near North District School Board recognizes that during the COVID-19 pandemic, schools need to be prepared to seamlessly transition to distance learning in times of extended interruption to conventional in-person learning. Disruptions to learning may impact specific classes, schools, or the entire system for undetermined periods of time. The Continuity of Learning Plan specifically focuses on the process of transitioning from “in person” learning to distance learning or “remote learning”. The plan outlines roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders to ensure a smooth transition and provide a clear plan that students, parents and staff can understand and support.

The health and safety of students and staff remain our primary focus. The NNDSB continues to follow the guidance of North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit. The NNDSB Continuity of Learning Plan focuses on three key components:

PREPARING – What tasks and actions need to be completed before there is a need to transition to distance learning?

INITIATING – What steps will be taken to ensure a structured and systematic process during transition?

REVIEWING – Following a return from distance learning, how we will review and reflect on the experience in order to improve our practices.

Click here to access the [NNDSB Continuity of Learning Plan](#).

Appendix C Tools for a COVID-Safe School

Top 6 Tools for a COVID-Safe Return to School

From the North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit

Here are the top resources we recommend for schools to support a safe and healthy 2021/2022 school year! Share these resources with staff, or include them in newsletters for parents/guardians as you see fit.



1. COVID-19 School & Child Care Screening

Bookmark this page for easy access to screen every morning:
<https://covid-19.ontario.ca/school-screening>



2. Health Unit Website

The Health Unit has a Schools webpage, which you can find at: www.myhealthunit.ca/schools. At the top of this page you can find links to our COVID-19 and Schools/Child Care and COVID-19 pages with information to support school staff and administration as well as parents/guardians. Bookmark these pages too!



3. School & Child Care Information Line

Our call centre has a dedicated School & Child Care Information line with Public Health Nurses available to answer questions from schools, families and students. You can reach them at **1.844.478.1400**.



4. Health Unit Healthy Schools Staff

Connect with your school's designated Community Health Promoter and Public Health Nurse. They are available to support your school with questions related to COVID-19, as well as programs and activities related to comprehensive school health!







5. COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) for School Boards

Our school board FAQ is intended to supplement Ontario's COVID-19: Health, safety and operational guidance for schools (2021–2022). Here you can find common questions and answers to support a safe and healthy return to school.



6. Health Unit Social Media

Follow us on Facebook and Twitter (or Instagram and TikTok for youth) to get the latest updates about COVID-19 and other health topics.

-  **Facebook** @NorthBayParrySoundDistrictHealthUnit
-  **Twitter** @NBPSDHealthUnit
-  **Instagram** @impact_hu (youth-focused account)
-  **TikTok** @impact_hu (youth-focused account)



Additional Resources

Source COVID-19: Health, Safety and Operational Guidance for Schools (Aug 13, 2021)

<https://www.ontario.ca/document/covid-19-health-safety-and-operational-guidance-schools-2021-2022>

How to use and wear PPE & Masks

STAFF-Refresher presentations from Public Health Ontario on Personal Protective Equipment:

Part 1: What is PPE?

[Recorded presentation](#)

[Downloadable presentation slides](#)

Part 2: How to use and wear PPE

[Recorded presentation](#)

[Downloadable presentation slides](#)

STUDENTS- Refresher presentations from Public Health Ontario Mask-Use for Children and Youth:

[Recorded presentation](#)

[Downloadable presentation slides](#)

Appropriate Use of N95 Mask (in Special Education Settings)

Putting on a N95 mask (1 min)

<https://youtu.be/9Wki4GGU62U>

Taking off a N95 mask (1 min)

<https://youtu.be/lqKCeyjig9o>

<https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/diseases-and-conditions/infectious-diseases/respiratory-diseases/novel-coronavirus/ppe#>

Hand Hygiene and Respiratory Etiquette

Refresher presentations from Public Health Ontario on Hand Hygiene:

[Recorded presentation](#)

[Downloadable presentation slides](#)

Hand Washing and Hand Sanitizing Posters:

[Hand Washing](#)

[Hand sanitizer](#)

Refresher presentations from Public Health Ontario on Physical Distancing:

[Recorded presentation](#)

[Downloadable presentation slides](#)