

COVID-19 Parents' Guide

2020-2021 School Year



Planning for in-person classes

Going back to school this September will look very different than it has in the past. There are many things that families can do now to prepare for in-person classes. Modelling healthy behaviours at home and talking to your children about what changes to expect will help ease this transition back to school.

Parents' role in keeping schools safe

Daily screening



- ◆ Check in with your child each morning for signs of illness.
- ◆ If symptoms are present, keep your child home and notify the school.
- ◆ Use the screening tool to screen your child, ontario.ca/covid-19-stop-spread

Keep a safe distance



- Keep 2 metres between you and others when possible:
- ◆ During drop-off and pick-up.
 - ◆ During interactions with a teacher, school staff, or other parents and students.

Pick up students promptly if they show symptoms at school



- ◆ You will be asked to pick up your child from school if they show symptoms.
- ◆ Make sure your contact information is current at school, including emergency contacts and individuals authorized to pick up your child(ren).

Plan for possible school closures or periods of quarantine



- ◆ If transmission is increasing in our community or if multiple children or staff test positive for COVID-19, the school building might close.
- ◆ If a close contact of your child (within or outside of school) tests positive for COVID-19, your child may need to stay home and quarantine for 14 days.

Plan for transportation



- ◆ If your child rides a bus, plan for your child to wear a face covering on the bus and talk to your child about the importance of following bus rules, including assigned seating and physical distancing, if possible.
- ◆ If carpooling, plan on every child in the carpool and the driver wearing face coverings for the entire trip. If your school uses the cohort model, consider finding families within your child's group or cohort at school to be part of the carpool.



What students need to know

What is a cohort and why are cohorts important?

- ◆ A cohort – or bubble – is a group of students and staff who remain together in a class.
- ◆ The risk of COVID-19 is reduced by limiting exposure to others. Staying in a cohort also makes contact tracing easier and faster if there is a suspected case of COVID-19.

Health measures at school

Talk to your child about some of the new health measures that will be in place to help them prepare for returning to school:

- ◆ Sanitize hands before entering school and classrooms.
- ◆ Wash or sanitize hands several times throughout the day.
- ◆ Wear a face covering.
- ◆ Cover coughs and sneezes properly, visit kflaph.ca/Signage to download a copy of the poster.
- ◆ Keep a distance between others and follow marks in hallways.
- ◆ Do not share food or personal items like pencils or erasers.
- ◆ Tell staff if they are feeling sick at school.
- ◆ Lunch and recess routines may change to allow for physical distancing.
- ◆ Students may be asked to stay in their own cohort to decrease contact with others.
- ◆ Students who take the bus will have to sit in the same seat every day.

Your child may feel nervous about what school will be like. While there will be changes, the key school experience will be the same as before – they will learn in class with their teacher and see friends.