

Aug 28, 2020

Dear Families:

As we continue to update you on plans, it is important to recognize that it will take collaboration from both home and school to ensure that our families and schools are safe. In our first communication earlier this week we shared with you Nova Scotia's *Back to School Plan*. To learn more about the plan, visit www.novascotia.ca/backtoschool.

We recognize that you may have questions. Rest assured that supporting your child's return to school is our highest priority. COVID-19 has changed what our school and school day will look like, but it has not changed the quality of education, or the care and support that your child will receive.

There will be many changes to routines in September. Among the changes:

- **All students who ride a school bus** will be required to wear a mask. This includes our pre-primary-grade 3 students. They will keep the mask on until they enter their classroom. Parents are encouraged to send a paper bag or appropriate bag to store the mask in (you may want to label your child's mask as all of the children who ride the bus will have masks as well). Parents are also encouraged to practice with your child how to put on and take off the mask so that they don't become contaminated.
- All students in Grades 4 to 12 and **all staff will be required to wear a mask when they are unable to physically distance**. Following direction from Public Health, **pre-primary children and students in grade primary to 3 are not required to wear a mask while in school** (p.14 NS Back to School plan).
- To limit the number of people in the building, the Nova Scotia Back to School plan states that pickups and drop-offs should take place outside where possible. (p.25 NS Back to School Plan). As we firm up the details of arrival and departure, we will communicate this with families.
- Schools will receive enhanced cleaning.
- Increased handwashing and sanitizing as students enter and exit school and throughout the day.

Handwashing/sanitizing/no sharing

- Families can help prepare their children by reinforcing handwashing/sanitizing regularly.
- We are asking families to limit personal items that come to school (no toys, stuffed animals, etc)
- Right now – in this pandemic – we are encouraging students to show they are caring by not sharing. By avoiding sharing personal items (backpacks, hats, food/drinks, etc) and leaving non-essential things at home (toys, etc) , this helps keep our school and your home clean and safe.

Daily COVID checklist

- You can find the [Daily COVID Screening Tool here](#). As part of the layered approach, families are to use this screening tool to make sure that their children do not have any of these symptoms.

Staff will also be expected to do the same. Staff and students are required to stay home if they are ill, even if their symptoms are mild.

If a child presents with symptoms at school:

- Child will be immediately separated and will put on a mask.
- They will be moved to a designated area to **await a prompt pick up.**
- **It is important that we have your most up to date contact information on file at school**
- We will call the first guardian/parent and if we are unable to reach you, we will move on to the next contact. If required we will call the emergency contact. **For our shared health it is imperative that if the school is calling to send a child home ,that they are picked up in a timely fashion.**
- When a child is sent home parents are expected to contact 811 and they will help determine next steps.

*** We will always follow direction from Public Health-as stated in the NS Back to School plan (p.30) – In the event that a case of COVID-19 is confirmed to be connected to a school setting, Public Health will provide additional guidance on the required actions. ***

Over the course of the next week, leading up to the first day of school, we will be outlining what students and families can expect. These updates will be sent by email and posted on our website at: <https://ove.hrce.ca/>

In the meantime, if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Remember - together, we've got this. We all have a role to play in helping students feel safe and supported when they return to school. We will keep the lines of communication open to make this a positive year. We are all in this together.

We can't wait see our students!



Mamoon Brace

Sincerely,
Mamoon Brace