

Ocean View Elementary

Return to school plan

September 2020

Welcome Back!!

We are working hard to provide you with information that we hope you will find useful and supportive. Even though the Province's Return to School plan has details, <https://www.ednet.ns.ca/backtoschool>, it is natural for parents to have questions. We don't have answers for everything, but we wanted to share the information we have. This information is based on our most current understanding of where we are with the pandemic at this time.

We hope you find this information useful as we prepare to start a new school year unlike any we have had before!

****Please note the following information that is being provided is based on our most recent information and guideline from Public Health. This information could change and/or be modified as we respond to the COVID19 pandemic.**

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Before Coming to School

- **All parents will be required** to screen their child daily for any symptoms of cold, flu, or other symptoms that may be associated with COVID-19, prior to sending their child to school using the COVID-19 Daily Checklist.
- Students and staff are asked to **STAY home if they exhibit any signs of illness.**

COVID-19 Daily Checklist

It is important to closely monitor your health and the health of those you care for. Please consider these questions each day before leaving home and entering public spaces.

If you are feeling sick, you should **stay home or go home immediately, and follow the instructions below.**

1 Are you feeling sick?
If yes, stay home and avoid public spaces, including work, school/child care, and shopping.

2 Do you have any of these symptoms?



Fever
(i.e. chills,
sweats)



Cough or
worsening of a
previous cough



Sore throat



Headache



Shortness of
breath



Muscle
aches



Sneezing



Nasal congestion/
runny nose



Hoarse voice



Diarrhea



Unusual
fatigue



Loss of sense
of smell or
taste



Red, purple or blueish
lesions (spots) on the
feet, toes or fingers
without clear cause

If yes, stay home and contact 811 to be screened for testing for COVID-19.

3 In the last 14 days, have you travelled outside Atlantic Canada?
If yes, you must stay home. You are required by law to self-isolate for 14 days upon return to Atlantic Canada.

4 In the last 14 days, have you had close contact (within 2 metres / 6 feet) with someone confirmed to have COVID-19?

If yes, you must stay home. You are required by law to self-isolate if you have been identified as a close contact of someone with COVID-19. If you haven't spoken with Public Health or been tested, you should contact 811 to be screened for testing for COVID-19.

5 Are you waiting for results from a COVID-19 test?
If yes, stay home. You are required by law to self-isolate while awaiting COVID-19 test results. Please follow instructions given by Public Health.

Hygiene Practices

- Parents are asked to practice hygiene routines at home.
- Staff will teach and review hygiene routines in their daily practice
- Staff will schedule handwashing/trips to bathroom throughout the day, particularly around staggered eating times (recess and lunch)
- Hand Sanitizer stations will be located throughout the building and at every threshold within the school

PROPER HAND WASHING

Washing your hands frequently with soap and water is the best way to reduce the spread of germs.

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1 Wet your hands with warm running water
- 

2 Add soap and scrub for 15–20 seconds
- 

3 Wash backs, thumbs, between fingers, and under nails
- 

4 Rinse off soap under running water
- 

5 Dry your hands with a clean towel
- 

6 Turn off tap with a towel

Monitoring for Symptoms

For our shared health:

- Use the COVID-19 Checklist daily before sending your child to school each day.
- Teachers will also be instructed that if a student in their classroom is exhibiting COVID like symptoms to send that child to the office for further screening. In this situation, it will most likely result in a phone call home to get more information.
- If a child does need to be sent home because they are exhibiting COVID like symptoms, they will be masked and wait with a socially distant adult in an isolated room near the office until they are picked up.
- If the school calls for you to pick up your child, **it is expected that they are promptly picked up. If we can not reach the first contact we will move on to the second contact. Emergency contacts should know be aware that the students will need to be picked up promptly** (p.30 NS Back to School Plan)
- Once the child is picked up, parents are to call 811 and they will guide the family as to next steps.
- Please remember, we are not health professionals, we will do our best to monitor students in the building for symptoms related to COVID-19, and this is something we will need your co-operation with.
- In the meantime, if you child has any conditions, such as seasonal allergies, that may present as COVID like symptoms, please reach out to your child's teacher and administration to let them know.

Arrival

Walking Students:

- Walking students are permitted on school grounds after 8:30 AM. Walking students will go to their assigned door and directly to their classroom where they will sanitize their hands. Doors will be supervised by a staff member.

Bus:

- Some students arrive on the bus. Bussed students will exit the bus and enter the building through their regular assigned class door. Special needs bus students will be dropped off at the back door, closest to the dirt road. They will be met at the bus by an EPA or LC teacher and will be brought to the LC to sanitize their hands.



Parent drop off:

- Parent vehicles are **not** permitted on school property. Parents are required to drop children off in the 'Kiss and Go' drop off location or park on Ocean View School Road. **Parents are only allowed on property if they are masked and socially distancing from other families.**
 - **Please DO NOT park on the dirt road.** We have double the number of buses arriving this year and they will need to exit the school grounds via the dirt road. Please park on the allowed side of OceanView School Road or down at the bottom of the hill.
 - **Please DO NOT park where the "no stopping" signs are.** Again, this is for our students' safety.
 - If students arrive between 8:30-8:45 AM, students will enter the school at their regular assigned classroom door. If students arrive after 8:45 AM, they will enter the front door of the school. Parents will not be permitted inside the building for regular drop off.

Departure

Walking Students:

- Walking students will be dismissed by their classroom teacher through their regular assigned classroom doors. Classes will exit the building in an orderly fashion, one class at a time to avoid large numbers of students coming in close contact with each other

Bus:

- Students travelling home on the bus will be required to put on a mask **before leaving their classroom**. Designated staff will collect bus students from their classroom and will bring the students to their bus. Further details to follow

Parent Pick Ups/Change of Pick Up Plans:

- **Please do NOT call the school at the last minute to change pick up plans for your child**. This year is like no other and we have to be strict about changes. If a change of pick up plans is necessary, please let the teacher know in advance as well as let the main office know too. Please do not assume that since you have left a voicemail that we have been able to receive it in time for after school changes.
- Since parents are not permitted in the school, the student will be required to check in at the office where their departure will be recorded. A staff member will bring the student to the door to meet their parent.

Daycare Pick Ups:

- Daycare staff will be permitted in the school at the end of the day for student pick up. All personnel entering the building will be required to complete the COVID screening test, sanitize and wear a mask

Bus Transportation

- For students who take the bus to school, the moment they get on the bus is the moment their school day begins in terms of ensuring they are following Public Health protocols in relation to schools.
- Students will need to put their mask on before getting on the bus and leave it on.
- Siblings will also have to sit together on the bus this year.
- School staff will receive your child when they arrive to the school and will supervise them while they walk to their designated class meeting spot.

If you are looking for other bus information please visit the Halifax Regional Centre for Education's transportation team at <https://www.hrce.ca/about-our-schools/student-transportation>



As of right now, the breakfast program will start up in early October. Once again this year we will be doing a delivery service to each classroom before the school day begins. The difference this year is that students will NOT be permitted to go to the bin throughout the day to snack on items. Items will be delivered to each student in the morning by the teacher and if a student requests an additional item throughout the day they will need to ask their teacher or another staff member to have the item brought to them.

We will once again be offering breakfast program 5 days a week this coming year.

Lunch Time Procedures

We are still working out details in terms of lunch hour times. We will communicate those times with you once they are set. Students will need to follow the following guidelines:

- Eat their food in their designated classroom area
- Students must stay in their designated area within their classroom during the inside portion of lunch. They will be permitted to read, draw, or color while waiting for others to finish eating
- Students will have time during the lunch hour to go outside (weather permitting) with their class
- During outdoor play, students are to stay with their class in the designated area and are not permitted to go with other classes. Please review this with your child(ren).
- **We are currently looking for lunch monitors for 3 hours a day. A recent criminal records check and child abuse registry is required. If you are interested, please contact Mrs. Brace at mbrace@hrce.ca**

*Please ensure that your child is able to open all food and drink containers independently

Recess and Outdoor Time

- According to the NS Back to School Plan (p.28), schools are to have activities and classes outdoors whenever possible.
- Students are going to have a lot more time outside this year. Teachers are encouraged to take their students outside as much as possible during the day.
- Students will be staying with their class throughout the day and the teachers will schedule times where students will go out for recess to play and also times where they go outside for learning.

- Please apply sunscreen at home as necessary and ensure that your child is dressed appropriately for outside learning (i.e. hat, boots, warm clothes etc.). The weather here in Eastern Passage can change quickly and become very cold. We WILL be going outside in all kinds of weather so please have your child dressed accordingly.
- Please pack extra socks/pants in your child's backpack in case they become wet from being outside.

Each class will be able to go outside together but if there are other classes outside at the same time they will NOT be able to play together. **Please review that with your children.**

Classroom Set Up

- As per Public Health requirements, we are working to maximize the space in our classrooms to allow for as much distance as possible.
- Classrooms with individual desks will have them spread out throughout the classroom to allow for as much space as possible.
- Classrooms with tables will have a reduced number of students at the tables to allow for distancing.
- Classroom teachers will assign seats.
- The idea, as we navigate this pandemic safely, is that resources and things come to the students – students don't go to get things or see people.
- Students will not be able to share materials this year. Teachers will be preparing individual student materials and the students will keep them at their assigned space.

- Indoor shoes will have to go home every day. Please provide a bag for them to go in (a plastic bag is fine – and that can be in their backpack).
- Students will be taking materials home each night and bring them back the next day. We will be asking families to only send in some of the school supplies. As more details are worked out, the classroom teacher will communicate this with you.
- Please go over this with your child. It may be hard for our littles to understand why they can't just get up and go where they want to – but we are following Public Health requirements.

Traffic Flow of the Building

Creating a flow to the building is an important element to help students and staff socially distance while traveling around the building throughout the day.

Hallways will be dual track with students needing to stay on the **right side**. We will be doing creative scheduling to minimize traffic flow during instructional hours.



Specialist Classes (Music, Physical Education, and Library)

Music

- The music teacher will go to the classrooms. The music teacher will sanitize her hands each time she enters and exits a classroom.
- Following Public Health Requirements, singing will not be allowed at this time.

Physical Education

- Phys. Ed will be outside as much as possible. Please ensure your child has the proper outside attire.
- If Phys Ed is in the gym, there will be a minimal amount of equipment use.

Library

- The librarian will be coming to the classrooms.

- The teachers will communicate with their families as details are worked out about how students can request and borrow books.

Student Belongings/School Supplies

- School supply lists can be found on our website.
- The supplies listed are for the whole school year.
- Teachers will reach out to you before the first day of school to let you know what materials they need to bring for the first day/week.
- **Please keep in mind that students will need to bring their belongings back and forth to school each day, so they will need to be able to carry their backpack. This will include indoor sneakers and extra clothes.**
- **Please send reusable water bottle (filled with water from home) every morning.**



Outbreak Consideration

- Why is mask use not part of the plan for Pre-primary to grade 3? Why not mask all children and students.

Updated: August 28, 2020

The back to school plan was developed in consultation with Nova Scotia Public Health and medical experts at the IWK Health Centre. Public health updated their guidelines on mask use in schools to include grades 4 to 12. This is based on new guidelines released by the Public Health Agency of Canada who recommend masks for children ages 10 and up, because they may be as likely as adults to transmit the virus.

What happens if a child begins to show symptoms at school?

Updated: August 28, 2020

If a student feels unwell or exhibits symptoms of COVID-19 they will be provided a medical mask to wear (if they don't have one) and will be escorted to an isolation room/area in the school until a parent/guardian can pick them up. The family will be advised to call 811. Unless otherwise advised by 811, the student should remain home until they are symptom free for 24 hours.

What is going to happen to children who have a runny nose because of allergies, or a chronic cough, or other chronic ailment? Will they keep getting sent home? Do we keep them home?

Updated: August 28, 2020

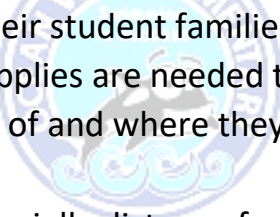
If a child has a chronic cough, seasonal allergies, or other known medical condition, families are encouraged to bring that to the attention of the teacher or school. Parents are encouraged to monitor their children for new or worsening symptoms.

If my child is sent home from school for being sick, do they have to self-isolate?

Updated: August 28, 2020

Unless directed by public health or 811, Nova Scotians are legally required to self-isolate only if they are waiting for your COVID-19 test results, have tested positive for COVID-19, have tested negative for COVID-19 but had close contact with someone who has or is suspected to have COVID-19, have been told by Public Health that they may have been exposed and need to self-isolate, or are returning from travel outside Atlantic Canada, even if you don't have symptoms

First Day of School

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- The seal of Oak View Elementary School is circular with a blue border. Inside the border, the words "OAK VIEW ELEMENTARY" are written in a circular path. In the center of the seal, there is a stylized illustration of a tree and a building.
- Teachers will be calling their student families to introduce themselves, let you know what school supplies are needed the first day, what door your child will come in and out of and where they will line up.
 - Parents are expected to socially distance from other families and to make sure their child maintains distance from others as well.

What will Learning Look Like?

- Our initial weeks will focus on building relationships and creating a safe and welcoming class community.
- Instructional time will focus on all curriculum areas. A number of curricular areas will be modified, including Music and Physical Education as already indicated.
- Staff will immediately be responsive to the students and they will receive ongoing feedback to help move their learning forward. We will meet students where they are – and in the beginning will focus on building community, social emotional learning, and using a restorative practice.
- Students will continue to be supported to learn how to identify how they are feeling and what strategies they can use to help them refocus.
- These are unique times, requiring a lot more traditional teaching practices than the ones we have implemented over the past decades. A lot of our students are used to working in a collaborative setting but that will not be possible this year. Staff will aim to create engaging activities that do not require partners, moving around different stations in class or the sharing of material and equipment. This will be a shift from our previous practices but student and staff safety is our number one priority at this time.
 - Please remind your child(ren) that listening and following directions is very important to our shared health.
- Where possible, classroom windows will remain open for improved air quality. Send your child dressed with a sweater when the fall and winter seasons arrive.
- The gym and library will not be open for their usual purpose.
- All support teachers will come to students' classrooms to teach their respective subjects, following hand hygiene expectations.

Usage of Protective Masks

- **All bus students** in grades pre-primary to 3 must wear their mask on the bus. They will keep it on until they enter the building and are able to sanitize their hands.
- Students in grades PP-3 are not mandated to wear a mask in the classroom.
- The province will be providing each student with 2 reusable masks on the first day of school.
- If your child is a bus student, you are encouraged to help your child become comfortable wearing a mask and taking it on and off correctly. Please provide a paper bag or ziplock bag for storage.

Access to Technology

- All grade levels will continue to have technology outcomes.
- If students are using school devices, they will be cleaned with sanitizing wipes provided by HRCE between each use.
- Technology will be used to support teaching and learning in all subject areas. This will help students be better prepared to continue to use technology should there be a need to transition to at-home learning.

Responses to Changes in COVID19

The province announced a three phase approach to schools responding to the COVID 19 pandemic. The decisions as to which phase being used will be made by public health and could potentially be done as needed in particular schools, family of schools, or regions. Below is a description of each phase and how it impacts the students and staff at OceanView elementary.

Phase 1 – 100% Participation – all students from Ocean View will come to school each day following Public Health directions.

Phase 2 – 100% Participation with reduced class sizes for your children – all students from Ocean View will go to school each day, however, they will not all be going to Ocean View. Most will go to Ocean View but some classes will be reassigned to go to another school within Eastern Passage – most likely Island View High. In phase two, class sizes are reduced to approximately 15 students to allow for better social distancing. The reduction of class sizes means creating more classes. Our current projections would have approximately 6 classes needing to go to another school. If this is the case we would probably select classes from grades 2&3 to go over.

Phase 3 – At Home Learning – all students within a school, family of schools, region, or province would move to an at home learning model.

Field Trips and Gatherings

Under Public Health orders there will be NO field trips or large group gathering this year. The events cancelled this year in person include curriculum night, parent teacher interviews, holiday and spring concerts, dances, spring fair, etc.

Teachers will reach out to you virtually for curriculum night and parent teacher interviews.

If Public Health changes the directive on field trips and gatherings at any point during the school year we will communicate that with families in our monthly newsletter.

Physical Distancing

This year students will be with their class all day every day. Classes will spend classroom time, recess, and lunch together. Students within a class will be able to interact with each other outside and in the classroom. When outside, students will be encouraged to minimize physical contact. These expectations will increase with each grade level.

Please review with your child the importance of physical distancing, especially in common areas (like the washroom) in the school. This is an important element in keeping everyone safe.

Late Arrival Procedures

Students arriving late will need to enter the school from the **main office doors** and notify Mrs. Diggs so she can sign them in. Students can then go directly to class.

Emergency Procedures

- As part of our emergency management planning we will continue to have evacuation drills, lock downs, and hold and secure drills.
- We will follow the directions from Public Health. Once we get more information we will share that with the community.



Resources

COVID-19 Daily Checklist (Screening Tool):

<https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/docs/Daily-COVID-checklist-en.pdf>

Guidance for the use of Non-Medical Masks:

<https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/stayinghealthy/#masks>

Handwashing poster: <https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/docs/>

Nova Scotia Corona virus webpage: <https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/>

NSHA Public Health Offices: <http://www.nshealth.ca/public-health-offices>

Physical Distancing poster: <https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/docs/>

Halifax Regional Centre of Education Webpage for Updates:

<https://hrce.ca/backtoschool>

Ocean View Elementary Web Page <http://ove.hrce.ca>