

# Health and Safety Guidelines

## LEARNING GROUPS

**Students will be organized into Learning Groups or Cohorts to a maximum of 60 people at the elementary and middle school level and groups of 30 (every five weeks) for secondary students.**

When students are outside of their Learning Groups, they will be required to physical distance from one another.

Where physical distancing is not possible, such as in hallways or on buses, middle and secondary students will be required to wear masks. Masks will be optional for elementary school students.



## MASKS

**Masks are required for students in Grades 4-12 and all K-12 staff in all indoor areas, including when they are in their cohort/learning group. Exceptions:**

- » Health or behavioural reasons.
- » There is a barrier in place.
- » Engaged in high-intensity physical activity or playing a wind instrument.
- » Eating or drinking (stationary).

Masks are encouraged for students in K-Grade 3.

Masks are required when riding the school bus (Grades 4-12 students).



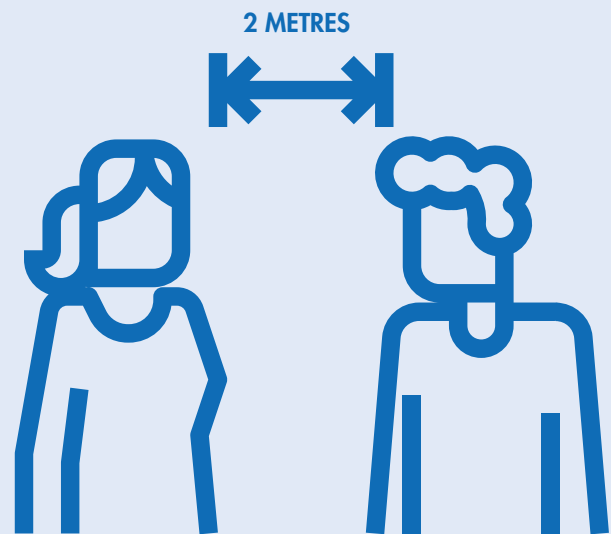
## PHYSICAL DISTANCING = 2 Metres

People operating within their learning groups do not need to stay two metres apart from one another, but should limit physical contact.

Classrooms will be set up to promote spacing between students to the extent possible.

**Signage for traffic flow will posted throughout district schools and sites.**

- » Floor markings and posters will be added in our schools.
- » Identified entrance/exits for learning groups at each school.
- » Focused areas of access/play at schools to keep learning groups distant from one another.
- » Possible staggered start and end times at some schools.
- » Staggered recess and lunch breaks.



## CLEANING AND DISINFECTING

High touch surfaces (e.g. door knobs, light switches, etc.) will be cleaned and disinfected twice during every 24 hour period and at least once during the school day.

In addition, regular school cleaning will occur once in every 24 hour period.

Shared items, such as sports equipment, student technology, or instructional aids will be limited and where sharing must occur, will be cleaned and disinfected after use. Use of items not easily cleaned will be limited.

**Additional custodians are being hired to assist with enhanced cleaning and disinfecting and will be organized in schools as follows:**

- » Schools with a single custodian will have an additional custodian assigned to support cleaning and disinfecting during the day.
- » Schools with two custodians will have a day-time and evening custodian.
- » Schools with three or more custodians will have a morning, an afternoon, and an evening shift.



## HAND HYGIENE

Rigorous hand washing with plain soap and water is the most effective way to reduce the spread of illness.

**Students will be encouraged to wash their hands frequently throughout the day, in particular:**

- » When they arrive at school and leave school.
- » Before and after any breaks (e.g., recess, lunch).
- » Before and after eating and drinking (excluding drinks kept at a student's desk or locker).
- » Before and after using an indoor learning space used by multiple cohorts (e.g. the gym, music room, science lab, etc.).
- » After using the toilet.
- » After sneezing or coughing into hands.
- » Whenever hands are visibly dirty.
- » Before touching face (nose, eyes or mouth).
- » Before and after use of play structure/playground.
- » After handling common resources.

**District schools have been equipped with additional hand wash and/or sanitization stations as follows:**

All dry portables, School entrances, Additional stations distributed throughout middle and secondary schools.



## STUDENTS WITH COMPLEX MEDICAL NEEDS

Parents of students who are immunocompromised or have underlying medical conditions are encouraged to **consult with their health care provider** to determine their level of risk regarding return to school.

If a medical professional determines that a student cannot attend school due to their health risks, the school district will work with the family to review alternative learning options for the student.

## MANAGING SICKNESS - Stay home if feeling sick

### **Staff and students who are sick are to stay home.**

Parents are required to self-assess their children daily for symptoms of common cold, influenza, COVID-19 or other infectious respiratory disease prior to sending them to school.

If these symptoms are present, parents should seek assessment by a health-care provider and have their child self-isolate while they wait for the results.

### **Students may still attend school if a member of their household is sick provided that the student is asymptomatic.**

Students who experience seasonal allergies or other COVID 19-like symptoms, which are related to pre-existing conditions, can continue to attend school when experiencing these symptoms as normal.

