

## **Burkevale Protestant Separate School Return to School Plan**

The following information is provided to families based on the [COVID-19: Health, Safety and Operational Guidance for Schools \(2021 - 2022\)](#), provided by the Ministry of Education, on the safe reopening of schools for the 2021-2022 school year.

The plan for September is to provide in-person learning for all students with health and safety measures in place. Families were provided with the opportunity to have their children remain in remote learning for the 2021-2022 school year. If you have changed your decision and would like your child to be back at school for in-person learning, please contact the school by August 27, 2021.

### **What are the Delivery Models?**

#### **In-Person Learning Delivery**

Schools reopen with students returning every day with regular class sizes and enhanced health and safety protocols in place.

#### **Remote Learning**

For those students who have chosen remote learning, they will be engaged in learning from home on a digital platform. Students will be part of the in-person classroom and learning through video technology. The teacher will be in communication with students throughout the day through lessons and support.

### **Health and Safety**

We will not be able to eliminate the possible exposure to COVID-19 however, as a Board, we will put in place a number of steps to enhance a safe environment for our students and staff based on recommendations from the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit (SMDHU).

The following will be implemented:

#### **Self Assessment/Screening**

- Daily self-assessment for COVID-19 for students and staff prior to arriving at school (Checklist will be provided for families and staff)
  - [COVID-19 Reference Document for Symptoms](#)
  - [Ontario's COVID-19 Self-Assessment](#)
- Confirmation of daily screening may be required by schools/school boards. A process will be in place if this is required by the government
- If students/staff are showing any symptoms of COVID-19, they are to remain home and follow the guidance provided in the screening tool


- If a student or staff member has tested positive, communication must be relayed to the school

### Cleaning and Sanitizing

- Enhanced cleaning and disinfection – hiring of extra custodial staff based on Ministry funding
  - High touch areas to be cleaned at a minimum of twice a day (i.e. doorknobs, light switches, push plates, handrails, faucet handles, flush handles, etc.)
  - Extra cleaning supplies in each classroom
  - The Staff room will be cleaned every evening with extra cleaning supplies in the room
  - The gymnasium will be cleaned every evening with extra cleaning supplies in the gym
- Sanitizing stations added at all entries and exits of the school and in each classroom
- Education/Training of proper hand hygiene and respiratory practises – i.e. handwashing, coughing/sneezing into arm, etc.
- Regular hand washing throughout the day
- Removal of items from the school that are not able to be cleaned on a regular basis
- Filters for ventilation units changed more frequently
- Building Automation System (BAS) controls to be calibrated more frequently

### Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Personal Protective Equipment to be utilized on a regular basis

- The government has mandated medical grade masks for all staff and eye protection if students are not wearing masks
- At Burkevale PSS, we have mandated that students in Kindergarten to Grade 8 are to wear non-medical or cloth masks indoors in the school as well as on school vehicles (busses)
- Masks may be temporarily removed indoors with a minimum of two metres between cohorts for low contact physical activity, and consuming food or drink
- No masks required outdoors but distancing will be encouraged
- Parents/caregivers are expected to provide masks for their children on student transportation and at school. Non-medical 3-ply masks will also be made available by schools for students, if needed.
- How to wear a mask visual: [How to wear a mask](#)
- How to wear a mask video:  [Tips to help encourage kids to wear masks](#)
- Parents are encouraged to label masks, and all belongings for students
- Reasonable exceptions to these requirements will be put in place
- Reasonable exemptions may be:
  - A pre-existing medical condition (e.g., asthma)
  - A diagnosis or learning profile that would limit a student's ability to tolerate or safely wear a mask, including whereby a mask would affect essential communication for a person who is hearing impaired

- A mental health diagnosis
- Other, as detailed by a healthcare practitioner
- Enhanced PPE for staff will be provided as required (e.g. shields, gloves, gowns, etc.)

### School Entry/Classroom Protocols

- Students who begin in the Conventional Model will have a staggered start to the school year during the week of September 7th – 10th, where half of the school will attend on Tuesday, September 7th and 8th and the other half will attend school on September 9th and 10th. We will ensure siblings attend on the same days. Further correspondence will be provided to inform you of your child's first day.
- All students in the Conventional Model will then return to school on September 13th.
- Students who will be in the Remote Learning model will be informed as to what days to attend the first week
- Moving to more online communication to replace agendas being sent back and forth from home to school
- Gates closed for no access for parents - Staff greet students
- School entry will be staggered
- Students educated about physical distancing while in school and outside
- Markers placed in school for directional use
- Limited entry of individuals into the school - only necessary professionals/paraprofessionals/volunteers who will require appropriate screening and PPE in order to enter
- Protocol established to pick up students early - students to meet parent/guardian outside upon parent/guardian arrival
- Limit items coming from home and items such as backpacks placed in specific areas

### Music

- Non-Classroom Teachers (i.e. French, Music, Media Resource) will move from class to class as opposed to students going to another classroom for instruction
- Singing is permitted indoors. Masking is encouraged, but not required for singing indoors if a minimum distance of two metres can be maintained.
- Some instruments will be permitted to be used based on physical distancing and appropriate ventilation

### Health and Physical Education

- 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 where they can be worn safely based on the activity

- Windows should be opened, when feasible, to increase ventilation

### Field Trips

- Day trips and overnight trips are permitted
- Screening must take place
- Students will be cohorted throughout the duration of the trip
- Daily accurate records of individuals entering the program setting for contact tracing purposes will be kept
- Staggering arrival and departure times is recommended

### EQAO

- Grade 3 and 6 will resume this year in the new digital format for math, reading, and writing
- Students learning remotely can choose to participate in the EQAO assessment in-person, at the discretion of the school board, as long as all applicable health and safety measures can be met

## **Extra-curricular activities and community use of schools**

### Clubs

- Clubs, activities, sport teams, band (modified without wind instruments), and extracurriculars are permitted
- Cohorts may interact outdoors with physical distancing encouraged, and indoors with masking and appropriate physical distancing

### Inter-school sport activity

- Measures for inter-school sport activities should follow the requirements in the health and physical education section for schools
- Activities will commence based on Simcoe County Elementary Athletic Council

### Before and after school programs

- Schools, child care 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 for contact tracing purposes in accordance with all applicable

legislation, including the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act

### Community use of schools

- Permitted provided activities are aligned with public health guidance and direction
- Encouraged to work with local PHU to develop a plan for community access to school property and facilities
- Any visitor to the school are required to self-screen and to wear a mask while on school premises
- School and community groups will collaborate to ensure that student/visitor lists and information are maintained and readily available to be provided to public health for contact tracing purposes

### School Routines

- Bus students will arrive at the school and remain on the bus until a staff member comes out to greet the bus where students will be taken off the bus in a safe manner
- Students who walk or who are driven to school will be asked to enter the school yard at designated areas. Upon entering the yard they will be assigned a meeting area for their class/cohort where they will be greeted by their teacher to enter the school.
  - Kindergarten A, B, and SK/1 will enter through the Kindergarten gate - KA will go directly into their classroom where a teacher will be at the doorway; KB and Sk/1 will meet the teacher in the designated spot in the yard and enter through the east doorway
  - Grade 1 (Mrs. Bonner) and Grade 2/3 (Ms. Lalonde) will enter through the Kindergarten gate and meet their teachers in a designated spot in the primary yard and enter the east doorway
  - Grade 1 (Ms. Landry) will enter through the Kindergarten gate and meet the in the junior yard and enter the school at the North doors
  - Grade 2 (Mrs. Lahaie and Mrs. Dupuis) will enter through the bus gate on the west side and meet their teachers in the junior yard and enter the school at the North doors
  - Grade 3-6 students will enter through the bus gate on the west side and go directly into their portables
  - Grade 7 and 8 students will enter through the parking lot gate. The parking lot is closed to all vehicles except staff members so there should be no vehicle traffic upon arrival. Grade 7 will go directly to their portable and grade 7/8 and 8 will enter the west door by the library
- School times are 8:50 a.m. to 3:10 p.m. There will be no entry into the school yard before and after these times. Students should not arrive prior to 8:50 am as there is no supervision prior to this time.

## Nutrition/Lunch Protocol

- No special lunch days
- Eat Well to Excel Program continued with individualized bags for students
- Students will remain in their own classroom to eat their lunch at their own seating area
- Students will wash/sanitize their hands before and after eating
- No sharing of food and no prepared food will be allowed to be brought in the school (i.e. cupcakes, etc.)

## Recess/Outdoor Play

- Masking is not required
- Staggered exit and entry to and from the school will occur so there are fewer students in the hallway at a time
- Designated zones will be set up in the school yard to limit the mixing of cohorts
- Distancing between cohorts will be encouraged
- Students will wash/sanitize their hands before and after recess

## Washroom/Water Fountain Use

- Bathroom and hygiene breaks - urinals in use to respect physical distancing (eliminate middle urinal for use)
- Only automatic bottle fill stations to be used for drinking

## Vaccination

- ***Vaccinations are not mandatory to attend school, however, the government is encouraging all families to vaccinate their children who are of age to do so***

## Mental Health and Well-Being

- Support is available to support students transitioning back to school. **Please contact Christy Hamill with to access support ([chamill@pssbp.ca](mailto:chamill@pssbp.ca), or 705-715-6775)**
- We will continue to partner with local mental health resources and have in school supports to assist students and families in finding mental health supports as needed
- The focus at the start of the year will be on transitioning students and making them feel safe in the school environment, which includes daily practices that support mental health and social emotional learning.
- Mental Health & Multidisciplinary Lead, Christy Hamill is available throughout the school year to assist with mental health and special education needs.
- Social Work services are available throughout the year at Burkevale with social worker Heather Johnston, contact via email [hjohnston@pssbp.ca](mailto:hjohnston@pssbp.ca) or the social work phone; 705-527-9780.

## Special Education

- Special Education staff to communicate with families to determine appropriate plan based on student need

## Transportation

- Parent survey to determine which students will be taking the bus to school
- Assigned seating to provide maximum cohort grouping
- Family members to sit together
- Classroom Cohorts to sit in same area
- Mandatory masking required for all students in Kindergarten - Grade 8
- Encourage active transportation (i.e. cycling, walking, etc)
- Students are expected to bring their own masks to wear on student transportation. Non-medical 3-ply masks will also be made available by schools for students if needed

## Inclement Weather Days

- When schools are closed due to weather conditions, students will have the opportunity to access material online to work asynchronously throughout the day

## Outbreak Protocol (Review)

- The following link provides full details released from the Provincial Government on the process when an Outbreak occurs: [Health, Safety and Operational Guidance for Schools \(2021-2022\) V2](#)
- Highlights of Outbreak protocol:

### **Outbreak**

- Outbreak defined as two or more lab-confirmed COVID-19 cases in students and/or staff (or other visitors) in a school with an epidemiological link, within a 14-day period, where at least one case could have reasonably acquired their infection in the school (including transportation and before or after school care)

### **Responsibilities**

- The Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit will determine if an outbreak exists and will also determine which cohort(s) may be sent home or if a full or partial school closure is required
- Schools are responsible for reporting a probable or confirmed COVID-19 case associated with the school to the local Public Health Unit (PHU) and to the Ministry of Education through the daily reporting tool where they have become aware of such a case and reporting absenteeism to the PHU and to EDU

through the daily reporting tool, in accordance with provincial and/or local PHU direction

### **Communication with School Community**

- o All school boards will be asked to create a COVID-19 advisory section on their website where confirmed cases of COVID-19 that involves a student or a staff member in a school setting will be posted (The identity of the student or staff member will remain confidential)
- o Notice of any closures of classes, cohorts or schools will be posted on this advisory section

### **Management of Ill or Symptomatic Individuals in the School During School Hours**

- o Monitor symptoms
- o Principal will coordinate student pick-up and have child moved to the isolation room at the school until parent/guardian pick-up
- o Provided PPE kit will be used
- o Advise student to remain at home - schooling options to be determined
- o Cleaning and/or disinfecting of the space and items used by the individual(s)
- o Parent should follow guidance of health care provider and follow return to school guidelines

### **Fully immunized individuals who have COVID-19 symptoms**

If the individual identified as a high-risk contact is fully immunized or previously positive and have symptoms compatible with COVID-19, they should:

- isolate and get tested right away
- if they test **negative**, they can discontinue self-isolation once symptoms have been improving for at least 24 hours (48 hours for gastrointestinal symptoms)
- if they test **positive**, they must self-isolate for 10 days

### **Fully immunized individuals without COVID-19 symptoms**

If the individual identified as a high-risk contact is fully immunized or previously positive and does not have symptoms compatible with COVID-19:

- The individual is generally not required to isolate
- Self-isolation still may be required at the discretion of the local public health unit.



- Refer to the [COVID-19 Interim CCM Guidance](#)
  - [Fully Immunized Individuals: Case, Contact and Outbreak Management Interim Guidance](#) for individuals with immunocompromise, and residents of high risk congregate living settings / inpatients
- The individual should be recommended for testing but is not required to isolate while awaiting test results if they were not already directed to isolate (refer to [Provincial Testing Guidance](#))

### **Individuals not fully immunized**

If the individual identified as a high-risk contact is **not** fully immunized or previously positive , the individuals should:

- isolate and get tested on or after **day 7** of their isolation period
- regardless of test result, they are required to **isolate for 10 days**

### **If Exposed to COVID-19 Outside of School**

#### **Household members of a high-risk contact with COVID-19 symptoms**

If the individual identified as a high-risk contact is fully immunized or was previously positive and has symptoms compatible with COVID-19:

- a household member who is fully immunized or previously positive is not required to stay home or isolate
- a household member that is not fully immunized or previously positive should isolate while the high-risk contact is awaiting test results or if they are not tested
  - If the risk-contact tests negative, a household member is not required to isolate

If the individual identified as a high-risk contact and the household member of the high-risk contact is not fully immunized or previously positive and has:

- no symptoms compatible with COVID-19:
  - the household member should stay at home except for essential reasons (for example, work, school) during the high-risk contact's isolate period
- has symptoms compatible with COVID-19:
  - the household member should isolate while the high-risk contact is awaiting test results or if they are not tested.
  - if the high-risk contact test negative, the household member should stay at home except for essential reasons (for example, work or school) during the high-risk contact's isolation period

### **Household members of a high-risk contact without COVID-19 symptoms**

If the individual identified as a high-risk contact is fully immunized or was previously positive and has **no symptoms** compatible with COVID-19 the household member is not required to stay home or isolate

### **Return to School**

- While an individual suspected to have COVID-19 is waiting for test results they must self isolate and cannot attend school in person - arrangements will be made of how learning will continue
- Individuals who have had a COVID-19 test because of symptoms, but who test negative, can return to school if they do not have a fever, if their symptoms have been improving for at least 24 hours, or 48 hours for gastrointestinal (GI) (nausea/vomiting, diarrhea) symptoms, if they have not been directed to self-isolate and provided they have had no contact to a confirmed case of COVID-19. Individuals who have traveled out of the country are required to follow [federal guidelines and law](#) upon their return.
- Where a student or staff member has tested positive for COVID-19, the local PHU will be in contact with the school to provide further direction on returning to school
- Individuals do not need to provide a medical note or proof of negative result to return to school

**Ill Person Does Not Have COVID-19**

- Ill individuals who have known alternative diagnosis by a health care provider, can return to school if they do not have a fever and their symptoms have been improving for at least 24 hours or 48 hours if vomiting or diarrhea
- Updated class lists and bus lists are maintained
- Constant communication with Health Unit, awaiting outbreak protocol

**Remote Learning**

- All curriculum areas will be addressed
- Synchronous Learning will be incorporated throughout the day
- Support Staff will interact with identified students to meet individual needs
- Survey to be sent to identify electronic equipment and broadband internet needs