

Information for Parents/Guardians

January 14th, 2022

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We welcome you back to Sudbury Catholic Schools. We have been advised by the Ministry of Education that the reopening of schools for students who learn face to face is **Monday, January 17th, 2022.**

In preparation for a return to school, please note the following:

Masking

All kindergarten to grade 12 students continue to be required to wear masks. We have received a quantity of free, high quality three-ply cloth masks should you wish to use them for your child.

Screening for COVID-19

As an additional layer of protection for students and staff, all schools are required to continue **daily on-site confirmation of screening** for all students and staff until further notice.

In addition, on the recommendation of the Ontario Chief Medical Officer of Health (OCMOH), a more sensitive COVID-19 symptom list is being reinstated for daily active screening of all students and staff in schools. Anyone who has symptoms suggestive of COVID-19 or is a confirmed positive case must self-isolate, regardless of vaccination status. It is very important that both students and staff follow the direction in the screener.

Please follow this link for the complete symptom list and to complete your daily screening <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/self-assessment/>. Your principal will communicate with you as to the process to be followed for the daily confirmation of screening.

Rapid Antigen Testing

Prior to the break all students were provided with Rapid Antigen Test kits. If you have remaining tests, please use them before your child returns to in-person learning. Please note that your child must stay home if a positive test result is received.

Next week, we will be providing each elementary student with two Rapid Antigen Tests for home use. These are to be used when your child is symptomatic as per the screener. A limited supply of tests will be available at secondary schools for students that are symptomatic and we are expecting an additional supply of tests to be delivered in the coming weeks.

For information on the current guidance for schools please visit https://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/coronavirus/docs/school_childcare_guidance_omicron.pdf.

A copy has been included for your convenience.

Enhanced cohorting measures

To mitigate risks associated with the colder weather, elementary students will be required to continue to cohort during recess and outdoor breaks to limit contacts as much as possible during this period.

Paused sports and extra-curricular activities and community settings

On the strong advice of the OCMOH, indoor high contact and high intensity activities, such as wrestling or basketball, multi-cohort choirs and wind instrument ensembles, will be paused temporarily to ensure the health and well-being of students.

Staff Shortages

The OCMOH has advised that all sectors must plan for the potential of higher-than-normal levels of absences in the coming weeks, as Ontarians comply with screening and isolation guidance. It will mean planning for higher-than-normal student and staff absences. This may result in school/classroom closures. We will communicate with parents/guardians if closures must occur.

Bussing

In the context of the Omnicom variant we are expecting to experience higher levels of absences and as such bussing routes may be effected and there will likely be bus route cancellations. These cancellations will be posted every morning on the consortium website at www.businfo.ca by 6:30am. Please ensure that you visit the website every morning before sending your child to the bus stop. **You will not be receiving a phone call or an email from the consortium if your route is cancelled.**

Return of Technology

Upon your return to in-person learning, please return all loaned Board devices along with the power cord. We appreciate your prompt return of any equipment so that it may be used in the classroom to deliver curriculum.

We want to thank you for all that you have been doing to help keep our community and our schools safe for both students and staff by adhering to all health and safety measures including:

- Daily self-screening
- Regular hand washing
- Practicing social distancing
- Staying home and isolating if symptoms appear
- Wearing face coverings

We invite you to review all information from Public Health Sudbury and Districts (PHSD) and the ministry with respect to vaccination including: [COVID-19 Vaccine Information Sheet: For Children \(age 5-11\)](#), [COVID-19 Vaccine Information Sheet \(age 12+\)](#),

sample [COVID-19 Vaccine Children/ Youth \(Age 5-17\) Consent Form](#) and other resources available at <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/covid-19-vaccines-children-and-youth>. Sudbury Catholic is working with Public Health to establish vaccination clinics in our schools. Information about school clinics will be shared with parents. Please note that not all schools will have clinics.

The Sudbury Catholic District School Board remains committed to ensuring the health and safety of our students and staff while providing a high-quality Catholic Education. We thank you sincerely for your ongoing support and patience during these difficult times.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact your school. For more information about Covid-19 and schools, visit <https://www.phsd.ca/> or visit the [Ministry of Education](#). You are also encouraged to regularly visit <https://www.sudburycatholicschools.ca/> and your school's website for updates.