

Hello RPPS families,

Thank you to those who joined us for the Virtual Open House on Tuesday, and we appreciate your support with reinforcing safe behaviours which include physical distancing, mask wearing and clean hands. We held a virtual assembly today with students with these same topics - ask your child about it! We wanted to highlight a few key aspects of our COVID management as the school year progresses:

### **Daily self-assessment**

- All staff and [students](#) should conduct a Covid-19 self-assessment to determine whether they should attend school (or work) that day.

### **Daily cleaning**

- Classrooms are deep cleaned every evening, and desks and surfaces are disinfected during the day when students are out at recess. High contact surfaces such as doorknob and stair rails are cleaned frequently throughout the day.
- Each classroom has a hand sanitizer pump bottle, as well as a sanitizing spray for learning materials which need to be cleaned after use.
- Students are given reminders often for physical distancing, mask placement and hand hygiene.
- Our staff wear masks at all times when in contact with students; staff who are in contact with more than one student group also wear face shields. When we are outside with students, we wear masks only.

### **Communication and Managing Cases**

- At this time, there have been no positive cases reported at RPPS.
- If a classroom teacher or staff member is away, for whatever reason, we will not inform you, nor more than we would inform you regarding a student absence, as this information is confidential.
- Each day, the school receives a “Do Not Admit” list, if a child is identified as quarantined. We also receive a letter from Ottawa Public Health (OPH), which we would forward to you individually once received.
- If there is a positive case in our school verified by OPH, we will communicate with the appropriate high-risk contacts as directed by our protocols for a given student group, as per OPH and OCDSB guidelines. Situations are managed on a case-by-base basis to determine high-risk contacts and whether closures (class, cohort, or otherwise) are required.
- If you receive a positive test result of your child, we encourage you to communicate directly with the school office and principal ([heather.mace@ocdsb.ca](mailto:heather.mace@ocdsb.ca)) to allow us to follow these protocols.

### **Attestation Form for Return to School for Students Following Illness**

OPH has developed a [Parent Attestation](#), as we all recognize the importance of getting students back to school, where possible. A fillable PDF form (attached) attests to a child being symptom-free, or with symptoms related to other non-COVID conditions, prior to the student’s re-entry to school. This letter can be used by students who have:

- either seen a medical practitioner and confirmed they have a chronic condition or another medical reason for symptoms
- completed 14 days of self-isolation; or
- have tested negative for COVID-19 and have been 24 hours.

### **A reminder about student symptoms during the day**

The possible symptoms of COVID-19 are wide-ranging and can include a fever, cough, runny nose, sore throat, nausea or vomiting, unexplained rashes, or unexplained fatigue. Every morning, all families and staff are asked to conduct a [COVID-19 screening](#) to determine if your child should attend school that day. The screening tool is available in multiple languages: [English](#), [French](#), [Swahili](#), [Spanish](#), [Chinese](#), [Arabic](#) and [Somali](#).

As part of the Ministry of Health guidance, RPPS will contact parents or guardians to pick up their child home when they present with COVID-19 symptoms during the school day. As a precaution, siblings are required to go home and self-isolate.

From there, the recommendation is to have your child taken for COVID-19 testing; these recommendations are the same for staff:

- If your child tests **positive for COVID-19**:
  - OPH will receive the results directly from the lab and will contact you to provide further direction and guidance. You do not need to call OPH or the school - OPH will call you.
- If your child tests **negative for COVID-19**:
  - Your child cannot return to school until at least 24 hours after symptoms have resolved without the use of fever-reducing medication, or 48 hours after vomiting or diarrhea has resolved.
  - Siblings can immediately stop self-isolation and return to school if they are symptom-free.
- If your child does **NOT** get tested, your child and close contacts **MUST** stay home and self-isolate for:
  - 14 days AND
  - Not have a fever AND
  - Symptoms have been improving for at least 72 hours, whichever is longer.

Thank you for your ongoing support and understanding. One day at a time.

Madame Mace, Mask-wearing principal