

School Reopening 2021-22 UPDATE #2

October 4, 2021

curiosity

creativity

possibility

GOALS (WIGs)

1. Safety – 80% ↑ identify
2. Reading – 75% ↑ K-6 cohorts
3. Graduation – 80% ↑ 7-12 cohorts

* Close the gap for current and historically underserved *

* Anti-oppression, Anti-Colonial, Anti-Racism *

Equity and Inclusion

The HWDSB Plan for Operating Schools in the 2021-22 school year is now focused on two principles:

1. Safety for all.
2. Return to in-person learning in schools.

1. Ontario Ministry Guide to Reopening Schools

- Health, safety, and operational guidance for schools 2021-22 (released August 3 – updated August 13, 2021)

2. Ontario Ministry of Health COVID-19 Guidance

- School Case, Contact, and Outbreak Management (updated August 11, 2021)

3. Ministry of Education Immunization Disclosure and Testing Requirement Policy

- Vaccination Policies for school boards, licensed childcare settings and private schools (updated September 1, 2021)

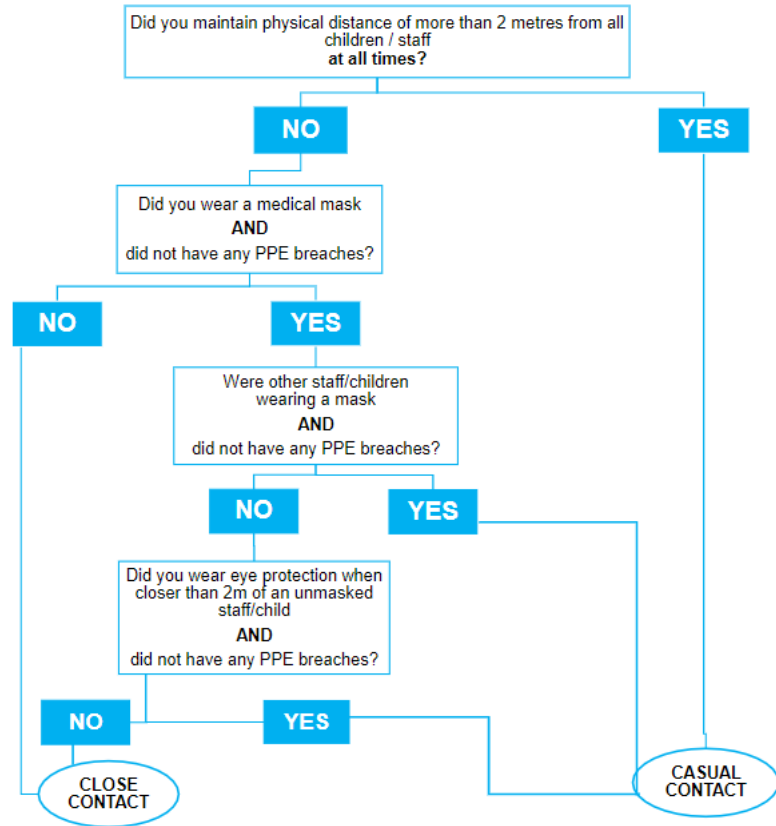
- Public Health
- Immunization Disclosure and Testing Policy
 - Staff, Volunteers, Third Parties
- Extra-curricular Activities
- Elementary Transition (in-person and remote)
- Specialized Services
- Ventilation
- Community Use of Schools
- Director's Update (from Ministry and CODE)

Case Management

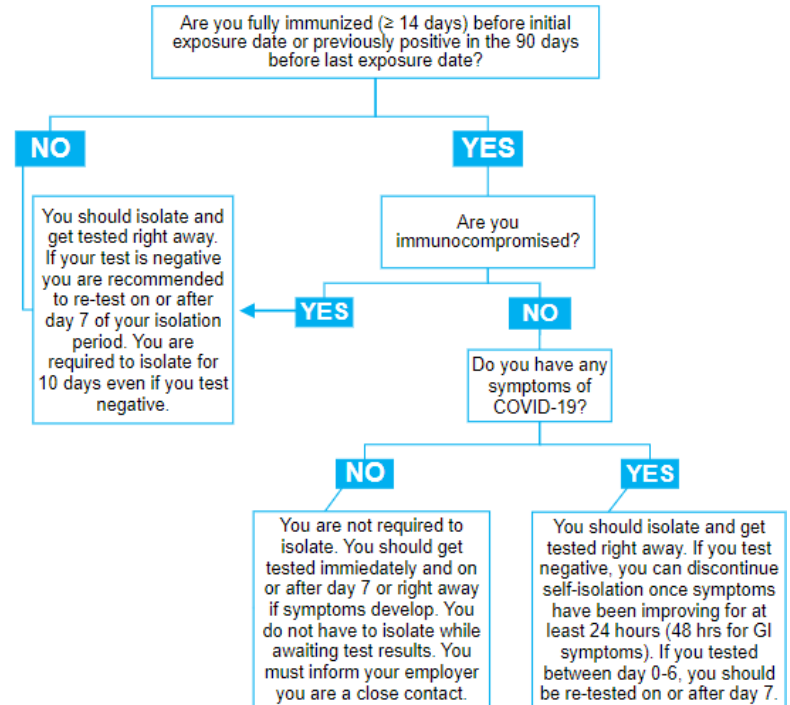
- Ongoing partnership with Public Health
- HWDSB Case Management Team responds to cases as they are communicated to the Board by Public Health. This includes a response during the evenings and weekends.
- Parents are communicated with through School Messenger and are provided a letter from PH which indicates a return date for those who are required to self-isolate.
- A plan for continued learning is created in consultation with Principal and SOSA



Assessing Staff Contacts in School/Childcare/Camp Settings



Management of Close Contacts



Reference:
 COVID-19 Guidance: School Case, Contact, and Outbreak Management (August 11, 2021). Retrieved from https://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/coronavirus/docs/COVID-19_school_outbreak_guidance.pdf

Continuity of Learning

- Continuity of learning when a class or part of a class is temporarily self-isolating as a result of COVID-19
- When students and their educators are connected, student well-being and learning is supported.
- Educators are connected to their students at home while also being present for in-person students, using a number of strategies such as MS Teams and The HUB, HWDSB email, student/parent phone communication, and the sharing of learning packages.

School-Based Vaccine Clinics and Vaccine Distribution

- Communicated by both PH and HWDSB
- Open to students, their families and staff of HWDSB at a school/date most convenient for them. Please see this PH link for details on upcoming clinics

<https://www.hamilton.ca/coronavirus/covid-19-vaccination>

- Please refer to the following link for updated status on vaccine distribution in the City of Hamilton, and according to postal code

<https://www.hamilton.ca/coronavirus/covid-19-vaccine-distribution>

Case Management

- Please refer to the HWDSB Dashboard for most current case data

<https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/about/covid19/confirmed-cases-of-covid-19/>

HWDSB Immunization Disclosure Policy - Staff

As of Wednesday, September 29, 2021, 9:00 am	School Board Employees & Trustees	
	#	%
Total number of individuals to which the policy will apply	7,172	100
Total number of individuals who have attested to being fully vaccinated (with and without supporting documentation)	6,297	87.8
Total number of individuals who have attested to being unvaccinated	515	7.2
Total number of individuals who provided a documented medical reason for not being fully vaccinated	59	1
The number of individuals who have not yet submitted an attestation form, if known	301	4.2

Of those school board employees and trustees who have submitted an attestation, 92% of individuals have attested to being fully vaccinated.

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- Regular rapid antigen testing requirements are in place for staff who are not fully vaccinated against COVID-19.
- Individuals who do not intend to be vaccinated, without a documented medical reason, will be required to participate in an educational session about the benefits of COVID-19 vaccination.
- Human Resource Services continues to share and distribute rapid antigen testing kits to appropriate staff and outline the testing requirements.
- Staff are required to test twice a week and upload their results. Human Resources will follow up with staff who are not compliant.

Volunteers

- In person volunteers for activities that couldn't happen otherwise at guidance of Public Health
- Process managed by principal or vice principal for in person school volunteers
- Immunization Attestation kept in secure file by principal
- Volunteer Drivers for athletic events: meet outside, wear medical mask, passengers wear masks and sit in rear seats

Third-Party Service Providers, Partners, Contractors, Students on Placement etc.

- In person for essential services only at guidance of Public Health
- Process managed centrally by Superintendent or Senior Manager working with agencies and organizations
- Immunization Attestation kept in secure file

Athletics

Elementary – 3-Pitch, Volley Ball, Cross Country and swim

Secondary – Baseball, Basketball, Cross Country, Field Hockey, Football, Golf, Soccer, Touch Football, Volleyball

Health & Safety Considerations

- Following the Ministry of Education - Guidelines for Return to School
- Aligned operations with OPHEA/OPASSE Safety Considerations for Interschool Sports and Covid-19
- Created HWDSB specific procedures for indoor & outdoor sports in conjunction with Public Health
- Coordinate with Public Health on Return to Sports Plan

Spectators:

Outdoor – Plan is under review by Public Health

Indoor – Currently in the planning stages



- **October 4th is the first day in new classes**
- **1115 students participated in the Remote Parent Survey from September 3rd –10th**
- **770 students will move to remote learning from in-person learning**
- **345 students will move to in-person from Remote Learning**
- **The remote learning enrollment is 2160 students, 6% of the HWDSB enrollment.**

Nurses in Schools

- As a result of the province-wide nursing shortage, the Home and Community Care Support Services Hamilton Niagara Haldimand Brant (HCCSS HNHB) has been unable to find nurses to provide in-school nursing support for *some* students.
- From communication with the HCCSS HNHB there is no proposed date when health services might become available.

Nurses in Schools

- Some students are able to attend school because the parent/guardian is available to administer/carry out the medical requirements
- Some students are not yet able to attend school because the parent/guardian is not available to administer/carry out the medical requirements. These students are being offered the opportunity to engage in remote learning.
- A few parents have decided to keep their children home until nursing support is available. These students will also be offered the opportunity to engage in remote learning.

- The [Standardized Ventilation Measures Report](#) is available on the Board's website
 - Each school's ventilation profile is available
- Construction continues for unfinished CVRIS projects
 - To be complete by the deadline
 - HEPA filters are still on site at all schools where construction is still happening

- The Board is not currently allowing community use of schools for the general public
- The Proof of Vaccination Guidance for Businesses and Organizations under the *Reopening Ontario Act* refers to "Indoor areas of facilities used for sports and recreational fitness activities"
- Board staff is determining how this would affect the Board if it were start allowing Community Use of Schools

New Ministry Board Improvement & Equity Action Plan

- Further Ministry instructions are forthcoming
- May 22, 2022 deadline
- Will shape HWDSB 2022-23 Board Annual Plan
- Priority Areas – next slide

Ministry COVID-19 Funding

- Awaiting commitment for the remainder of the funding (50%) for 2021-22
- No additional funding was provided for the Ministry direction on Immunization Disclosure Policy and Testing Requirement

The BIEP is a demographic data-driven tool designed to capture the experiences and outcomes of Indigenous students, Black and other racialized groups of students, students with disabilities and/or special education needs (non-gifted), 2SLGBTQ+ students, and students from low-income households. School boards will provide baseline data and set aspirational targets for each performance indicator laid out in the BIEP, including relevant disaggregated demographic data.

Achievement



All students, including those communities of students who - historically and currently - are underserved, will be given the tools to succeed academically and in life.

Mental Health, Well-Being and Engagement



All students will be supported to improve mental health, well-being and engagement, which requires boards to foster a sense of belonging and a positive school environment and provide students with the appropriate, timely and quality school-based mental health supports, using a tiered approach to intervention.



Learning Recovery and Renewal

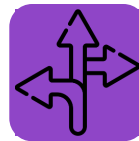
The ministry will identify a theme in the BIEP to respond to emerging priorities. The theme of the emergent priority is learning recovery and renewal in the context of COVID-19.

Human Rights and Equity



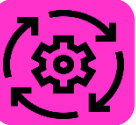
All students will have an equal opportunity to succeed, thrive, and reach their full potential. This requires boards to address systemic discrimination and eliminate disparities in educational experiences for students who are underserved by the education system, revealed by the collection and analysis of demographic data.

Pathways and Transitions



All students will have the skills, knowledge and confidence they need to succeed in the future, as they transition from elementary to secondary school and to their postsecondary pathway: apprenticeship, college, community living, university or the workplace.

Emergent Priority: Learning Recovery and Renewal



Mental Health and Well-Being

% of students who accessed school-based mental health services

% of board-level staff and educators receiving professional learning in student mental health literacy and board protocols regarding student mental health

Early Reading and Math

% of students who received targeted early reading and math supports

% of educators who received professional learning related to supporting students in early reading and math

Re-engaging Students

% of schools that have implemented activities that promote school connections, including extra-curricular activities

% of schools that have an intentional strategy to keep students engaged

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