

Update to Return to School

December 8, 2020



Agenda

- Provincial Testing Update
- New Screening Tool
- Secondary Virtual School Update
- Elementary School Update
- Communications

Provincial Testing Update

- Ministry of Education and Ministry of Health are conducting a pilot program to support disease control and develop testing strategies
- Schools in the province's 4 regions with high incidence of active cases (Toronto, Peel, York, and Ottawa) are being offered school-wide COVID-19 testing
- Testing is voluntary for all students and staff in the schools
- Testing can occur at the school or at a COVID Assessment Centre
- Program will last 4 weeks - started November 23 and ends December 18
- Toronto Public Health identifies the schools based on the school having multiple cases of COVID-19 for which there are no epidemiological links and/or where multiple cohorts have been dismissed

Provincial Testing Update

TDSB schools identified for school-wide testing to date
(additional schools will be identified over the 4 weeks of the pilot):

School	Ward	Testing Dates	Results
Thornccliffe Park PS	11	November 26, 27, 30	26 additional cases identified; school dismissed, December 3 to 9, while investigation continues
Valley Park MS	14	December 3, 4, 7	0 additional cases identified at this time; awaiting final testing results
Lawrence Park CI	8	December 4, 5, 6, 7	TBD
Lester B Pearson CI	21	December 7	TBD
Marc Garneau CI	11	December 10, 11, 14	TBD

Provincial Testing Update

TDSB schools identified for school-wide testing to date continued:

School	Ward	Testing Dates	Results
Swansea Jr Sr PS	7	December 8, 9	TBD
Wandering Spirit School	15	December 8, 15, 16	TBD
Fraser Mustard ELA	11	December 9, 10, 11, 12	school dismissed, December 7 to 13, in advance of testing due to high number of active cases

Additional schools are being considered at this time.

New Screening Tool

Toronto Public Health updated its COVID-19 student screening tool, effective Monday, December 7, 2020.

As part of this guidance, if a child has one or more new, or worsening COVID-19 symptoms, parents are now required to:

- Keep their child home.
- Keep siblings and other children home, even if they do not have symptoms.
- Arrange for the child to get tested or contact their health care provider.
- Without testing, the child must stay home for 10 days.
- Monitor the family for symptoms. Adults must stay home if they have one or more symptom.

The TDSB Student Health Pass and Health Screening App also reflect the new guidance. The staff and visitor tool remains the same.



COVID-19 K - 12 STUDENT SCREENING TOOL

Please complete before entering the school.

1. Does the student have any of the following new or worsening symptoms?*



Fever > 37.8°C



Cough



Difficulty breathing



Loss of taste



Feeling unwell, muscle aches or tired



Stuffy or runny nose



Headache



Sore throat or pain swallowing



Nausea, vomiting or diarrhea

If "YES" to any symptom:



Stay home & self-isolate



Get tested

Or



Contact a health care provider

2. Is there a child or sibling in your household who has one or more of the above symptoms? Yes No

3. Has the student travelled outside of Canada in the past 14 days? Yes No

4. Has the student been notified as a close contact of someone with COVID-19? Yes No

5. Has the student been told to stay home and self-isolate? Yes No

If "YES" to Questions 2,3,4 or 5:



Stay home & self-isolate



Follow public health advice

*Children who have an existing health condition identified by a health care provider that gives them the symptoms should not answer YES, unless the symptom is new, different or getting worse. Look for changes from your child's normal symptoms.

Updated December 2020

Virtual Secondary School Updates

- Quad 1 final report cards were e-mailed the week of November 30
- Quad 1 final report cards mailed to families without an email the week of December 7
- Twelve vice-principals have been redeployed to VSS effective December 7
- December newsletter will be sent to Virtual Secondary School parents mid-December
- Increased emphasis on Mental Health and Well-Being in several subject areas (i.e., music, visual arts, English) as well as in out-of-class opportunities (i.e., lunch Zoom boxing, after school clubs/activities)
- Tutoring programs (peer tutoring and with UofT students) to support underachieving students currently in development
- Focus of November PA Day was understanding and building community. Using an equity and anti-oppression lens, staff examined data about our students, considered innovative ways to teach and assess, and how to intentionally foster community to support student achievement & well-being.

Virtual Elementary School Updates

- Week of November 30: JK/SK to Grade 8 Progress Reports were distributed & Parent/Guardian-Teacher Virtual Conferences took place
- The vast majority of 2,645 classes of reports were emailed December 2 (to December 4). Due to some issues related to the volume of reports, some class sets needed to be resent. An email went to all families on December 4 and letters to some classes impacted beyond December 7
- One Centrally Assigned Principal for French Programs K-12 dedicated to Virtual School
- Four online Grade 8 to 9 Transitions sessions on December 7 (LC2 and LC3) and December 8 (LC1 and LC4)
- Opportunities for students that support equity, well-being and student voice

Virtual School Elementary

Examples of Professional Learning Opportunities

- Brightspace
- Digital Tools / Resources
- Anti-Oppression
- Early Years - Literacy, Reading Strategies
- Pedagogical documentation
- Kindergarten P.L.A.Y.
- Universal Design for Learning (UDL)
- Fostering Classroom Community
- Assessment & Reporting
- Junior/Intermediate - Literacy, Reading Strategies



Communications

- Improved communications with Virtual School parents with elementary and secondary VS newsletters
 - First editions issued November, next edition due mid December
- Communications working with Virtual School administrators on inventory of common VS parent questions/inquiries to improve consistency and timeliness of email responses
- *Trending@TDSB* to feature stories profiling innovative ways schools/teachers use outdoor spaces for learning and the Virtual School learning experience

