



Weekly Update #18 - Jan 17th - Jan 21st/22

We are excited to welcome our students and staff back to in-person learning effective Monday, January 17th, 2022. It has been an entire month since we were last in school due to the Christmas break and the most recent school closure period. We extend our sincere thanks to our educators and parents for supporting the virtual learning process these past two weeks. We recognize it is not easy for anyone having to navigate working from home while students learn virtually. Overall, we are proud of how we were able to transition so smoothly to virtual learning, a tribute to families and staff alike for your flexibility, perseverance and patience. With the return to in-person learning next week, some very important reminders:

Important Return-to-School Reminders:

- 1) Daily Self-Screening** - ALL students and staff must conduct daily covid self-screening before coming to school to ensure they are symptom-free. Use the revised symptom screener that can be accessed here: <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/school-screening/> If your child has any one of the Covid 19 symptoms, please keep them at home and call our Safe Arrival Attendance system to report the absence.
- 2) Student Attestation Form** - ALL students must have the daily attestation form signed by parents indicating they have completed the Covid self-screening process. The attestation form is attached to this weekly update and hard copies will be sent home on January 17th to ensure all families have a copy.
- 3) Mask Wearing** - ALL students and parents must wear their covid masks as soon as they arrive on school property both at morning drop-off and at afternoon pick-up times. The government issued 3-ply student masks have not yet arrived at our school but as soon as they do, we will provide each student with one. Please review mask-wearing expectations with your children so they can remain as safe as possible in the midst of the highly contagious omicron variant. Staff have been provided the N95 masks - they can choose to wear this type or the traditional blue surgical masks we are accustomed to.
- 4) Physical Distancing** - keeping a safe distance apart from others has always been one of our biggest challenges at school. Staff will review expectations with students on our first day back next week; parents can assist by reinforcing this message to your children and help them understand the REASON behind this expectation. While outdoors is a safer environment, we still try our best to keep children from congregating and getting too close or physical during their outdoor breaks and play time. Strict cohorting measures will remain in place both indoors and outdoors during out school day.
- 5) Hand Hygiene** - we continue to practice regular hand hygiene while at school, both with hand-washing as much as possible as well as with the use of hand sanitizer. Again, we will review expectations with our students when we are back together on Monday, but parents can once again assist with this process by reminding and expecting children to keep their hands clean and disinfected regularly throughout their school day.
- 6) Morning Arrival Time** - to avoid congregating, students are expected to arrive at school no earlier than 8:20 am each day (closer to 8:30 am works best). Students join their classroom lines and remain in single file in line with masks on awaiting their teachers.

Important News:

- **Daily Attestation Forms** - as mentioned, each **student must complete the daily covid self-screening before coming to school each day**. To prove this has taken place, parents must sign-off on the student attestation form, verifying they have screened their children and they are fit/healthy to come to school. While we understand this is another item to add to your busy mornings, we all must do this if we hope to keep our school safe. The attestation form is attached to this communication via the school message you received; we will also send home a hard copy with each student on Monday, January 17th. It is expected students bring this form in their school agenda each day to be checked by classroom teachers. By default, **THIS PROCESS HAS BECOME ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT WAYS WE CAN HELP KEEP OUR SCHOOL SAFE - PLEASE FOLLOW IT RELIGIOUSLY & follow the guidelines of the screening tool.**
- **Communication About Positive Covid Cases** – Public Health is no longer notifying schools regarding positive Covid cases within our classrooms and will not be doing contact tracing. HCDSB has decided that when a positive case is reported, school administrators will let the class know there has been an exposure. We will notify parents of the impacted class so that they can make an informed decision regarding school attendance for their children.
- **Pizza Days** - please note, our Wednesday pizza days **will continue next week (January 19)** as usual. Families can order pizza for the week ahead using the Lunch Box on-line ordering platform <https://lunchboxorders.com> Thank you once again to our team of dedicated volunteers and grade 8 students who assist with the safe delivery of our pizza to our classrooms.
- **Student Attendance** - if students will be absent from school due to illness, self-isolation or any other reason (such as an abundance of caution due to covid concerns), please be sure to call our Safe Arrival system to inform our school office staff of your child's absence. Teachers will do their best to post asynchronous schoolwork on their learning platforms for students to stay abreast of daily classroom work. If you feel your child(ren) will be away/absent for more than two weeks, you are encouraged to opt for the virtual school program. The parent survey closes this evening at MIDNIGHT for the next virtual school segment which begins January 24th and runs through to April 4th (Easter Monday). Please use the **Safe Arrival site** at go.schoolmessenger.ca or parents can still call-in absences at **1-844-445-4505**.
- **Student Masks & Rapid Antigen Tests** - the Ontario government has issued additional student covid face masks for each student as well as two individual rapid antigen tests per student. At the time of publication of this update, we have only received the student masks (along with our supply of staff N95 masks). Our intent and hope are to send the student masks and antigen test kits home with each in-person learner on Monday, January 17th, 2022. Please watch for these items in your child's backpack and use as required.
- **Graduation Photo Day** - for our grade 8 students, please note, our planning Grad Photo day originally scheduled for January 20th has been postponed. A new date will be booked down the road and we will communicate info out when finalized.

[Ontario School Screening Tool:](https://covid-19.ontario.ca/school-screening/)
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As mentioned, it is expected each student (with the help of parents) conduct the daily self-assessment screening tool and sign the student attestation form before coming to school each day. This is imperative if we hope to have any chance of keeping our school covid-free. On this note, parents need to be aware of the **VERY STRINGENT MEASURES** we are obliged to follow if your son/daughter exhibits covid symptoms while at school. **When we call home to inform you that your child needs to be picked up from school, please be understanding and kindly don't get frustrated with us** as we are only following the protocols mandated to us from the Ministry of Education and Halton Regional Public Health.

In short - students will be **sent home from school** if they exhibit any **one** of following symptoms:

- Fever/chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath
- Decrease/loss of smell & taste

If students exhibit **two or more** of these symptoms, they will be sent home from school:


- Sore throat
- Headache
- Extreme fatigue
- Runny nose/nasal congestion
- Muscle aches/joint pain
- Diarrhea
- Vomiting

For detailed next steps for your child & household when symptoms are exhibited, please click the link provided here:

https://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/coronavirus/docs/school_child_care_guidance_omicron.pdf

iDARE January Bulletin

Happy New Year, Queen of Heaven Families! The **Parent iDARE Committee** would like to share its most recent newsletter, which includes the January Calendar of Celebrations, and upcoming local events!

	<p>Welcome back, Queen of Heaven Families! We are looking forward to the promise of a new year, with many events and activities to engage our community.</p>	<p>2022-01January Bulletin v3.pdf</p>
<p>New Year Reflection & Prayers</p> <p>January 1 Happy New Year! For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope." Jeremiah 29:11</p> <p>Dear Lord, I look forward to the good plans you have for my life this year. No matter what each day holds, I know all will be well because you are always with me.</p>	<p>ALWAYS REMEMBER THAT YOU ARE THE IMAGE OF GOD JANUARY 15</p>	

Newsletter Hyperlink:

<https://bit.ly/3GrsNGF>

