

Sent: September 17, 2020

Memorandum to: Directors of Education
Secretary-Treasurers of School Authorities

From: Nancy Naylor
Deputy Minister of Education

Subject: School Reopening - Health and Safety Protection Strategies

Thank you for the work you and your teams have undertaken to support the safe reopening of our schools. It has been great to see students and staff welcomed back to classrooms across the province.

As we near the completion of the staggered start to the school year it is important to recognize the commitment that we have seen across the province to implementing the health and safety protection strategies that have been put in place. Everyone must remain vigilant if we are to prevent and contain outbreaks. It is also important to reflect on the lessons learned from the experiences to date and to share them with our teams.

Public health officials continue to provide the following helpful direction and we encourage you to share this information with your staff to support our shared commitment to keeping our schools healthy and safe:

- Take possible COVID-19 symptoms seriously - anyone who is sick needs to stay home and anyone who has COVID-19 symptoms or has been in close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, should first [self-isolate](#) and then use [Ontario's Self-Assessment Tool](#) to see if they need to seek further care.
- Strictly adhere to social circles, and constantly practice hand hygiene, physical distancing, masking, and use the COVID Alert App and;
- Be sure to:
 - Clean your hands frequently with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand rub.
 - Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze, then clean your hands.
 - If you don't have a tissue, sneeze or cough into your sleeve and then clean your hands.
 - Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth, unless you have just cleaned your hands.
 - Avoid contact with people who are sick.
 - Get your flu shot.

Thank you for commitment and collaboration. As students across the province return to class — be it in-person or remotely — it is critical that educators and staff set a leading example for students. The ministry is here to support you, your teams and your school communities and we look forward to our next steps together.

Sincerely,

Nancy Naylor
Deputy Minister

- c: Executive Director, Association des conseils scolaires des écoles publiques de l'ontario (ACÉPO)
- Executive Director, Association franco-ontarienne des conseils scolaires catholiques (AFOCSC)
- Executive Director, Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association (OCSTA)
- Executive Director, Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA)
- Executive Director, Council of Ontario Directors of Education (CODE)
- Executive Director and Secretary-Treasurer, Association des enseignantes et des enseignants franco-ontariens (AEFO)
- General Secretary, Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association (OECTA)
- General Secretary, Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario (ETFO)
- General Secretary, Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation (OSSTF)
- Chair, Ontario Council of Educational Workers (OCEW)
- Chair, Education Workers' Alliance of Ontario (EWAO)
- Co-ordinator, Canadian Union of Public Employees – Ontario (CUPE-ON)