



**MOOSONEE PUBLIC SCHOOL**  
*learn to live*

# SCHOOL RE-OPENING PLAN

## AUGUST 2020

Preparing for a safe return for all



# Moosonee Public School Return to School Program

## August 2020

### Introduction

This report is presented in preparation for students and staff to return safely to Moosonee Public School (MPS) in August of 2020. As school will look different due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, a number of recommendations and procedures will be put in place to continue learning throughout this period.

This document will make reference to the *Return to Schools* model shared by the Ministry of Education on July 30<sup>th</sup> and the *Guide to Reopening Ontario's Schools* released on August 2<sup>nd</sup>.

As Moosonee Public School serves students from Kindergarten to Grade 8, any recommendations from the Ministry of Education pertaining to secondary school (Grades 9-12) do not apply.

As student learning and success is a partnership between school and home, we ask that our families work with us to do their part to ensure the safety of their children and everyone in the building.

While this document provides an overview of our practices at the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year, there may be changes made as the COVID-19 pandemic and responses develop. In the case anything is altered in this document, we will notify our families.

### 1. Return to School

As shared by the Ministry of Education, all students from Kindergarten to Grade 8 will attend school 5 days per week. During their school day in the building, students will remain in their homeroom cohort (see Section 7), including recess and lunch periods.

Parents who have students registered to attend MPS may choose to keep them at home due to health and safety concerns related to the pandemic. These students will continue to be served through distance learning models supported by MPS staff.

### 2. Pre-Registration Survey

Prior to the return to school, families will have the opportunity to complete a survey sharing whether they will have their children attend school in-person or via distance (at-home)

learning. Students will only be placed in their classrooms and assigned busing, if eligible, for the upcoming school year when their families have completed and submitted the survey.

All students will have to re-register for the upcoming school year. Returning students will only need the return-to-school survey completed while new families will need to complete the new online registration portal to be shared via Facebook and on the school website.

**The re-registration survey will be available from August 7<sup>th</sup> to August 14<sup>th</sup>. For at-school or at-home materials to be properly set up, all families must respond to the survey.**

Administrative staff will begin following-up with families who have submitted their responses to provide information such as classroom placement, busing, and school schedule.

The opportunity to shift between distance and in-person learning will be dependant on a variety of factors including space available in the classroom, space available on the bus, and any other mitigating factors that may have an impact on the health and safety of the student or others. If a change from remote learning to in-person is requested, it will be at the discretion of the Principal to determine a timeline for the student's return to the building, if possible.

### **3. Ministry Directives for all Ontario Students**

The Ministry of Education has established the following principles to support the safe re-opening of schools for the 2020-2021 school year:

- Providing a safe and healthy school environment for students, teachers and staff, and safeguarding the broader communities in which they live
- Providing a consistently high-quality education for every student in Ontario
- Addressing potential gaps in student learning, mental health and well-being, arising from the school closures in 2019-2020
- Maintaining close communications with and respecting the opinions and authority of parents and reducing barriers to returning to work
  - *Guide to Reopening Ontario's Schools, 2020*

### **4. The Role of Families**

Families are an equal partner in the educational growth and development of children. It is therefore critical that families take an active role in supporting the initiative being undertaken to safeguard all who enter and learn in the building.

Self-assessment tools from the Ministry of Health are available for families to screen their children for any signs or symptoms of COVID-19. If a child is not feeling well, they will be required to remain at home. If they are showing any signs of possible COVID-19 infection, they

must remain at home until it is safe to return to school. If a student is sent home or is kept at home due to COVID-19-like symptoms, MPS will continue to support that child's learning through distance models.

If you suspect your child has COVID-19, it is recommended you seek medical support as soon as possible. Please see Appendix A for the Ministry of Health's COVID-19 Reference Document for Symptoms.

Families are encouraged to practice safe hygiene with their students prior to their return to school. Students should become accustomed to wearing a mask on a daily basis and practicing physical distancing. Other habits such as hand washing for 20 seconds and avoiding touching the face should be reinforced.

We will keep our families informed on a regular basis regarding how our school continues to implement approaches to address the challenges of COVID-19. If you have any questions at any time, please do not hesitate to contact the school Principal.

## **5. School Set-up**

Signage will be displayed in prominent locations to enforce safe practices and social distancing while in the building. Students and staff will be limited to how they travel throughout the building as some entrances and hallways will have specific access rules and directional arrows. In addition to the arrows, there will also be markers showing 2-metre distances to visually demonstrate proper physical distancing expectations. Staff will reinforce safe practice to students throughout the day.

Students will enter and exit the building through the main doors only. The only exceptions will be when exiting and entering from any outdoor activity throughout the school day or in case of emergency.

## **6. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)**

Students and staff will each be provided with two cloth reusable masks that will be brought home for cleaning and sanitizing. It is recommended that masks are cleaned daily to ensure they are properly protecting students and others in the building.

For more information on the wearing of face masks, please consult the Porcupine Health Unit's guide found here: [COVID-19: Non-Medical Masks and Face Coverings](#)

If you are interested in making your own masks to be worn at school, please consult the Government of Canada directions here: [Sew and No-Sew Masks](#)

PPE will be made available to staff with some limited access to students. PPE will include non-medical grade disposable masks, eye protection, face shields and gloves.

The Ministry of Education recommends that students use non-medical grade re-useable masks. Re-useable masks should be washed daily to ensure they are effective. Masks should fit so that they cover the nose and mouth.

Students, staff, and visitors who wear their masks improperly will be asked to readjust their masks accordingly to ensure the safety of everyone in the building.

## **7. Student Homeroom Cohorts**

Students will continue to learn for 300 minutes per day when they return, however some changes will occur due to the creation of classroom cohorts based on Ministry of Education expectations.

Changes will include:

- Students will remain in their classrooms throughout the day except for recess and washroom breaks. Teachers for Cree, Music and any other specializations will come to the classrooms for instruction.
- Students in Kindergarten to Grade 3 classes are strongly encouraged to wear masks throughout the day
- All students in the Grade 3/4 to grade 8 classes will be required to wear masks throughout the day. This includes during class time and while in hallways. The only times students will be permitted to remove their masks are during the lunch period while eating and when outside for recess or other activities while physically distancing.
- There will be one daily 40-minute designated daily physical (DPA) activity period. Due to the limiting cross-contact of cohort bubbles, no more than two classes will be out for DPA at any time.
- Students in grades 1-8 will be allowed to use the washroom throughout the day with a limit of one student per classroom at a time. Students in Kindergarten will have access to their in-class washroom. Students requiring specialized support will have access to the washroom in the special education room on the main floor.
- Students requiring withdrawal for special education support may leave the classroom with the special education teacher. If such a withdrawal occurs, only students from the same classroom may join.

- There will be a common lunch period for all students in the school. Students will eat their lunches in their classroom during this period.

## 8. Structure of the School Day

Due to the cohort system, the school day will be adjusted to reflect MPS's commitment to student safety. The hours of the school day, assigned recess times and lunch break will be:

Time	Daily Physical Activity (DPA)
8:45 am	Start of School Day
8:45 am - 8:55 am	Morning announcements
8:55 am - 9:35 am	ELK C, Grade 6
9:35 am - 10:15 am	Grade 2, Grade 6/7
10:15 am - 10:55 am	Grade 1, Grade 3
10:55 am - 11:35 am	ELK B, Grade $\frac{3}{4}$
<b>11:35 am - 12:15 pm</b>	<b>Lunch Break – All students on lunch</b>
12:15 pm - 12:55 pm	Grade 1/2, Grade 5
12:55 pm - 1:35 pm	Grade 4, Grade 8
1:35 pm - 2:15 pm	ELK A, Grade 7/8
2:15 pm - 2:25 pm	End of day preparation
2:25 pm	Student dismissal

This schedule will remain in place until further notice.

All students arriving to the school in the morning must enter through the main entrance. Doors will be unlocked at 8:30 am, 15 minutes before the start of the school day, for students to access the building and proceed to their classrooms. Students are to not be on school property prior to 8:30 am due to there being no morning supervision.

Upon arriving at their classrooms, students will wash their hands using the antibacterial soap provided.

Student dismissal will occur at 2:25 pm at which time students will be expected to immediately board the bus or begin their walk home. Classrooms will be dismissed one-at-a-time to avoid hallway congestion.

The schoolyard will be divided in half with each cohort restricted to their own side. There will be supervision present for each cohort. Each cohort will enter and exit through designated entrances to limit cross-cohort contact.

## **9. Student Lunch**

Students will be expected to wash hand prior to eating lunch (sinks and soap available in every classroom).

With respect to eating and drinking at school, it is expected that:

- Staff and students perform proper hand hygiene before and after eating
- Each student will have their own individual meal or snack with no common food items
- Any dropped off food must be in a container or bag – no loose items
- Each student will be required to bring their own drink bottle that is labeled, kept with them during the day and not shared.
- Water bottles will be required to be filled rather than students and staff drinking directly from the mouthpiece of water fountains.
- Multi-use utensils must be cleaned after every use
- Plastic utensils will not be available
- All lunches at school will be litter-less – students will be unable to throw out any food items at school and will bring any wrappers or leftovers home.

## **10. School Access and Dropping Off Lunches**

MPS will be installing a new buzz-in system which all members of the public accessing the school will be required to enter through. Prior to entering the building, members of the public will be asked if they have any symptoms of illness related to COVID-19 (see Appendix A). When buzzed into the building the members of the public are required to proceed immediately to the Administrative Assistant office to the right of the entrance to check-in. Nobody may proceed any further into the building until they have been given clearance to do so.

All members of the public entering the build must sign in and out. This will aid us in notifying any members of the public who accessed the building if a positive COVID-19 test is returned.

Any member of the public choosing to not wear a mask will be unable to enter the building. Exceptions may be made at the Principal's discretion.

Any member of the public wishing to access the building to drop off lunches may do so between 11:20 am and 12:00 pm. Anyone coming prior to that time will be asked to come later. Anyone coming after the window may not be accommodated. In the event a student does not have a lunch, pre-packaged snacks will be made available.

Microwaves will not be available for student or staff use.

## **11. Student Belongings**

Student belongings of a non-educational nature being brought to school must be kept at a minimum. Everything must also be clearly labeled to ensure the items are not lost.

Personal items, such as backpacks, clothing, sun protection, water bottles and food should be labeled accordingly and will be stored in cubbies, lockers or other designated areas within the classroom.

## **12. Busing**

The Moosonee District School Area Board is in the process of updating the busing policy for students with special expectations specifically for COVID-19 response. Changes being made include:

- Adjusted walking distances based on student grade (All Kindergarten students are eligible for busing regardless of distance from school).
- Students will only be allowed to board the bus from their designated pickup locations, no exceptions.
- Only students living in the same household may occupy the same seat.
- All seats on the bus will be assigned.
- Students in Grades 4-8 will be required to wear masks on the bus. Students in Kindergarten-Grade 3 are encouraged to wear masks while on the bus.
- Only one pickup and one drop-off point for each student will be permitted – changes to these locations will not be allowed without authorization from the Principal.
  - Parents will be responsible for ensuring an adult is present to meet Kindergarten students off the bus
  - If a change in pickup or drop-off is requested, it must be done in writing to the Principal at least 24 hours prior to the change. The parent/guardian will be informed whether the change has been or has not been authorized.
- If a student is showing any symptoms related to COVID-19, their access to the bus may be temporarily suspended.

When completed, the revised busing policy will be shared with families for review.

## **13. Classroom Capacity**

MPS has taken the opportunity to measure all classrooms to establish caps that will ensure there is enough space to safely maintain physical distancing according to health recommendations and Ministry direction.

A 2-metre border from each classroom wall will be established allowing for movement throughout the classroom. Each student and staff member in the classroom will be allotted a 1.5-square-metre bubble.

Based on the results, the following caps have been established: (Please note that caps are a maximum number, actual classroom numbers will be lower)

Classroom	ELK A	ELK B	ELK C	1	1/2	2	3	3/4	4	5	6	6/7	7	8
Maximum Capacity	27	27	27	23	23	23	23	27	27	27	24	24	33	33

If a student has elected to begin the year or transition to distance learning and wishes to return, it will be dependant on whether the classroom cap has been reached. If the cap is reached, there may be a wait until a space opens up or appropriate adjustments can be made.

#### 14. Other Available Spaces

The Cree room will be available in the event a classroom requires an alternate learning space.

The Learning Commons will be available for one classroom per day to access. Students will enter the space and may choose to read or use available devices (iPad, Chromebook) while maintaining social distancing. Any device used will be sanitized following use and any books or reading materials used will be placed in a bin for 14 days of isolation before being sanitized and returned for availability. The learning commons will be sanitized daily.

Washrooms will be made available to students throughout the school day. Grades 1-5 will use the downstairs (junior) washrooms while students in Grades 6-8 will use the upstairs (senior) washrooms.

- Classes will only allow one male and one female at a time to leave the classroom and use the washroom.
  - Male junior washroom will have every other urinal boarded up to promote physical distancing. All three sinks are social distanced. Students will not use the hand dryer but will instead use paper towel which will immediately disposed of. Stalls will ensure physical distancing in the event they are used.
  - Female junior washroom stalls promote social distancing along with sinks.
  - There are two senior washrooms available with a capacity of one. Each washroom is its own enclosed unit.
- Washrooms will be regularly sanitized, every 30 minutes, throughout the day

- Students will be expected to practice safe hygiene such as washing hands for 20 seconds.

The sensory room will be made available for any student requiring its use. It will be sanitized following use.

The staffroom will be available for staff to use to access the washroom or during their preparation/break times.

An isolation room will be established in the former Administrative Assistant office to be used if a student or staff member becomes ill. Anyone requiring the use of this space will be required to wear PPE from the kit available for use in the room. Anyone entering the space will also be required to wear PPE. It will be immediately and thoroughly sanitized following use.

## **15. Curricular Expectations**

Students will be supported while transitioning into their next grade while recognizing the prolonged classroom absence during the period of March to June. Part of school start-up support will include assessments to identify students' strengths and gaps in learning to ensure they have the fundamental building blocks for new content. Class timetables will be created maximizing learning opportunities in math, science, language, social studies, health and physical education.

Students in Grades 3 and 6 will not be participating in EQAO assessments for the 2020-2021 school year.

Music instruments will not be available for use at the beginning of the school year until further notice. Most overall expectations can still be met without the use of instruments. Regardless whether a student is learning in-person or by distance, there will remain opportunities to engage in music and the arts.

Gymnasium usage will be limited for student use based on capacity of the space. There will be more opportunities for outdoor learning to begin the year with adjustments to be made as cooler weather approaches following October Break. Students will be encouraged to continue to practice proper hand hygiene before and after participating in physical activity and equipment use.

## **16. Special Education Supports**

Students requiring special education supports will continue to be supported through in-class and withdrawal services according to the student's Individual Education Plan (IEP). Two rooms are available for special education supports: Kindergarten-Grade 5 on the first floor and Grades 6-8 on the second floor. Should multiple students require withdrawal services, only students grouped from the same class may meet. The special education support spaces will be sanitized following use and at the end of every school day.

## **17. Other School-Related Activities**

Field trips, clubs, sports, school assemblies and after-school programs will be suspended until further notice. This is to ensure the school is empty to allow for sanitizing at the end of every school day.

## **18. Classroom Setup and Supplied Materials**

Moosonee Public School will provide basic supplies for student success including paper, notebooks, pencils, erasers, pens, rulers and other basic items. Students will keep these items in their desks, lockers, or other locations where they will not come into contact with anyone else. Any common-use items, such as pencil sharpeners, three-hole punches, and technology devices will be sanitized prior to and following each use.

Common items will be set aside for daily sanitizing.

Classroom setup and usage by grade will include:

- Kindergarten classes will be set up to continue with play and inquiry-based expectations. There will be two horseshoe-shaped tables in each room to allow small-group learning with the teacher or Designated Early Childhood Educator (DECE). Planning and assessment will continue using the four frames of the curriculum. Classroom cleaning protocols will be in force to properly sanitize any shared learning materials. Each student's personal belongings will be placed in individual cubbies.
- Grades 1-8 will have students physically distanced in the classroom. Students will bring their backpacks and jackets to their chairs to avoid cross-contact while on classroom hooks. Students will have their assigned desk and will not be permitted to sit at any other desk other than any support area designated by the classroom teacher. Students in Grades 1-6 will utilize their desks for storing all materials while those in Grades 7 and 8 who have lockers available will use the lockers to store their items.

All classrooms will have a basket filled at the beginning of the day of pre-packaged snacks that they may access throughout the day.

Students in Grades 6-8 will have individual Chromebooks assigned which will be sanitized prior to and following each use. Students in Grades 1-5 will have shared devices available which will be sanitized prior to and following each use.

### **19. At-Home Learning**

Any students who will be learning remotely must have access to a Chromebook and an Internet connection. If any household lacks access to these devices or a connection, please contact the school. Paper materials will not be available to limit any possible COVID-19 transmission between school and home.

Learning will be provided in an asynchronous model to support the various schedules our families may encounter.

Students in Kindergarten-Grade 2 will be able to access materials using SeeSaw while those in Grades 3-8 will use Google Classroom. Ongoing support will be available via email as students will be learning and receiving feedback on the assigned tasks. Anything assigned to students at home will have the same expectations as though they were in school and will be reflected in the progress report and subsequent report cards.

Should a student require special education supports, staff will coordinate with the family to ensure they are in place for student success.

### **Conclusion**

As we plan for our eventual return, there is a possibility that we may have to re-adjust our approach to properly serve our families. As important information and updates become available, we will keep our families informed.

We thank you for your cooperation through this time as we work together to provide our students a safe environment in which they can learn.

Ministry of Health

## COVID-19 Reference Document for Symptoms

**Version 5.0 – May 25, 2020**

This document outlines the symptoms which have been most commonly associated with COVID-19. This information is current as of May 25, 2020 and may be updated as the situation on COVID-19 continues to evolve. If there is a discrepancy between this list and other guidance, this list should be considered as the most up to date.

### **Common symptoms of COVID-19 include:**

- Fever (temperature of 37.8°C or greater)
- New or worsening cough
- Shortness of breath (dyspnea)

### **Other symptoms of COVID-19 can include:**

- Sore throat
- Difficulty swallowing
- New olfactory or taste disorder(s)
- Nausea/vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain
- Runny nose, or nasal congestion – *in absence of underlying reason for these symptoms such as seasonal allergies, post nasal drip, etc.*

### **Other signs of COVID-19 can include:**

- Clinical or radiological evidence of pneumonia

**Atypical symptoms/clinical pictures of COVID-19 should be considered, particularly in children, older persons, and people living with a developmental disability. Atypical symptoms can include:**

- Unexplained fatigue/malaise/myalgias
- Delirium (acutely altered mental status and inattention)
- Unexplained or increased number of falls
- Acute functional decline

Version 5.0  
May 25, 2020

## Appendix A Continued



- Exacerbation of chronic conditions
- Chills
- Headaches
- Croup
- Conjunctivitis
- Multisystem inflammatory vasculitis in children
  - Presentation may include persistent fever, abdominal pain, conjunctivitis, gastrointestinal symptoms (nausea, vomiting and diarrhea) and rash

### **Atypical signs can include:**

- Unexplained tachycardia, including age specific tachycardia for children
- Decrease in blood pressure
- Unexplained hypoxia (even if mild i.e. O<sub>2</sub> sat <90%)
- Lethargy, difficulty feeding in infants (if no other diagnosis)

Version 5.0  
May 25, 2020