



Update for Families – February 3, 2021

Today, the Province announced that all students registered for in-person learning will be able to return to school beginning **Monday, February 8, 2021**. We miss our students and are excited to be able to welcome them back from remote learning. We continue to work hard to ensure that our schools remain clean and safe and that additional safeguards are in place. Transportation will be running as usual on that day.

As a reminder to families, in addition to all our current measures, the Province has announced additional health and safety measures including:

Masking for all students Grades K-12

The Ministry of Education has mandated that all students Grades 1 – 3 wear masks. The Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board has broadened the requirement to Kindergarten students. Beginning **Monday, February 8, 2021, all students K-12, are required to wear masks**. Masks are also mandatory while riding the bus.

“We extended the requirement to all students out of an abundance of caution, and in consultation with public health, as the safety of all our students and staff is at the core of every decision we make,” said Rick Petrella, Chair of the Board. “The health and safety of our students and staff remain, and will always be, our number one priority.”

Mandatory masking outdoors where physical distancing cannot be maintained

New medical guidelines support the wearing of masks outdoors, in situations where students are not able to maintain physical distance. Schools will monitor outside activities to determine when masks will be required.

Enhanced screening protocols

We know that everyone entering our facilities is expected to complete the [Ministry's COVID-19 School Screening](#) process. Now, the Board has been directed to record confirmation that they completed a process has been completed by staff and students. No personal health information is recorded, only a confirmation (attestation for staff and secondary students) that the screening has been completed and that the individual received a ‘Go to School’ result.

- Before BHNCDSD staff arrive at school, they will complete a confirmation that they have self-screened with a result to ‘Go to School’.
- During attendance in their period 1 class, all secondary students will be asked to confirm that they have completed the self-screening with a result to ‘Go to School’. If they have not completed the screening, they will be asked to, and their confirmation will be recorded. If they do not pass the screening, they will be sent home.

Enhanced Testing

The Board has been informed that more information, in respect to enhanced testing as directed by our public health units, will be provided soon.

We are excited that we have reached a point where we can return to our buildings and look forward to welcoming your children next week. Please continue to remind your children about the importance of physical distancing and correct mask wearing. Together, we will help keep everyone safe.

If families have any concerns about the new safety measures or returning to in-person learning, please reach out to your school principal prior to the return on Monday, February 8, 2021.

Please continue to check your inbox regularly. I also encourage you to visit the [COVID-19 section of our website](#) where you will find [FAQs](#), [Virtual School Information](#) (for our established Virtual School) and [COVID-19 Cases by Location](#).

Thank you and welcome back.

Rick Petrella, Chair of the Board
Mike McDonald, Director of Education