

Blenheim District Public School Newsletter

September/October 2020

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Welcome and Welcome Back!

We are so excited to be back in the building, doing what we love to do...teach and work with children. As we were preparing for your children, we planned in a way that was very new. We looked at the curriculum, which drives our learning, but we were also planning walking paths, entrance areas, and recess quadrans. We have planned, revised, and planned again in the hopes that your family enjoys a safe and smooth transition back to school

Some things have changed. All teachers now have online learning platforms, either Google Classroom or Brightspace. Parents have drop off areas and are asked to walk onto school property instead of parking in the loop. We have very limited access to the school and play yards for anyone other than staff and students. Our day is a bit slower as we wash frequently (6-7 times are scheduled for each class daily), have washroom breaks, socially distance our transitions and more. It is not business as usual. We do appreciate your flexibility and adaptability as we navigate our new school reality.

Some things have stayed the same. Educators continue to create learning opportunities. They participate in Music, French, and Gym. The Library Learning Commons is open, although the books stay at school. Mrs. Kipp continues to answer your calls and is now answering a doorbell as well! We have a before and after school program. And we continue to pivot as changing Health Department recommendations are updated.



Principal Mrs. K. Martin
Superintendent of Education Mr. D. Wright
Secretary Mrs. W. Kipp
Trustee Mr. B. McKinnon & Mrs. B. Yeoman

Our learning model has changed. Some of our students are at home working in a full remote classroom and others in person. This year is not traditional, but it will be great! Ms. Wilson arranged for the Outdoor Education Centre to visit the school for our three intermediate classes. Mrs. Fountain has started the Snack Program with Mrs. McRuer. We have a virtual author visit in a month. We will be hosting a Meet the Family event (virtually). Our first BDPS School Council Meeting is on Monday, September 28th. We are being creative to enrich and maintain our school community.

Teachers are or will be reaching out to families frequently to keep you updated with the learning in their classrooms. If you have a question, please contact the classroom teacher first. Each teacher will share the best way to reach them. We have planned and continue to plan for a great 2020-2021 school year. Check us out on Facebook, Twitter, and our website. We look forward to working with you this year. Take care!

Mrs. K. Martin

Orange Shirt Day in TVDSB
To create a culturally safe learning environment.
Every year, Orange Shirt Day, Every Child Matters
is held on
September 30th

Intergenerational Trauma

"Intergenerational trauma is usually seen within a family in which the parents or grandparents were traumatized, and each generation of that family continues to experience trauma in some form. Direct survivors of these experiences often transmit the trauma to later generations when they don't recognize or have the opportunity to address their issues. Over the course of time these behaviours, often destructive, become normalized within the family and their community, leading to the next generation suffering the same problems."

Kevin Berube, Director of Mental Health and Addictions at Sioux Lookout Meno Ya Win Health Centre

Home Connections in Mathematics

Home Connections in Math

September 2020

It's an exciting time in mathematics right now. In late June, the Ministry of Education announced the release of the new elementary mathematics curriculum for grades 1 to 8. This new elementary math curriculum describes the knowledge and skills that students are expected to learn in each grade. It is organized into six areas: number, algebra, data, spatial sense and financial literacy, with social-emotional learning skills in mathematics and mathematical processes being taught as part of the learning through all strands. Social-emotional learning skills help students build confidence in their math skills and think critically to support their overall well-being. The Ministry has revised the assessment and reporting procedures for the math curriculum. There will be only one mark for math, instead of providing a separate mark for each strand. Mathematics is an integral part of our daily lives. Therefore, [The Curriculum Context](#) outlines the vision, principles and goals of the new mathematics curriculum. We want students to see the value and beauty of mathematics. There is a lot of work to be done to support our students in learning mathematics and parents/guardians play an important part in the learning process. The following link outlines the [Roles and Responsibilities in Mathematics Education](#) in Mathematics Education for all stakeholders including students, parents, teachers, principals, and community members. Resources and additional information can be found on the Ministry's Curriculum and Resources website:

- [New Elementary Math Curriculum](#)
- [Key Changes - Ontario Mathematics Curriculum](#)

We will continue to provide any updates and support from the Ministry to all our families.

SchoolCashOnline

Due to the nature of this school year we will not be running field trips or fundraisers. If this changes I would like for everyone to be prepared for payments to the school. Click the link provided to sign up for [SchoolCashOnline](#)



Parent Portal

Click the photo below for the Parent Portal link. Ensure your child(s) contact information is up to date and fill out the Parent/Guardian Consent form online. If updates are required for Contact Information, please print the form, make corrections, and send it into the school or call the office to make the changes. The Portal will close for updates on Sept. 30th.



FOOD ALLERGIES *React with Respect*



Some kids can get very sick when they eat certain foods. This is called a food allergy. If someone tells you they have a food allergy, you should *react with respect*.

How do you respect food allergies?

- | | | | | |
|---|------------------------------|---|---|---------------|
| Know that food allergies are very serious | Wash your hands after eating | Don't share your food with friends who have allergies | Get help right away if a friend gets sick | Show kindness |
|---|------------------------------|---|---|---------------|



©2015, Food Allergy Research & Education (FARE)

Learn more at foodallergy.org

Update for students who are reported as Flu or Illness:

Students, parents, and school staff
Answer a few questions before leaving for school.



For students to return to school after an absence, students must either:










1. have a COVID test that is negative and are symptom free for 24 hours,
2. doctor visit that gives an alternative diagnosis and are symptom free for 24 hours,
or
3. off for 14 days.


It is important to remember that the symptoms must be new or worsening and not attributed to another personal health condition. For example, someone that suffers from chronic headaches. If you complete the online self-screening it will walk you through the process and ask if this symptom is normal for you and related to a known cause or condition. In this case headaches are normal for this person, so it is not a new or worsening symptom.

STOP Covid-19 Screening


If you answer YES to ANY of the following questions, do not send your child to school and consult your health care provider or local Public Health Unit for further instructions:

Is your child and/or any person in your child's household experiencing any of the following new or worsening symptoms associated with COVID-19?


 Fever (temperature) <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	 New or worsening Cough <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	 Shortness of breath, Difficulty breathing <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	 Sore throat, Difficulty swallowing <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	 Runny nose or nasal congestion <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
 Loss of sense of taste or smell <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	 Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	 Unexplained fatigue / malaise / chills / headache <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	 Pink eye (conjunctivitis) <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	




Has your child, or anyone in your child's household, been in close physical contact with any person who is being "investigated" or has tested positive for COVID-19 during the past 14 days, without wearing the appropriate Personal Protective Equipment?
 YES NO

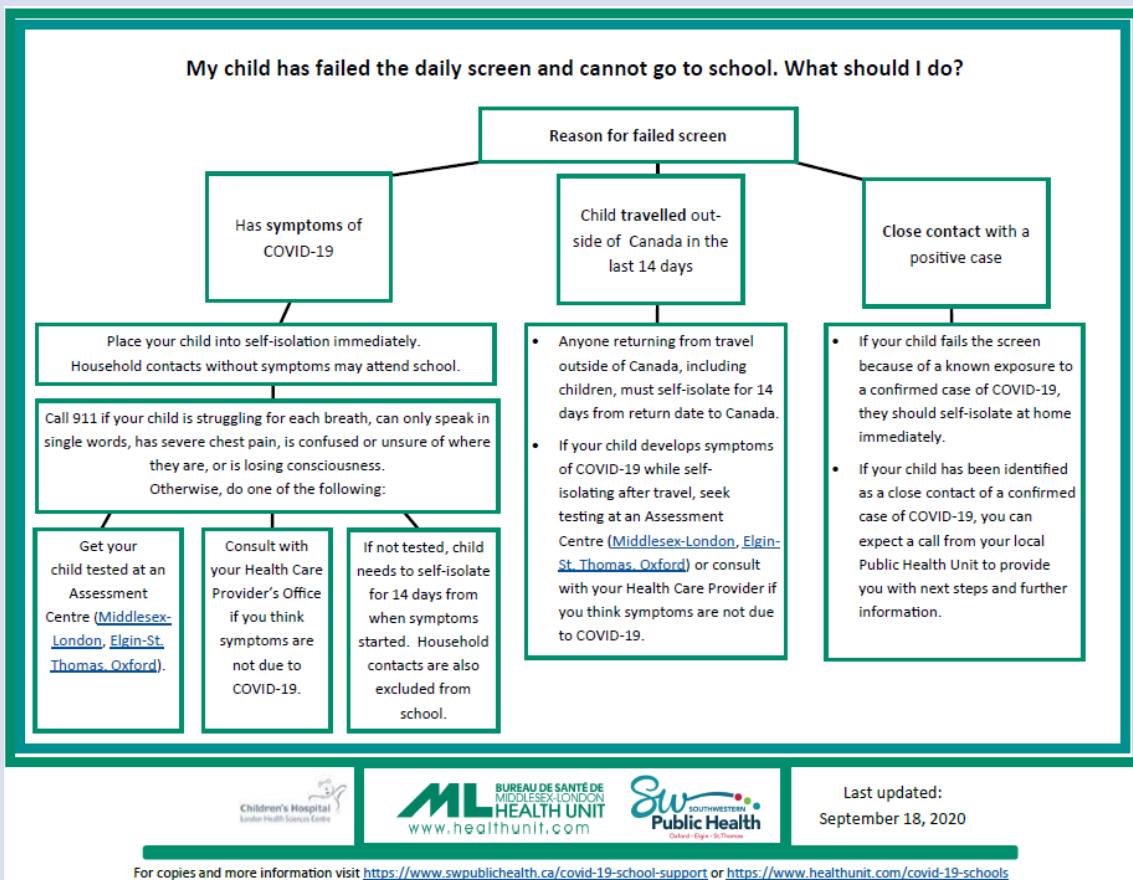


Has your child, or anyone in your child's household, travelled outside Canada in the last 14 days?
 YES NO



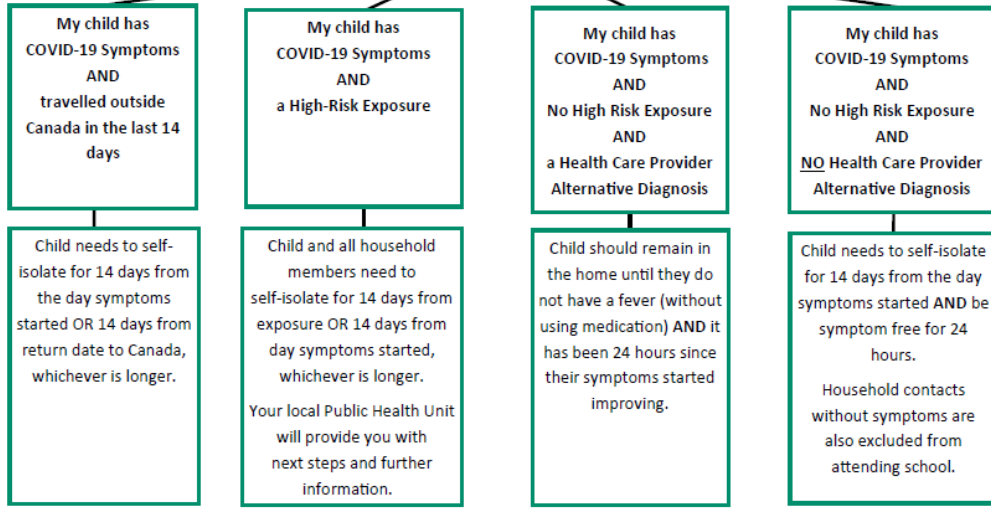
Have you and/or any person in your child's household worked in a facility known to be experiencing an outbreak of COVID-19?
 YES NO

 August 31, 2020



My child has symptoms but did not get tested for COVID-19. When can they return to school?

My child has NOT completed a COVID-19 test



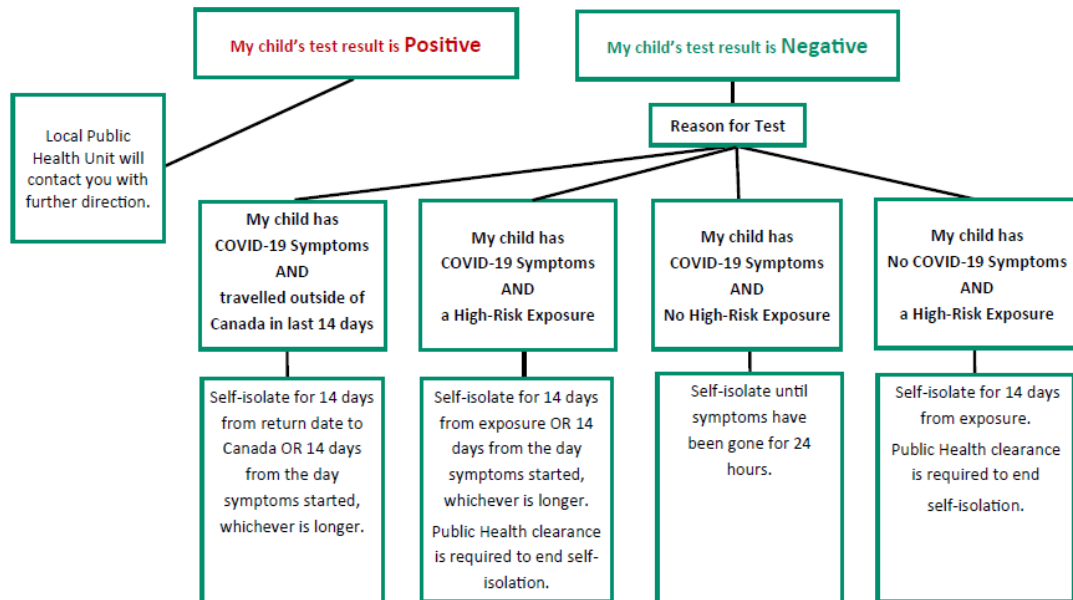
High Risk Exposure is defined as: Close contact with a positive case of COVID-19 as determined by public health.



Last updated:
September 18, 2020

For copies and more information visit <https://www.swpublichealth.ca/covid-19-school-support> or <https://www.healthunit.com/covid-19-schools>

My child has been tested for COVID-19. When can they return to school?



High Risk Exposure is defined as: Close contact with a positive case of COVID-19 as determined by public health.



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