

Get the Facts BACK TO CLASS FOR 2020-21

Return to near normal daily, in-school classes with health measures.

COVID-19 INFORMATION

The decision to allow in-school learning with Public Health measures in place weighs the risks of prolonged school closures on students' educational experience and overall wellbeing, against the risk of COVID-19.

Public Health measures

Current Public Health measures include students and staff members staying home when sick, frequent hand washing and/or hand sanitizing before and after entering school buildings and classrooms, increased cleaning of surfaces at schools and on buses, avoiding sharing personal items, maintaining a physical distance of two metres from others when possible, and keeping students in cohorts (groups).

Parents, students and staff are expected to complete a daily screening checklist prior to entering school.

Handling situations when students cannot keep two metres away from others

If physical distancing is not possible, it is strongly recommended to put extra emphasis on hand hygiene, wearing masks, and cleaning and disinfecting on a regular basis before and after activities.

If desks cannot be kept two metres apart in a classroom, students should be seated so they are not facing each other. For example, desks can be arranged in rows. This way, students are not likely to cough directly into someone's face.

In addition to physical distancing, arranging groups of children into cohorts can also reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission, by limiting the number of contacts a child has in a school day.

Safety for students with underlying medical conditions

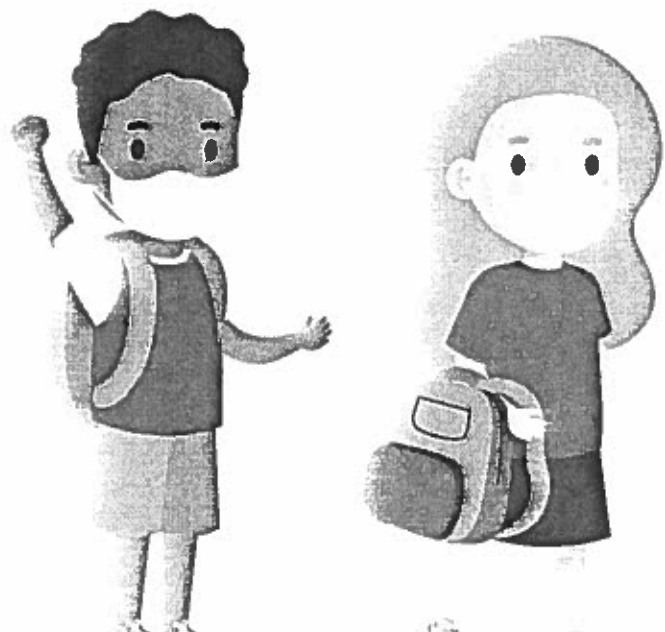
For students with underlying medical conditions or other risk factors, parents should consult their child's primary health care provider and make a decision that will best support their child.

Wearing masks at school

Based on the current low prevalence of COVID-19 in Newfoundland and Labrador, the use of non-medical masks is not required while in classrooms for children in K-12.

Masks will be required in communal areas of the school for high school students and staff and for junior high school students if cohorts change classes.

Some students may choose to wear masks at all times; this is a personal choice for students and their parents/guardians. It is important to treat people who wear masks with respect.



How long student/parent/staff members should isolate after having symptoms

If you have symptoms of COVID-19, which include fever, cough, runny nose, sore throat, loss of taste or smell, loss of appetite, diarrhea, you should complete the HealthLine 811 assessment tool – www.811healthline.ca/covid-19-self-assessment or call 811 to see if you require COVID-19 testing.

If you test positive for COVID-19, you are required to self-isolate for 10 days from the onset of symptoms, or until 24 hours after symptoms resolve, whichever takes longer. Public Health will provide direction on when you or your child can return to school.

If you have symptoms of COVID-19, test negative, and have no known exposure to the virus, you must stay home for 24 hours after your symptoms resolve.

If you test negative and have had an exposure* to the virus, you are still required to self-isolate for 14 days from the exposure date. Public Health will provide direction on when you or your child can return to school.

If there was a COVID-19 case at school

A Public Health team will investigate the case to find out when the symptoms developed, and support the school to minimize the spread. Students and staff who are close contacts of the case will be required to stay home for 14 days. Testing for COVID-19, for those who require it, will be arranged in consultation with regional Public Health authorities. Parents will be notified if a case of COVID-19 is confirmed at school, and Public Health officials will contact those who were in close contact with the case.

Public Health measures for school buses

Students will be required to wear non-medical masks while on buses, however no student is required to wear a mask if they cannot tolerate it.

The Public Health measures for school buses include increased cleaning and disinfection of high touch



surfaces, maintaining a protective zone between the students and the driver, assigning students to seats that are grouped with other household members, and using loading/unloading procedures that support physical distancing of two metres when possible.

If a student shows symptoms at school

Parents/guardians will be asked to pick up their child from school immediately. The student will be asked to wear a non-medical mask if able to do so safely, and be isolated in a separate room or kept at least two metres from others. Students will be supervised while waiting for pick-up. Parents must ensure the school has their most current contact information.

If a student has symptoms related to allergies or a pre-existing medical condition

Students who experience seasonal allergies or other COVID-19 like symptoms, which are related to an existing condition, can continue to attend school when they are experiencing these symptoms. If they experience any change in symptoms, they should complete the online COVID-19 Self-Assessment or seek assessment by a primary health care provider.

*Exposure includes contact with a known case of COVID-19, travel outside of the Atlantic Provinces, or contact with a traveler outside of the Atlantic Provinces who is symptomatic.