

## March 2022

Hello everyone,

As you will have heard, there are many provincial updates related to schools.

Below, please find a brief summary for your convenience.

Effective March 21, 2022:

- Masks will no longer be mandatory in schools, [as the school board does not have the authority to enforce this beyond March 21](#).
  - Staff, students and visitors may continue to choose to wear masks. This is a personal decision and everyone should be treated with respect and kindness.
  - The UGDSB will continue to provide PPE (including masks and goggles) to staff who choose to wear them.
- Schools will no longer do daily confirmation of COVID screening, however self-screening must continue before attending school each day. The province's [COVID-19 Screening Tool](#) has been updated.
- Rapid Antigen Tests will continue to be shipped to schools to support symptomatic testing of staff and students in schools.
- Cohorting and distancing are no longer required in schools. Elementary students will no longer need to cohort outdoors.
- Assigned seats and cohorting on school transportation vehicles is no longer required.
- In-person events, such as graduations, proms and assemblies can take place. There will be more details about this coming in the next few months.
- Upon return from international travel, individuals must wear a mask at all times when in public spaces (including schools), maintain a list of all close contacts for the first 14 days in Canada, and monitor for signs and symptoms of COVID-19.

Protective measures to continue:

- Hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette
- Enhanced cleaning and disinfecting
- Ventilation measures, including use of HEPA filters - *a reminder that the UGDSB has installed a HEPA filter in every classroom in the UGDSB and additional working and learning spaces, and is continuing to monitor air quality*
- Absentee reporting to the Ministry of Education and Public Health - *absence reporting information for schools will continue to be available on the [UGDSB website](#)*
- Protocols to manage individuals who are ill at school

Thank you to everyone for their continued support and understanding.

I would also like to thank everyone for your attention to the lates. We have much fewer lates and interruptions. Thank you. We sincerely appreciate everyone's efforts.

The parking lot continues to be a concern. Sometimes cars are stopped in the driving lane two or even three cars wide, blocking traffic and visibility. PLEASE, park your car in the parking lot or on the street, but do not block the flow of traffic in the driving lane. We thank you in advance for your help with this.