

Spencer Avenue ES - Return to In-Person - January 17, 2022

Parent Information

Please see below for the latest information we have. As you are all aware, things can change and what we are doing today may be different in a few weeks. We will try to send out new information as we have it. We encourage you to follow us on Twitter @SpencerAvenueEs as we regularly tweet out. Also, the Board regularly sends push notifications on UGConnect, which is available through the AppStore.

Daily School Screening

COVID-19 school and child care screening

Answer the following questions before going to school/child care today.

You can also take this on behalf of a student/child.

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You must stay home if you have COVID-19 symptoms or are waiting for test results after experiencing symptoms. Everyone in your household must also stay home until you get a negative COVID-19 test result, or you are cleared by public health, or you are diagnosed with another illness.

Anyone who is sick or has any symptoms of illness, including those not listed in this screening tool, should stay home and seek assessment from their health care provider if needed.

This screening cannot diagnose you. If you have medical questions, consult a health care provider at your local public health unit. Listen to the advice of your local public health unit and not other advice concerning the advice in this screening.

If your school board, child care provider, or public health unit has another screening process, you can use that instead.

Each morning, **before you send your child to school** please complete the [Ontario School Screening](#). This has changed to reflect what Public Health knows about the Omicron variant. It also gives you direction about what you need to do (e.g., do you need to isolate, does your family need to isolate, how long, etc.) The following are symptoms that require you to keep your child at home:

- Fever/Chills
- Cough or barking cough
- Shortness of breath
- Decrease or loss of taste or smell
- Muscle aches/joint pain
- Extreme tiredness
- Sore throat
- Runny or stuffy/congested nose
- Headache
- Nausea, vomiting and/or diarrhea

As a rule of thumb, if your child is sick, keep them home. Should your child develop symptoms at school, we will contact you to come and pick them up. They will wait in our isolation room until you arrive.

Please visit [Dufferin Public Health](#) for flow charts of what you do if your child has symptoms or you have had an exposure. This website is updated regularly with the latest information.

We will have a reminder on our daily announcements for students to do the screen.

Accessing Learning if My Child Needs to Stay Home

Teachers will regularly post learning materials in their Google Classrooms. Should your child need to stay home due to illness or illness in the family, they will be able to see some work that is happening in the classroom. The board will also be posting materials weekly for “temporary remote learning” with links, activities and materials that your child can access. These activities will not be assessed. Your child’s teacher will provide you with the link should you need it. Please note that this is all completed

asynchronously. Teachers will not be hosting Google Meets or providing synchronous learning for students at home as they will be in school.

Informing You About Illnesses At School

As you are aware, Public Health will no longer be informing schools if there is a positive Covid case in a classroom. They will not be providing the schools with letters for families or directing us to close classrooms. The School Board is working on a process for sharing information on absenteeism at each school. We will share this information with you when it becomes available.

Student Masks



Students are required to wear a mask while indoors at school and while on the school bus. Please make sure that your child's mask is properly fitting (e.g., tight to the face and covering the nose), in good repair and clean. **3 ply masks are strongly encouraged.**

The School Board has purchased 3 ply cloth masks for every student in the board. In addition, the Ministry is providing additional masks for students who may need one. We will be distributing two masks to each student on Monday. If you do not wish your child to have one of these masks, please just return it to school.

Lunch

Students will continue to eat their lunch in their classes. Students will remove their masks to eat and put their mask on immediately once they are finished eating. Students will remain seated during our lunch periods and can chat with those students sitting directly on either side of them.

A reminder that, with parent permission, students in grades 6 to 8 are allowed to go home for lunch.

Parents assume responsibility for their children when they leave school property. If you have not completed a permission form (these were handed out in September), please message your child's teacher and we will get one to you.

New - if a grade 7 or 8 student has a **younger sibling**, with parent permission, they can go home at lunch **together**. **Again, parents assume responsibility for their children during this time.** We will have a form available for parents who are interested to sign off on Monday for parents who are interested.

If you would like to have your child go home on Monday and you do not have a form on file, please write a note to your child's teacher.

Please note: there is only a crossing guard present to help students across Spencer Ave at the second nutrition break. At the first nutrition break, students must safely cross the road themselves.

Recess

Students will be required to stay with their cohort (students in their class) in a designated area during recess. We are no longer permitted to have a mixed cohort area.

Students DO NOT need to wear their masks when outside, provided that they maintain physical distance, although they may choose to. We will remind students to “use their helicopter arms” to make sure they are not on top of each other.

Hepa Filters

We have a hepa filter unit in each of our regular classrooms. These are turned on in the morning and run throughout the school day.

Cohorts

Students stay with the same students in their class throughout the day. The only exception to this would be if students are receiving small group instruction from our Special Education Resource Teacher. We are permitted to mix students for this purpose.

Library/Makerspace

This space will remain open. We are permitted to have more than one class in there at a time, but they must be grouped with their cohort and not mix.

Rapid Antigen Tests

We will be sending home two individual Rapid Antigen Tests (not kits) on Monday. Please just let your child’s teacher know if you do not want them, or return it to us when you receive it. Please note: any rapid tests that were available prior to the holidays and were not picked up were sent back to the school board.

Extracurricular Activities

All extracurriculars (e.g. clubs and teams) are on pause for now.