



January 15, 2022

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We are excited to have students return to school on Monday January 17<sup>th</sup>. As a school, we prefer in-person learning wherever possible. However, we are returning during a difficult time with Covid – as the Omicron variant is highly contagious, so we want to ensure that collectively we all adhere to the utmost safety measures.

This also might mean that we face staffing shortages at school, so do expect that there will be adjustments to your child's school day that could look like many different possibilities such as being taught by other teachers or staff or supply teachers; other situations may arise, and we will be planning for this as a school.

The following information is the most up to date information we have regarding procedures/protocols from the Government and Public Health. At the time of writing this letter, Public Health still have not finalized procedures, so more information regarding Public Health protocols will come next week.

#### **IF A STUDENT OR STAFF MEMBER HAS SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19**

It is VERY IMPORTANT that staff and students follow these instructions if you have **one** or more of the following Covid-19 symptom(s):

- FEVER
  - Fever = 38.5C (101.3F) and above (0-5 years)
  - Fever = 38.1C(100.6F) and above (6+ years)
- RESPIRATORY
  - Cough (new or worse)
  - Difficulty breathing, shortness of breath
  - Sore throat
  - Runny nose or nasal congestion (stuffy nose) of unknown cause
- GENERAL
  - Sudden loss of smell without nasal congestion with or without loss of taste
  - Generalized muscle pain (not related to physical exertion)
  - headache
  - Major fatigue
  - Significant loss of appetite
- GASTRO-INTESTINAL
  - Diarrhea
  - Vomiting
  - Stomach aches
  - nausea

### **IF A STUDENT HAS ONE OR MORE SYMPTOMS**

**The student and ALL MEMBERS OF THE HOUSEHOLD must isolate for 5 days.** The student who had the symptoms must take a rapid test on the 5<sup>th</sup> day. If this test is NEGATIVE and they have NO SYMPTOMS, they may return to school. If it's a POSITIVE test on the 5<sup>th</sup> day, there is another period of isolation for 5 additional days.

### **What to do in the case of a student presenting with symptoms:**

LEVEL	IF DOUBLE VACCINATED	IF NOT DOUBLE VACCINATED
ELEMENTARY STUDENTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ isolation for 5 days</li><li>➤ negative rapid test at 5 days prior to return to class</li><li>➤ if rapid test is positive, additional 5 days</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ isolation for 5 days</li><li>➤ negative rapid test at 5 days prior to return to class</li><li>➤ if rapid test is positive, additional 5 days</li></ul>

More detailed information: <https://www.quebec.ca/en/health/health-issues/a-z/2019-coronavirus/self-isolation>

If your child develops any symptoms at school, they will go to our “Covid Room” (with their sibling(s) if applicable) until a parent/guardian comes to pick them up. We will administer a Covid test if the parent wishes (with parental consent).

### **STUDENTS WHO ARE ISOLATING AT HOME DUE TO COVID**

If your child or children are home isolating, the teachers will provide work for your child to do at home by the second day they are home. The work may vary by teacher/grade, and some work will be online (this is one of the reasons why we are having parents keep the technology we loaned them). There will also be a daily contact by email.

### **REPORTING ABSENCES**

Please email Katharine if your child will be absent: [kandriano@wgsb.qc.ca](mailto:kandriano@wgsb.qc.ca) and please be sure to give the specific reason.

- appointment
- Injury
- Child has covid
- Child has covid symptoms
- Someone in household has Covid
- Someone in household has symptoms

The Ministry will be looking at school absences and reasons for the absence through our absences database; so we will need the specific reason. As mentioned in the letter from WQSB, we are no longer reporting when there is a case in a class (new Public Health rules), so it is important for everyone to check for any symptoms before coming to school.

If you need to speak to Katharine about an absence, please call (819) 663-4842.

### **MASKS**

Students from grades 1 – 6 will continue to wear medical masks throughout the day. They are required on the bus, in daycare, in hallways and common areas, and during all classes. Students will remove their mask to eat their snacks and lunch, and they may remove it when they are outside. Students will change their mask at lunchtime and **anytime during the day if their mask is wet**. Masks will be provided by the school.

Kindergarten students **MUST** wear a medical mask on the bus (they will be provided by the school).

**\*\*Some Kindergarten parents have expressed concern that K students do not wear masks throughout the day. As a school we encourage the use of masks for kindergarten students, but it is the parents choice. If you would like your Kindergarten student to wear a mask throughout the day, please let the teacher know and they will provide medical masks for your child throughout the day.**

### **MATERIALS and TECHNOLOGY**

Please return **ALL MATERIALS** that were sent home during package pick-up (completed work, work that was NOT completed at home, workbooks, pencil case, and any other materials that were sent home).

**Please do NOT return technology that was sent home (Chromebooks and/or MiFi). These will stay at your home until further notice.**

### **SAFETY PROCEDURES AT SCHOOL**

Students will continue to sanitize or wash their hands throughout the day.

Students will not be sharing materials (some minimal sharing will take place in kindergarten).

Students will be instructed to wear their mask properly (covering both the nose and mouth).

Students will change masks at lunch time, and any other time during the day when their mask is wet.

We will reduce the amount of children in the hallways at the same time.

Gym classes will take place outdoors again, until further notice. Please ensure students are dressed warmly each day.

Students who show symptoms during the day will go to the Covid room, and parents will be called to pick them up. Siblings will also go to the Covid room and then go home to isolate as a household. We will administer a Rapid Test – only with parental authorization.

### **RAPID TESTS**

A box of 5 Rapid tests will be sent home each month. We should receive the test kits this week or during the week of the 24<sup>th</sup>. We will send home as soon as we receive them.

### **ITEMS FROM HOME**

This week students will be returning materials that were sent home (except technology – that stays at home).

The only other items that should be in backpack each day are: agenda, lunchbox, homework, and possibly extra mitts/outerwear.

All other items should remain at home (toys, electronics, phone, fidgets, etc.)

### **VACCINATIONS – 2<sup>nd</sup> DOSE (4 – 11 yr. olds)**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> dose of the vaccination will be offered through the school again for 4 – 11 year olds, with parental consent. Once we receive the date and more details, we will send out the information. The date is expected to be in late January or early February.

### **FABULOUS TEACHERS AND STAFF**

I would like to take the time to commend our fabulous teachers and support staff for the preparation and delivery of online learning. This round of online learning went quite smoothly overall; and many parents contacted me to express their gratitude for their child's teacher and the support staff. It is not an easy task to teach online at the elementary level, but our team did a wonderful job.

### **MORE INFORMATION TO COME**

Public Health has not yet finalized all of the details for the return to school protocols, but we will send them out to parents as soon as we receive them.

Our goal is to have a safe, caring learning environment for our students. We are happy for their return, and we count on our school community to follow all of the Public Health rules to ensure one another's safety.

Together, we will get through these challenging times. We are very excited to have students returning next week, seeing their faces and hearing their laughter always makes the world of difference; especially during difficult times.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at [vlink@wqsb.qc.ca](mailto:vlink@wqsb.qc.ca) .

Sincerely,

Valerie Link

Principal

Erick Tremblay

Vice-Principal

