



Learning in the new school year

Students are returning to school to begin a new school year. Many health measures have been implemented to reduce the risk of COVID-19 and help everyone in Renfrew County and district stay safe.

Everyone has a role to play while schools and Renfrew County and District Health Unit (RCDHU) develop a plan to meet the government's health recommendations.

PARENT'S ROLE IN KEEPING SCHOOLS SAFE

Screen for symptoms every morning

Children must stay home if they experience:

- Fever, cough, shortness of breath/difficulty breathing, sore throat, chills, painful swallowing
- Runny nose/nasal congestion, feeling unwell/fatigued, nausea/vomiting/diarrhea, unexplained loss of appetite
- Loss of sense of taste or smell, muscle/joint aches, headache, conjunctivitis (pink eye)



Use the **Self-Assessment** 

Tool to determine if your child should be tested.

Stay home when sick or if in contact with someone who is sick

Students must not enter the school if they:

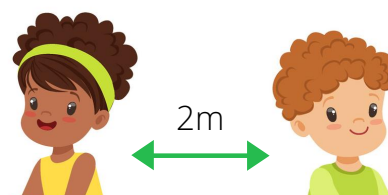


- Feel sick or have possible COVID-19 symptoms
- Had close contact with someone who is ill with a cough and/or fever
- Have a household member who has had contact in the last 14 days with someone who is being investigated or confirmed to have COVID-19
- Have traveled outside of Canada in the last 14 days
- Had close contact with someone who has travelled outside of Canada in the last 14 days and who is ill

Keep a safe distance

Keep 2 metres between you and others when possible:

- During drop-off and pick-up
- During interactions with a teacher, school staff or other parents and students



Pick up students promptly if they show symptoms at school

You, or a trusted contact, will be asked to immediately pick up your child if they show possible COVID-19 symptoms. Please ensure the school has the most up-to-date contact information so they may reach you if your child needs to be picked up.



Taking your child to school

Consider taking your child to school if your personal situation allows for it. This would help with physical distancing for students who do not have other options besides taking the bus.

WHAT STUDENTS NEED TO KNOW

Your child may feel nervous about what school will be like. While there will be changes, the key school experience will be the same as before—they will learn in a classroom setting with their teacher and friends.

What is a cohort?

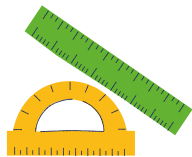
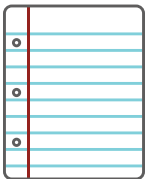
A cohort - or bubble - is a group of students and staff who remain together. The size of the cohort will depend on the physical space of the classroom.

The risk of COVID-19 is reduced by limiting exposure to others. Staying in a cohort also makes contact tracing easier and faster if there is a suspected case of COVID-19.



Talk to your child about some of the new public health measures to help them prepare for the first day of school:

- Sanitize hands before entering school and classrooms
- Keep a distance between others and follow marks in hallways
- Do not share food or personal items
- Cover coughs and sneezes
- Tell staff if they are feeling sick at school
- Lunch and recess time may change to allow for more physical distancing
- Students may be asked to stay in their own cohort to decrease contact with others
- Students who take the bus will have to sit in the same seat everyday



PUBLIC HEALTH MEASURES AT SCHOOL

Schools will follow detailed public health guidelines to prepare for the return of students. For example:

- More cleaning and disinfection of high touch areas and shared equipment
- Allow for physical distancing when possible, which may include:
 - One-way or marked hallways and designated entrance and exit doors
 - Stagger start and end-times for classes and lunchtime to avoid crowded hallways and lunchrooms
 - Leave space between desks and tables
 - Limiting bathroom occupancy
 - Stagger pick-up and drop-off times
- When physical distancing is not possible, extra emphasis will be on hand hygiene, covering coughs and sneezes, and cleaning.
- Students, where possible, will be cohorted by class.

