



DSBN Return to School Plan

2020-2021

Secondary

DSBN RETURN TO SCHOOL PLAN

SECONDARY

Although the 2020/2021 school year will be a little different for all of us, we are excited to be together to work and learn!

In addition to information about students' return to school options, we have also outlined our enhanced health and safety program to keep students and staff safe and healthy. We are committed to working together to ensure that the return to school is safe and positive for students and staff.

DSBN has been designated by the Ministry of Education as returning to school with an adaptive in-person model. This staged approach will be reviewed regularly to support a transition to a conventional model when it is safe and appropriate to do so. We have created a plan that will allow us to transition between all 3 possible modes of learning - conventional with enhanced protocols, adaptive and all online if necessary.

Students will have two choices for school in the fall:

Option 1: **RETURN TO IN-SCHOOL LEARNING IN AN ADAPTIVE MODEL**



Students attending school will be attending for a compressed school day of about 4 hours (225 minutes plus breaks) in addition to 75 minutes of online learning or independent study once they are home.



Students will attend the same class for the three periods in the same classroom, with the same teacher, to minimize student contacts. Due to the compressed school day, school bell times will be adjusted.



On the days students are not attending classes at school, they will be working on the online component of their courses using D2L Brightspace or Google Classroom in synchronous or asynchronous online learning or independent study.



Students have been centrally assigned to two cohort groups - A or B. Cohort A students will attend school Mondays, Tuesdays and alternating Wednesdays. Cohort B students will attend school on Thursdays, Fridays and alternating Wednesdays.




These cohorts will ensure that classes have about 15 students in them, to allow for physical distancing.



Students will focus on two courses at a time in 2 week mini blocks throughout the semester.

Option 1: RETURN TO IN-SCHOOL LEARNING IN AN ADAPTIVE MODEL

<div>Secondary Adaptive Learning Model</div>			MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
In-school >	Week 1	2 Course mini-block	Cohort A	Cohort A	Cohort A	Cohort B	Cohort B
	Week 2		Cohort A	Cohort A	Cohort B	Cohort B	Cohort B
	Week 3	2 Course mini-block	Cohort A	Cohort A	Cohort A	Cohort B	Cohort B
	Week 4		Cohort A	Cohort A	Cohort B	Cohort B	Cohort B
	Everyday		Cohort C	Cohort C	Cohort C	Cohort C	Cohort C

Cohort A: Secondary Student Group A


Cohort B: Secondary Student Group B

Cohort C: Alternative Education/RISE and Specialized School to Community Programs (SSTC)

What does an In-School and At Home Day look like?

In-school Day >	225 minutes	Learning in One Course + Breaks	75 minutes	Online Learning or Independent Study at Home
At Home Day >	300 minutes	Online Learning or Independent Study at Home		

Option 2: COMPLETE COURSES FULLY THROUGH ONLINE LEARNING

 Secondary Fully Online Learning Model		MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
Online >	Everyday	Cohort D	Cohort D	Cohort D	Cohort D	Cohort D
At Home Day >	300 minutes daily					Online Learning or Independent Study at Home

Cohort D: Fully online learning

Keeping our Secondary Schools Safe Together

Daily Health Assessment

- Parent completing daily self-assessment of their student
- Mandatory self-assessment of staff



Mental Health and Well-being Supports

- Together learning from research-based strategies to be strong and resilient.
- Mindfulness strategies to support students with their self-regulation and confidence



COVID-19 Symptoms Protocol

- Prevention and response in partnership with Niagara Public Health should a student or staff member have a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19



Signage

- For access, education, and reminders



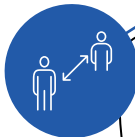
Minimizing Contact

- Not sharing instructional supplies
- Personal water bottles
- Restricting visitors into the school
- No assemblies or large gatherings
- Changing classroom layouts



Physical Distancing

- Putting as much space between people as possible
- Directional flow in hallways
- Revising entry and exits



Enhanced Cleaning

- High touch surfaces disinfecting after use
- Removing upholstered and soft items



Hygiene Practices

- Training of and teaching proper skills
- Signage to teach and prompt proper handwashing, coughing and sneezing etiquette



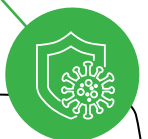
Masks and PPE

- Staff and students wearing masks



Training, Teaching & Coaching

- Students learning new skills in class to stay safe
- All DSNB staff trained before school year on COVID-19 specific health and safety



ENHANCED HEALTH AND SAFETY

Providing a clean and safe learning environment for students has always been important to the DSBN. As part of COVID-19 prevention, DSBN schools will have an enhanced health and safety program.

This program focuses on enhanced cleaning, training, masks and PPE, physical distancing, signage, minimizing contact, daily self-assessments, student communities and more.



Daily Health Assessment:

We are asking parents to do a screening of their student's health every morning before they go to school. Self-screening is also mandatory for all DSBN staff.

All parents will be asked to sign *DSBN Parental Agreement to Daily Screening of Children* to support the daily screening.

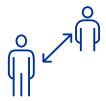
Students and staff who are not feeling well are asked to stay home.



Minimizing Contact:

Schools will significantly limit visitors, including parents/guardians. Any visitors to a school will be required to conduct a COVID-19 health screening before being allowed to enter.

School assemblies will not be held in person and extracurriculars, clubs, sports and field trips are on hold till further notice.



Physical Distancing:

As much distancing as possible between people in schools and worksites will be facilitated. This will be achieved through directional signage, education and encouragement, making changes to classroom set-ups, hallway flow, and much more.

Classroom sizes vary across the DSBN, but schools have already removed unnecessary furniture and will be setting up desks with as much distancing as possible, and to allow teachers as much teaching space as possible.



Hygiene Practices:

All staff will be hand washing regularly and teaching proper handwashing techniques to students. Reminders to wash hands regularly will be posted throughout schools, and sanitizer will be available in every classroom and at entrances.



Signage:

Signage is an important way to make students and staff aware of how to be safe. Posted signage includes:

1. Entry protocol
2. Physical Distancing Cues
3. Proper hygiene practices and reminders
4. Restrictions for use of equipment, rooms, and how to travel within the school or worksite.



Enhanced Cleaning Program:

Custodians will clean high touch surfaces such as light switches, handrails, door handles, at least twice per day.



Training:

All DSBN staff will attend Health and Safety training before school begins in September. This includes COVID-19 specific awareness, Screening/Signs/Symptoms, and how to properly wear PPE. School staff will also be trained in how to teach proper hygiene like frequent handwashing and cough and sneezing etiquette to students.



Masks and PPE:

Wearing masks has been mandated by the Ministry of Education.

It is mandatory for students in grade 9 to 12 and all staff to wear masks. Students who do not have their own cloth mask will be given one by the school.

Wearing a mask can be uncomfortable; however, it is an important strategy in keeping students and staff safe. To ease student discomfort with wearing masks, we will be scheduling breaks with students where they can go outside and will not have to wear masks provided they are maintaining a safe distance from one another.

The Ministry of Education will allow exemptions for students who have health conditions that preclude them from wearing a mask. To request an exemption for your student, please contact your school principal regarding the process and documentation required.



COVID-19 Protocol:

All schools will follow [The Monitoring and Responding to Reports of COVID-19 Protocol](#).

The Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Health and Niagara Region Public Health will work closely with the DSBN to monitor and respond to reports of COVID-19 symptoms. All school boards in Ontario will be required to file a daily report with the Ministry of Education to report new cases, suspected cases and confirmed cases.

Any student or staff member who develops COVID-19 symptoms while at home will be asked to be tested at a local assessment centre.

Any student or staff member who develops COVID-19 symptoms while at school will be immediately separated from others in the Designated Health Room until they are able to go home and see their healthcare provider and/or visit an assessment centre.

Staff with symptoms and parents/guardians of children with symptoms will be directed to use the [online self-assessment tool](#) and follow instructions. Persons who test positive may not return to school until they are cleared according to public health guidance. Persons who retest negative (after an initial positive test) can return to school once they are symptom-free for 24 hours.

If there is a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19 within the school, we will notify Niagara Region Public Health immediately. We will support Niagara Region Public Health with their contact tracing efforts.

Niagara Region Public Health will determine any additional steps required.

Information provided to the school community will be provided by the DSBN in consultation with Niagara Region Public Health.

At the school, where an individual is suspected of having COVID-19 cleaning and disinfecting will also take place including:

1. Identifying areas that could have been exposed to the person with the suspected case and clean and disinfect those areas following proper safety protocols
2. Using disposable cleaning equipment where possible
3. Removal of any items that cannot be cleaned (paper, books, etc.) and store them in a sealed container for a minimum of 7 days.



Mental Health and Well-Being:

An important part of transitioning back to school is to focus on students' social-emotional learning skills so they can build resilience, manage their stress, and build positive relationships. Our mental health and well-being staff oversee a tiered, school-based program across the DSBN, complemented by mental health and well-being resources and supports to help students be successful.



Transportation:

Students residing within the same household have been assigned to the same Cohort.

Transportation information is available at nsts.ca



Some Other Specific Details:



Devices and Internet access will be provided to students who need them by contacting the school principal.



Due to the compressed day schedule and to maintain physical distancing, school cafeterias will be closed. Students will need to bring food with them and will be given an opportunity to eat in their classes and on scheduled breaks.



Breakfast programs will run with pre-packaged grab and go items.



Students will not be assigned a locker at this time. Personal belongings brought to school should be minimized. Students will need to bring with them required materials for the class they are attending and arrive at school dressed appropriately for their course eg. physical education, technology etc.



Water fountains will be closed, however water bottle filling stations will be open. Students will need to bring a refillable water bottle with them to school.



Each student enrolled in a music course will be issued their own musical instrument.



We will provide more updates regarding cooperative education, dual credit programs, night school and adult education as they are finalized.

Timelines:

August 10 - August 16 - Survey sent to all families to indicate return to school plans for each student (adaptive in-school model or fully online learning)

Ongoing - Our *Frequently Asked Questions* will be regularly updated on the DSBN website. [SECONDARY - Return To School Updates](#)

August 17 - NSTS will open the Parent Portal with preliminary transportation

Week of August 31st - Student timetables, cohorts (if applicable), new school bell times, return to school instructions and online registration forms will be electronically shared with students and families

Starting August 31 - New families wishing to register their students can call the school for an appointment. Please note that due to Covid, schools will not be accepting parents/students without pre-arranged appointments

Starting August 31 - If your student is moving away from their current school and have items to return, call the school to make a drop off arrangements

September 2 - NSTS will post the transportation routes for the first week of school

Tuesday September 8 - First day of in-school classes for Cohort A students, and students taking Alternative Education Programs/RISE and Specialized School to Community (SSTC)

Thursday September 10 - First day of in-school classes for Cohort B students



If you have questions, be sure to visit dsbn.org to read the [Return to School FAQ](#), or contact your student's school principal.