



Perth-Andover Middle School
Return to School Plan – Executive summary
2020 – 2021

INTRODUCTION

The Perth-Andover middle School Return to School Plan follows the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development’s provincial expectations and standards for the safe operation of public schools during the COVID-19 pandemic. This plan has been created in consultation with ASD-W Health and Safety personnel. The objectives of the plan are to limit the potential spread of COVID-19 while also providing for a safe learning and working environment. This is a summary of the plan, the complete plan can be found on our PAMS website. This document provides a summary of the PAMS Operational plan. The complete plan is posted on our PAMS website, visit pams.nbed.nb.ca. Questions regarding the plan can be sent to perth-andovermiddle@nbed.nb.ca or call 273-4760.

ATTENDANCE

- To assist students to the new safety routines at school, school will start with a staggered entry.
Tuesday, Sept. 8th - Grade 6 only Wednesday, Sept. 9th Grade 7 only
Thursday, Sept. 10th - Grade 8 only ALL students will return on Friday, September 10th

ACCESS TO THE BUILDING

- To help with contact tracing, access to schools will be limited to control the flow of people.
- The flow of school personnel and other individuals between schools will be limited when possible.
- Parents will be only able to enter the school if they have an appointment or are picking up a sick child.
- A visitor log will be maintained to assist with contact tracing, if necessary.
- Parents and visiting professionals will need to wear a mask, maintain physical distancing and follow any other health, and safety protocols while in the school.

- The parent meetings will be conducted virtually or by telephone.

PHYSICAL DISTANCING / TRANSITIONS

Morning bus / parent drop off:

- Students will enter the school by the front doors, two doors will be used as entrance and two as exit. Signage will be posted for clarity.
- A supervisor will be at the entrance to ensure that students sanitize before proceeding down the hall.

Lockers:

- To allow for physical distancing, empty lockers will separate bubble classroom lockers. Wearing their masks, students will visit their lockers at 8:00 / 11:40 / 12:50 / 2:30.
- Homeroom teachers will monitor students to ensure that they do not travel outside their bubble area of lockers.
- Homeroom teachers will ensure that students have all belongings in lockers with nothing left on the floor to allow easy cleaning/disinfecting of the area.

Breakfast program:

- Breakfast trays will be delivered to classes with non-perishable food items by 8am each day. These trays will be prepared each day by volunteers who have been screened for COVID 19. Students will be able to eat in their classroom during morning arrival.

Breaks:

- Morning nutrition break will take place in homeroom classes. Students should bring a nutritious snack from home.

Lunch:

- Lunch is divided into a 30 minute lunch period and a 30 minutes recess. During the first half, all students will eat their lunch in their classrooms. Lunches ordered from the cafeteria will be delivered to the classroom. The cafeteria opens on September 21st.
- **Lunch recess:** At the 12:20 bell, the supervising teacher will pick up students in their homeroom and escort them to their 2nd half recess location. The teacher will ensure the group stays together and a 2m distance is maintained between passing groups. The teacher and students must stay together as a bubble in their area. Lunch recess locations will rotate.
 - Soccer field divided into two sections using field chalk - 2 bubble groups
 - Front grass area near gazebo
 - Front swing area
 - Front grass area in front of the school
 - Basketball Courts area
 - Back playset area
 - Gym – 2 bubbles divided by the curtain

Hallways / reception area / sun lobby:

- Main hallway and sun lobby are free of chairs and other furniture to allow for distancing.

- Arrows indicate the direction of traffic flow in the hallway. Physical distancing symbols (2 feet) indicate where students should wait to use the washroom or fill their water bottle.
- Students and staff are expected to attempt to maintain physical distancing of 2 metres (6 feet) in all common areas including, but not limited to, hallways, cafeteria, lobbies, and washrooms.

Washrooms:

- Student washrooms have a maximum capacity of two students at a time. Gender neutral washroom will be used by grade 8 classes. Students will receive a washroom pass from their teachers during class time or at noon hour to go to the washroom. They will place the tag outside of the washroom upon entering. If two tags are hanging, students must wait on designated spaces (2 metres apart) for their turn. Tags will be disinfected between uses.

Dismissal:

- Once all buses have arrived and students have put on their masks, students will be dismissed by class beginning with the grade 8's who are closest to the exit. The classes will follow behind one another maintaining physical distance. Supervising teachers will ensure physical distancing of 1m while loading the bus.
- Students who are walking or biking home will wait until buses leave in the cafeteria. Supervisors will ensure physical distancing of 2m.

COVID CONTROLS

Classrooms

- Hand sanitizing stations will be provided in all classrooms. Students are not required to social distance. Specialty teachers or teachers who travel between groups of students (PE, Maliseet, PIF, Health, Educational Assistants) must maintain 1m between themselves and students. If that is not possible, they must wear a community mask.
- Students will remain with their classroom bubble for all classes, lunch, break and any other school activity. Classrooms will be set up with desks and tables.
- Exploratory classes (health, makerspace and technology), Maliseet and PE will require students to move classes. When this happens, students will wear their community mask as they travel through the halls. A teacher will escort the group to their next class to minimize contact between bubbles travelling in the same hallway. They may remove their mask once they have reached their new classroom.
- Classrooms should be free of cushions, mats, fabric chairs etc. that cannot be easily sanitized when shared.
- Whenever possible, classroom windows will be kept open to encourage air circulation.
- Teachers will limit the group work so students have sufficient personal space. Teachers are encouraged to take students outside to learn whenever possible.
- Students will receive their supplies from their homeroom teacher. Once received, there should be little sharing of items between students. Each student should have their own supply box for pencils/ markers/ erasers / calculators / rulers, ect.

Makerspace/ Science/ Computer Lab/ Maliseet language class:

- When using these shared spaces, students will disinfect their chair and workspace at the end of class.
- Students will also disinfect any shared items they use during class.

Gymnasium:

- All students must sanitize upon entering and exiting the gym.
- The curtain will separate each bubble classes when two classes are scheduled at the same time. Only one class will change clothes and use changing room. The other class will change footwear only and do this in their side of the gym. The changing class will enter and exit by the main gym door. The class that does not change, will enter, and exit by the cafeteria door. The instruction on days where students do not change will be low intensity or outdoors when possible.
- Students within the same bubble class will use the change rooms at the same time. They will be cleaned by custodians a minimum of 3 times per day – at least after period 2 / period 4 and at the end of the day. A schedule will be posted and monitored by administration throughout the day.

Health Room:

- Students showing signs of illness will go to the room 152 and be directed to keep their mask on. A parent/caregiver will be called to pick the student up. The door to the room will be kept shut while the person is inside (windows will allow for monitoring of the individual). The furniture in the room will contain a desk, table, and plastic chairs. Following the departure of the individual who is ill, the custodian, while wearing the appropriate PPE, will disinfect the room, closing the door when finished.

MASKS

- Community masks are required to be worn by all students and staff in all common areas, including, but not limited to, hallways, cafeteria, lobbies, and washrooms.
- All students are expected to bring their own community masks.
- Masks may be removed in the classroom, once all students have entered and are seated.
- At the end of class, students must put on their masks before leaving the room.
- Students may remove at noon when they reach their designated location.
- Masks should be washed daily.
- Visiting professionals (supply teachers / district employees / supply EA's) will be required to wear a mask if physical distancing of 2m is not possible in a classroom. They will be required to wear a mask in all common areas.
- Students will be taught the proper way to care for masks. Staff will model for students.

BUSING

- Parents are encouraged to transport their own children to and/or from school this year in order to reduce congestion on busses.
- If parents are not able to transport their own children, bus transportation will be provided.

- All students must wear a mask when boarding the bus. Students will be refused entry on the bus if they are not wearing their community mask.
- Students who are sitting alone in a seat may remove their mask once seated.
- Students in grade 6-12 sharing a seat, must wear their mask for the duration of the bus ride unless they are seated with a person from the same household.
- Students must wear their masks when exiting from the bus until they are seated in their homeroom class.
- Students must sit in the same seat on the bus each day in order to facilitate contact tracing, if necessary. Seats are assigned by the bus driver.
- Students must maintain a 1m physical distance when entering or exiting the bus.

HAND SANITIZING AND DISENTECTING

- Hand sanitizing stations containing EZ-Pur Hand Sanitizer will be installed in each classroom and in all common areas.
- Students are expected to sanitize their hands upon entry to the classroom and wash their hands frequently throughout the day. Teachers will review the importance of sanitizing with students.
- Hand washing and hand sanitizing posters will be posted at appropriate locations throughout the school.
- If students visit another classroom, at the end of each period, students will be required to disinfect their workstation (desks and chairs). Disinfectant and paper towels will be available in each classroom. Students will be instructed on the proper procedure for disinfecting.
- Any shared materials in a classroom such as gym equipment, art supplies, musical instruments, school computers, keyboards and mice, science lab equipment and makerspace supplies must also be disinfected by the students after each use.
- Water fountains have been replaced with water bottle filling stations. All students are expected to bring their own refillable water bottles.
- All push bars, handrails, etc. and washrooms will be cleaned a minimum of three times daily by custodians. A cleaning schedule will be posted in bathroom.
- All rooms will be cleaned and disinfected at the end of each day by custodians.
- Homeroom teachers and all staff who work with students in areas outside of classrooms will pick up spray bottles from the labelled box on the stage prior to 8am daily and return them at the end of the day.

SYMPTOM MONITORING

- Parents are responsible for reviewing the screening questions at the end of this document with their children prior to leaving for school and only sending their child to school when they are well and have met the criteria outlined in the survey.

- If a student has two or more symptoms of COVID-19 they must stay home, and parents must contact 811 to determine whether COVID-19 testing is required.
- If COVID-19 testing is required, individuals must follow Public Health advice for returning to school. If testing is not required, they can return once fever (with no medications) and other symptoms have been resolved for 24 hours or if they have been directed to do so by a health care professional.
- If tested, Public Health will inform the individual or parent (when a student is involved) when isolation may be lifted.
- If a student becomes symptomatic at school, they will be taken to the sick room. Parents will be contacted and must come to the school as soon as possible to pick up their child (within 1 hour). Parents should have an alternative plan for pick up in the event they are not home. It is also important to ensure the emergency contact information is accurate on the school information form.

OUTBREAK MANAGEMENT

1. The Regional Medical Office of Health will contact the school or the school district if a positive case of COVID-19 is confirmed. The school principal must follow the orders of the Regional Public Health Office.
2. The school will communicate to the school population of a positive case of COVID-19 in a school and inform the school population that more information will be coming from the Regional Public Health Office.
3. Regional Public Health will be involved to manage the outbreak, ensure contacts are identified, ensure public health measures are in place, and lead any communication that is required.
4. Communication to the school community will be guided by the Regional Medical Officer of Health, in collaboration with the school principal and superintendent.
5. Confidentiality of a suspect or confirmed case is paramount. It is important that all personal health information remain confidential unless Public Health requires the information for contact tracing. Only a limited amount of school personnel, on an as needed basis for contact tracing, will be informed of the name of the individual who has tested positive for COVID-19.
6. Public Health Officers will contact those individuals who must self-monitor or self-isolate. Public Health Officers will decide if a class, classes or the entire school population needs to be sent home to self-monitor or self-isolate. They will inform the school principal and the school district of the actions needed.
7. If exclusion/isolation is required, principals must ensure that measures are in place to inform parents and school personnel of the situation and of how important this control measure is with resources from Regional Public Health. Proper exclusion/isolation is one of the most important and effective measures in controlling the spread of disease to others. Parental and school personnel cooperation is critical.

8. Public Health Officers or Public Safety Officers will monitor anybody who has been ordered to self-isolate.
9. In the event a school is required to closed due to an outbreak, the Regional Medical Officer of Health will give the directives in collaboration with the superintendent. The Regional Medical Officer of Health will notify the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health. The superintendent is required to notify the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development.
10. In the event a school, region or the province is in the red phase, students will not be permitted inside the school building. School personnel will continue to work in the school building unless the school has been closed to school personnel by Public Health. This means that school personnel are expected to report to school and continue offering education to students at a distance.
11. Teaching and learning must not stop if students are sent home because of an outbreak. As part of their preparations for the upcoming school year, school personnel must develop contingency plans for continued learning when students are not physically able to be in school. For example, teachers may have kits that they can send home with younger students, they may be ready to teach on-line, etc.
12. Public Health Officers will inform those individuals who have been ordered to self-isolate of when the order ends. Public Health Officers will inform the principal or the school district of when a class or a school (students and/or school personnel) can physically return to the school building.

APPENDIX ONE

SELF – MONITORING CHECKLIST FOR STUDENTS AND STAFF

Prior to leaving for school/work each day, please verify that you do not have two or more symptoms of COVID-19, even if mild:

Do you have any of following symptoms:

If you answered YES, and have ONLY ONE symptom, you may phone 811 to discuss COVID-19 testing. As a precaution, please self-monitor for onset of additional symptoms that may develop.

If you answered YES, and have 2 OR MORE of the symptoms, then self-isolate at home, and call 811.

- A fever of above 38°C
- A new cough or a worsening chronic cough
- Sore throat
- Runny nose
- Headache
- A new onset of fatigue
- A new onset of muscle pain
- Diarrhea
- Loss of sense of taste or sense of smell
- In children, purple markings on fingers or toes

If you answer YES to ANY of the following below, then you must stay home and self-isolate for 14 days.

If you develop symptoms, please refer to the self- assessment link on the Government of New Brunswick webpage.

- Have you had close contact within the last 14 days with a confirmed case of COVID-19?
- Have you had close contact within the last 14 days with a person being tested for COVID-19?
- You have been diagnosed with COVID-19 or are waiting to hear the results of a lab test for COVID-19.
- Have you returned from travel outside of Newfoundland and Labrador, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia within the last 14 days (IF for work purposes, you are not required to self-isolate upon return, but should self-monitor for symptoms)?
- You have been told by public health that you may have been exposed to COVID-19.

Follow Public Health advice if you are waiting for testing results for COVID-19 or have been told to self-isolate.

If you develop symptoms, please refer to the self-assessment link on the Government of New Brunswick webpage.

For the latest information visit: **www.gnb.ca/coronavirus**