

School reopening plan – elementary schools

All Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) elementary and secondary schools will reopen under a conventional school day model, with enhanced public health protocols and cohorting considerations in place. Students will return to the classroom beginning Sept. 8. The plans for reopening have been developed in consultation with the Ministry of Education and the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit (SMDHU).

In-school learning

- Students will attend full time, in classroom cohorts that will not mix or combine with other classes;
- Recesses and classes will be timetabled to limit interactions between classes;
- Students will eat in their classrooms;
- Common areas such as libraries will be closed;
- Outdoor learning will be encouraged;
- No assemblies or other large gatherings will be held;
- Staff will be required to wear masks;
- Students in Grade 4 to 8 are required to wear masks. Families are welcome to provide cloth masks for their children that cover the nose and mouth. The SCDSB will provide cloth masks to students who do not have them;
- Masks are not required from Kindergarten to Grade 3, but are encouraged;
- All students and staff are required to complete a self-screen prior to attending school each day using a self-assessment tool provided by the SMDHU;
- Students or staff with symptoms must stay home; and,
- The Ministry of Education is developing a COVID-19 outbreak protocol that will provide direction on contact tracing and enhanced health and safety protocols to reduce the risk of transmission. The SMDHU will provide direction to the SCDSB should a positive case of COVID-19 be identified in a school.

Voluntary learn at home

A voluntary learn at home option will be available for students whose parents/guardians determine that they do not want their child to return to in-school learning. The SCDSB is developing a parent/guardian support platform, accessible through the SCDSB website, that will include self-help tools and resources, as well as access to SCDSB staff who will provide individualized support related to technology, learning platforms, curriculum, mental health and special education needs.

- Students who are participating in remote learning may be clustered in 'classes' from multiple schools.
- Attendance will be taken for students participating in remote learning.
- Those who select remote learning may have to remain in that learning environment until a natural term transition in order to allow for consistent organization of schools and classrooms.
- The natural term transition time to move between in class and remote learning is February 2021.

- Students will be provided with a daily schedule of subjects/courses according to a 5-hour instructional day with opportunities for frequent, live contact with a teacher and expectations for synchronous learning (real-time).
- Learning will be based on overall expectations across all subjects/courses and grades.
- The SCDSB has purchased additional technology to support students whose families select remote learning but do not have access to support it. Distribution of technology will be facilitated at the school level at the beginning of the school year.
- The SCDSB is awaiting further details from the Ministry of Education regarding at home/distance learning. The Ministry of Education guide to reopening Ontario's schools can be found here: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/guide-reopening-ontarios-schools#section-3>.

School reopening plan – secondary schools

All Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) elementary and secondary schools will reopen under a conventional school day protocol, with enhanced public health protocols and cohorting considerations in place. Students will return to the classroom beginning Sept. 8. Plans for reopening have been developed in consultation with the Ministry of Education and Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit (SMDHU).

In-school learning

- Students will attend full time in a quadmester approach for Semester 1, with students taking two courses at a time instead of four;
- Courses will run from September to November and November to February;
- Students will have a lunch period in their classrooms;
- Common areas such as libraries will be closed;
- Lockers will not be available for student use at the start of the school year;
- Outdoor learning will be encouraged;
- No assemblies or other large gatherings will be held;
- Students and staff will be required to wear masks. Families are welcome to provide cloth masks for their children that cover the nose and mouth. The SCDSB will provide cloth masks to students who do not have them;
- All students and staff are required to complete a self-screen prior to attending school each day using a self-assessment tool provided by the SMDHU; and,
- Students or staff with symptoms must stay home.
- The Ministry of Education is developing a COVID-19 outbreak protocol that will provide direction on contact tracing and enhanced health and safety protocols to reduce the risk of transmission. The SMDHU will provide direction to the SCDSB should a positive case of COVID-19 be identified in a school.

Voluntary learn at home

A voluntary learn at home option will be available for students whose parents/guardians determine that they do not want their child to return to in-school learning. The SCDSB is developing a parent/guardian support platform, accessible through the SCDSB website, that will include self-help tools and resources, as well as access to SCDSB staff who will provide

individualized support related to technology, learning platforms, curriculum, mental health and special education needs.

- Students who are participating in remote learning may be clustered in 'classes' from multiple schools.
- Attendance will be taken for students participating in remote learning.
- Those who select remote learning may have to remain in that learning environment until a natural term transition in order to allow for consistent organization of schools and classrooms.
- The natural term transition time to move between in class and remote learning is February 2021.
- Students will be provided with a daily schedule of subjects/courses according to a 5-hour instructional day with opportunities for frequent, live contact with a teacher and expectations for synchronous learning (real-time).
- Learning will be based on overall expectations across all subjects/courses and grades.
- The SCDSB has purchased additional technology to support students whose families select remote learning but do not have access to support it. Distribution of technology will be facilitated at the school level at the beginning of the school year.
- The SCDSB is awaiting further details from the Ministry of Education regarding at home/distance learning. The Ministry of Education guide to reopening Ontario's schools can be found here: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/guide-reopening-ontarios-schools#section-3>.

Health and Safety

We want to assure you that the health and well-being of our students and staff remains our top priority. We are in regular contact with our local health authority, the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit, and continue to take their direction on all matters related to COVID-19. The Ministry of Education is developing a COVID-19 outbreak protocol that will provide school boards with additional direction on contact tracing and enhanced health and safety protocols to reduce the risk of transmission.

Masking

- Students from Grade 4 through 12 will be required to wear masks, which will be provided by the SCDSB.
- Students from Kindergarten through Grade 3 will not be required to wear masks, although it is encouraged.
- Staff will be required to wear masks, which will be provided by the SCDSB.

Enhanced Health and Safety Protocols

- Hand sanitizer will be provided in each classroom for student and teacher use.
- Students will receive training on proper hand hygiene including instructions on [hand washing and sanitizing](#).

Enhanced Cleaning

Enhanced cleaning protocols will be implemented including:

- Cleaning and disinfecting at least twice a day of frequently touched surfaces and shared resources such as doorknobs, light switches, toilets, and faucet handles.
- Buses will be sanitized twice daily with frequent cleaning of high-touch surfaces.

Physical Distancing

- Directional arrows and signage will be installed in schools to support physical distancing measures.
- Schools will have designated entry and exit doors and staggered entry and exit times.
- Plexiglass guards will be installed in school offices.

Mental health and well-being

Staying connected to mental health supports, whether in school or participating in remote learning, is important for students experiencing mental health concerns. Human connection and ongoing conversation are essential to supporting and enhancing student well-being, coping, a sense of belonging and readiness to learn.

Supports for student mental health and well-being, including mental health and wellness promotion and prevention and intervention strategies, will continue to be provided by Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) staff. Available options include brief intervention services, wellness check-ins and referrals to community mental health services.

- SCDSB social workers will continue to provide direct support to students with emerging or identified mental health concerns, along with resource and consultation support for staff and families.
- SCDSB child and youth workers will continue to promote and to provide social emotional skill building support to students.
- Families can continue to access resources and supports on the SCDSB website, and make contact with the SCDSB school mental health team for consultation and discussion.

Transportation

Home to school transportation for Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) students is provided by the Simcoe County Student Transportation Consortium (SCSTC). The SCSTC is working in partnership with the SCDSB and bus operators to develop and implement physical distancing and enhanced cleaning protocols for students who will be riding in school buses and other vehicles.

- High-touch surfaces on school vehicles such as hand railings will be cleaned twice daily.
- SCSTC staff are working with schools to create seating plans to support maximum physical distancing, and to keep students from the same family and the same cohort together, where possible.

- Students in Grades 4 through 12 are required to wear masks while taking school transportation. Masks are not required from Kindergarten to Grade 3, but are encouraged.
- Personal protective equipment (PPE), including masks and eye protection, will be provided for bus drivers.

Program-related information

Special education

Regardless of the instructional model that families determine is appropriate for their child (in-school or remote learning), special education supports and services will continue to be provided based on students' Individual Education Plans (IEP). For families that choose distance learning, the student's IEP may be adjusted to accommodate specific items related to the learning environment at home.

In-school learning

- For families that choose for their children to attend school in-person, special education supports will continue to be provided at the same level (e.g. direct instruction, instruction and environmental accommodations, access to specific staff such as special education resource teacher or educational assistants, educational assessments, etc.).
- Students who access an elementary learning centre will continue to participate in that program as per their IEP. In accordance with guidance from the Ministry of Education, we will be reducing student travelling from class to class as much as possible, providing it does not impact programming needs of a student.
- Students who access a sensory room based on their IEP will still be able to do so. Where possible, sensory equipment that is prescribed to a specific student (e.g. weighted blanket) will be limited to use by that student.

Voluntary learn at home

- For families that choose remote learning, students will be provided with special education supports through a combination of their 'classroom' teacher as well as special education staff (e.g. special education resource teachers, educational assistants, speech and language therapists, etc.).
- Support will be provided virtually both synchronously (real-time) and asynchronously, depending on the needs identified collaboratively between the family and the school, and as reflected in the student's IEP.
- Students that are formally placed into a special education class and receive specialized instruction within that class will continue to maintain their placement within the class, regardless the model of instruction (in-school or remote learning)

French Immersion and Extended French as a Second Language

The SCDSB will offer students the option of attending the French Immersion (FI) program either in-person or via at home/distance learning. Depending on the number of students that choose at home/distance learning, as well as the availability of French teachers, the SCDSB cannot

guarantee that the at home/distance learning program will be delivered in French. As long as the student continues to be registered in the FI program, they will be able to return to the FI program at an agreed upon natural transition time when the family determines it is appropriate.

Sports

The SCDSB is awaiting further direction from the Ontario Federation of School Athletics Association (OFSAA) with regards to fall sports.

Health and Physical Education

Physical activities that support physical distancing, while also limiting the use of shared equipment, will occur.