

## COBEQUID EDUCATIONAL CENTRE 2020-21 Back to School Parent Information Sheet

As detailed within the Nova Scotia Back to School Plan, there will be significant adjustments to some routines and activities that were typical in a normal school year. To help families navigate these changes, we have created this school information sheet for you.

### What to Expect at School This Year:

#### *Before School*

- **At-Home Self-Monitoring for COVID:** Families are required to monitor children for COVID-19 using the COVID-19 Daily Checklist. The most up-to-date version can be found online at <https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/docs/Daily-COVID-checklist-en.pdf>. By monitoring daily, you are helping to identify any potential cases of COVID-19 as quickly as possible. A paper copy of the COVID-19 Daily Checklist will be provided prior to school re-opening.

Students need to stay home when they are ill, even if their symptoms are mild. We will be removing attendance-based awards or incentives. If you are unsure if you or your child should self-isolate, contact 811.

- **Remember to pack a face mask and water bottle:** Masks are required for students in Grades 9 - 12 and required for all students travelling by bus. Each student and staff member will be provided with two face masks.

Also, students who travel by bus will be required to wear a mask while on the bus.

Water bottles are recommended as water fountains will not be accessible; bottle filling stations or water coolers will still be available. Sending your child with a full water bottle in the morning is recommended and appreciated.

#### *Getting to School*

- Masks are required for all students travelling on buses. Family members traveling on the bus should sit together. Buses will be cleaned twice during the school day and in between each run.
- Once bus students arrive at school, bus unloading will be staggered allowing less traffic entering the school at one time. Students getting off a bus as one group will wash/sanitize their hands as they enter their separate classrooms.
- Parents who drive children to school will drop off and pick-up students outside the building.  
**Visitor access will be limited to only essential visitors.**
- Please stick to the following drop-off and pick up times for our school:
  - Drop Off between **8:20 AM** and **8:45 AM**
  - Pick Up between **3:05 PM** and **3:20 PM**

## *During the School Day*

### **Hygiene**

- Hand Hygiene: There will be an emphasis on hand washing, before & after eating and during the day. Hand sanitizing stations have been installed at main entrances and classrooms without a sink.
- Students who are in grades 9 to 12 will need to wear masks in class if they cannot physically distance. Every student and staff member will be provided two non-medical masks. If a student forgets their mask, disposable masks will be available.
- There is a “no-sharing” policy on food, personal belongings, and individual school supplies.

### **School Design**

- Classrooms will have less material and furniture, and desks/tables will be spaced out allowing students to have more physical distance.
- Students will notice additional signage including directional signs to control flow in hallways, common areas, and outside spaces. Signage includes traffic flow arrows, physical distancing reminders, and designated Entrances & Exits.
- **Lockers will not be in use for the 2020-21 school year.**

### **School Schedule**

- More classes (including Physical Education) will be held outdoors, when possible, to encourage physical movement and support our students’ well-being.
- All students will continue to be able to access healthy options through the school’s Breakfast Program. There will be a focus on individual servings and Grab and Go to prevent students from gathering. **There will be no Breakfast Program available at CEC from Sept. 8<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup>**
- Students in Grades 9-12 will have access to cafeteria service, although lunch options and seating capacity in our cafeteria will be significantly reduced. The food services provider will follow public health guidelines. If your child is bringing their own lunch, please ensure it is something they can manage independently to avoid unnecessary handling of items by others. Microwaves and toasters will not be available at this time. An emphasis will still be placed on keeping groups of students together and maintaining physical distancing.
  - Students who can leave for lunch or walk home for lunch are encouraged to do so.
  - Grade 9’s & 12’s will have access to the cafeteria from 11:30 AM to 11:55 AM
  - Grade 10’s & 11’s will have access to the cafeteria from 11:55 AM to 12:15 AM
  - Students will have a morning and afternoon staggered breaks
  - **There will be no cafeteria services available at CEC from Sept. 8<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup>**

### **Illness at School**

- If a child feels unwell or begins to exhibit COVID-19 symptoms, a parent or guardian will be contacted for pick-up. **It is very important to ensure that your contact information and other emergency contacts for your child are kept up to date with the school during the school year.**
- Any student who becomes unwell at school will have a separate location in the school to wait to be picked up. **Students who become ill during the day will not be permitted to return home on the bus.**

- Students who exhibit symptoms on the bus will be required to isolate on the way to school and the bus driver will notify the school administration.
- If a child exhibits COVID symptoms, parents/guardians must contact 811 to receive advice from Public Health on what to do next, including if/when the child can return to school.
- Our schools will continue to monitor illness in schools and will follow direction from Public Health on specific processes. Parents are asked when they are calling in to excuse their child, if they could provide as much detail as they are comfortable, so we can provide Public Health with accurate information on our illness data.
- If a COVID-19 case is identified, Public Health will provide direction to CCRCE as well as the school.

*After the School Day*

- Information about NSSAF sports and Sport Nova Scotia will be released by those organizations in the near future.
- Parents/Guardians can help reinforce proper COVID-19 hygiene protocols with children. Please help us to remind children about proper handwashing techniques, cough/sneeze etiquette, how to wear a mask properly, and physical distancing.

*More information on COVID Specific Changes for the 2020-21 school year*

- **Technology** - Students are able to bring their own device to school for educational purposes. Students who do not have access to a personal device will be provided with one. School-based devices will be cleaned between use.
- **Families with specialized needs** will work together with their school's Student Planning Team. Please contact the school to discuss your child's needs further.

There will be additional school information shared with students and parents late next week; Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup>

**CEC will continue to provide information and updates on our school website.**

**<http://www.cec.ccrce.ca/> We would strongly encourage you to monitor this website on a regular basis.**

If you have specific questions regarding your child's return to school, please let us know. We can be reached at 902-896-5700 or you can e-mail [McLaughlinD@ccrce.ca](mailto:McLaughlinD@ccrce.ca)

Sincerely,

*Bill Kaulbach*

Bill Kaulbach  
Principal, CEC