

Newsletter #3 September 11

Dear Don Mills CI Parent(s)/Guardian(s) and Students:

There are some really important updates we would like to share as we get closer to returning to school. Again, please note that information is always changing so please expect regular updates. Please also ensure that you regularly check your email for messages from DMCI and the TDSB. The TDSB also provides regular updates on its [Return to School Webpage](#).

We kindly ask that families take the time to really go through the updates from the TDSB and links to help ensure a safe return to an extremely different school year.

Communication from TDSB and TPH: On September 10, 2020 (yesterday), the TDSB and the Toronto Medical Office of Health centrally emailed the following two letter that families should read:

[TDSB Parent/Guardian Letter to Families](#)

[Toronto Public Health School Health Services Important Updates During Covid-10](#)

Translation of Materials from TPH: Toronto Public Health has provided multiple translations to both its [screening poster](#) and [screening questionnaire](#). They are available on the [Toronto Public Health Spread the Word website](#) under Screening Posters and Checklists > Screening for Schools. More translations (Greek, Portuguese, Spanish, Somali and Tagalog) will be added in the coming days.

School Start Date Update: The start date of secondary schools has been updated given the complexities of the staffing and timetable process.

- **Thursday, September 17, 2020:** The start date for all students attending DMCI. Some students will start in person and some will start with their virtual class. It will be a Day 1. Students in Grades 9 to 12 will follow a quadmestered schedule.
- **Tuesday, September 15, 2020:** the start date of students attending Developmental Disability (DD) Intensive Support Programs. Students in the DD Program will follow a semestered schedule.

Student Timetables Release Update:

As of now, more information is expected from the TDSB with regards to the emailing out of student timetables. At the present time, student timetables will be shared via a TDSB email prior to the start of classes which is now on **September 17, 2020**.

Daily [Checklist](#) for Coming to School: Everyone at DMCI plays a critical role in supporting health and safety in our school community. Everyday, please screen yourself for symptoms of Covid-19 and stay home if you: Feel sick or have symptoms of COVID-19; Have been in close contact with someone who is sick or has confirmed COVID-19 in the past 14 days; Have returned from travel outside of Canada in the past 14 days.

Daily Checklist for your School Day: Every day please be mindful of the following: Have multiple snug and comfortable masks so you can wash them daily and have back-ups ready. Pack a few masks each day and a bag for soiled masks to go in during the school day. All students will also be supplied with two cloth masks during the first month of school. Practice proper hand washing, especially before and after eating, sneezing, coughing, and adjusting a mask or cloth face covering. Pack a full water bottle and snacks daily. The cafeteria will not be open. Follow DMCI protocols, including using the designated entry doors, following the flow of traffic, maintaining physical distancing and capacity limits in washrooms and elevators. Be patient and flexible as we adjust to these new measures to help keep everyone safe.

Health Pass and Health Screening App: The most important thing families can do to help mitigate the transmission of COVID-19, is to screen their children daily for any COVID-19 symptoms and keep them home from school if they are sick or have had close contact with anyone diagnosed with COVID19. All staff and visitors will also be required to screen themselves before entering a TDSB Building. Before coming to school, all students and staff must conduct an active health screening self-assessment. If you answered yes to any of these questions, please stay home; self-isolate right away; and call Telehealth or your health care provider to find out if you need to be tested. For more information about testing, please visit www.toronto.ca/home/covid-19/. If you answered no to all of these questions, please record the information daily in one of the following ways, which will allow you to enter your school: TDSB Student Health Pass & Health Screening Application. Here are instructions on How to Use the Health Screening Application. Once students and staff arrive at school enter through the designated doors where a staff member will verify your health screening information. Simply show the staff member either your signed Health Pass, or, if you used the Health Screening App, show your QR code or provide your name for verification. Then, sanitize your hands, take a mask if necessary and continue to your classroom or work area. If you were unable to record your active health screening at-home or forgot to, you will be asked to complete a self-assessment on site and can sign the TDSB Student Health Pass.

Technological Devices Update - Do You Need a Device?

Every student in the Virtual School as well as those participating in synchronous learning will be required to have the necessary technology. If you require a technological device please contact Jason Smit at jason.smit@tdsb.on.ca to ensure a device is ordered.

Technological Devices - Are You Returning a Device?

TDSB students who were issued a loaner device to support remote learning who are not returning to the TDSB in September are to return that device to the Main Office of DMCI as soon as possible.

TDSB Connects - Mobile App

The new TDSB Connects app provides the ability to quickly share announcements, calendar events, and more through an easy-to-use interface to help communicate effectively and reduce reliance on email. The TDSB Connects app is now available to secondary schools and can be downloaded from the [Google Play Store](#) and the [Apple App Store](#). Students will be able to

access their timetables. Daily announcements and an up-to-date DMCI calendar on the app - we strongly encourage all students to download the app!

Preparing for Back to School - Resources

Returning to school after so many months away may be a challenging and scary experience. To help get all students and families ready for the start of school, The TDSB has put together a variety of useful resources available at the [Back to School Planning](#) website. The Back to School Planning site contains information on the following topics: Mental Health and Well-Being, Covid-19 Hygiene, Mask Information Videos and Student Transportation.

Device and Tech Support for Parents/Guardians and Students *NEW

The TDSB is committed to supporting synchronous and virtual learning from home for both parents and students. The [Parent and Student Device/Tech Support webpage](#) has the following information: Accessing Google Classroom Guide for Parents, Google Digital Citizenship Guide, Google Guardian Guide, Accessing Brightspace, and Student Password and Device help.

Water Fountains: The policy on water fountains has been updated. Toronto Public Health recommends that water fountains are not to be used to drink water but might be used to fill water bottles. Students are encouraged to carry individual refillable water bottles that come filled from home.

Face Masks/ Face Coverings: A reminder that all students and staff must wear a face mask/covering with exemptions for medical reasons. If your child requires an exemption, please contact Mr. Bushell at 416-395-3190, ext. 20010, prior to coming to school to discuss the exemption. Please read the most recent TDSB updates about [TDSB Mask Guidelines](#) that outline Mask Use, Supply, Care and Exemptions. All students will be supplied with cloth masks within the

Becoming Ill while at School

Please see Toronto Public Health's webpage on [what to do if you have COVID-19 symptoms or were exposed to someone who does](#). Students/staff that become ill will be isolated in a designated, supervised "wellness room" until they are picked up. The parent/guardian or emergency contacts are notified to pick up the ill student as soon as possible. If it's an emergency 911 will be called. Public Health does not recommend that students take the TTC or school bus home and transportation arrangements be made that minimize contacts. It is strongly recommended that school staff and students with symptoms of COVID-19 go to an [assessment centre](#) for testing as soon as possible, and to [self-isolate](#) at home until their result is available. As per Toronto Public Health guidelines, there are no tests for staff or students to do to be cleared to return to work or school. In general, staff and students can return to work and school 14 days after their symptoms began if they had COVID-19. For other illnesses, or if someone tested negative for COVID-19, they should not return to work or school until they are symptom free for at least 24 hours.

External Visitors - Parents/Guardians: To maintain a safe environment, visitors are strictly limited. Parents and guardians are encouraged to email, call or set up virtual appointments.

All School Visitors Must

If an external visitor must come to DMCI, please conduct a [self-assessment for COVID-19 symptoms](#) before coming to the building. An update that the verification of the at-home self-assessment is conducted at school. As of now, The [Health Pass](#) or electronic [Health App](#) supports this verification. At this time, visitors (non-staff) must enter through the Main Entrance and visit the Screening Station. External visitors must sign-in and out for safety and contact tracing purposes. Masks/face coverings are available at the main entrance and must be worn.

Driveway:

Again, the DMCI driveway is one way. Please enter the driveway from the southend only. Please do not park in assigned parking spots. Please do not idle in front of the school. There is a parking lot in the back of the school and because it is quite small you may need to arrange pick up on neighbourhood streets where parking and or stopping is allowed. Please do not park in the parking lots of buildings in the neighbourhood. They are private property. Alternatively, we are close to bike trails and public transit.

Dropping Off Items: There will be a cart outside the front entrance daily from 9am-3pm where you can return outstanding textbooks or library books. For Musical Instruments or other items, please bring them into the Main Office. If you need to return a musical instrument and are unable to enter the building, please phone our Main Office to make arrangements at 416-395-3190.