



Dear Knob Hill families,

We would like to thank everyone for their cooperation and patience as we began the school year. There were a lot of adjustments as we moved towards re-introducing staff, students and community to this new way of doing things. Our goal is to always keep everyone safe.

We have been working hard at developing a safe environment to the best of our ability following Toronto Public Health Guidelines, Ministry requirements and TDSB Health and Safety Policies. Included in this newsletter are some of the changes we made to ensure your child is safe. Please read carefully.

Masks (PPE)

All students will be required to wear a face mask or reusable cloth mask. This includes visitors, parents and caregivers. The school has provided cloth masks for students but they can bring their own from home as well. Students must wear their masks in class however, they will be provided outdoor times when they may take them off.

These rules apply to all parents, guardians and visitors when on school property outside as per Toronto District School Board Policy. Please see the poster attached. [Mask Required](#)

If there is a medical reason for not wearing a mask, a face shield can be worn. We want everyone to be safe and secure.

Student Showing Symptoms of COVID-19

If a student shows symptoms of COVID-19,

- they are strongly encouraged to go for testing or speak to your healthcare provider.
- The student should self-isolate for 14 days from the start of symptoms unless: they have been tested and have a negative result or received an alternate diagnosis from a healthcare provider.

If symptoms appear at school, they must wait in the Wellness Room until picked up or arrangements can be made with the direction to self-isolate and seek testing for COVID-19. 9-1-1 will be called for severe illness. Anyone providing care or supervision of the ill student must maintain a distance of at least two meters and use appropriate PPE. The ill individual will be wearing appropriate PPE while in the Wellness Room where possible.

Screening and Pick up

Parents/Guardians need to screen their child every day (please see attached). Teachers will be verifying that screening was completed at home with a series of questions each day regarding their health.

Students that are unwell will be sent home. In order to keep school safe and well, please keep your child home if they display any symptoms of cold or flu - do not send them to school. Please refer to the Covid information sheet attached as well as signs posted.

[Mandatory Health Assessment](#)

Vaccinations for Students

Vaccinations for Hepatitis B, HPV and Menactra in Grade 7/8 schools are suspended for the fall of 2020. Students will be able to get vaccinated at TPH community clinics later in the fall, by appointment. We will notify you when these clinics open. Reviews of immunization records for all students are also cancelled for the remainder of the year. Routine vaccinations are an essential health service, and are available

from a student's health care provider. Vaccines provide individuals with protection from non-COVID-19 diseases. Students visiting their health care providers for scheduled or urgent visits should not delay vaccinations at this time.

Dental Services

Dental screening services in schools are temporarily suspended, but are still available at TPH dental clinics, by appointment. Please call 416-338-6565 for more information.

Recess

Recesses will be staggered to limit the number of students on the playground/field. The playground structure has very limited use during the school day. Students do not have to wear a mask when outside, but need to remain in the area designated with their class/cohort and continue to social distance. Lines and circles have been drawn to separate play areas.

Snacks

Students should bring their own snacks. Snacks will be eaten in class. At this time, the Snack Program is postponed until further notice.

Lunch

All students will eat in their classrooms. We are practicing Litterless Lunches - meaning any uneaten food or garbage will be sent back home in students lunch packs. Food, drinks and utensils will not be shared.

Lunch times are staggered - 1st floor, then 2nd floor. During outdoor time the outdoor areas are marked so that students stay in their designated cohort area. There will be NO lunch drop off. Students are expected to bring their lunch. In the case where a student has forgotten their lunch - A phone call and arrangements will be made by office staff.

We are also encouraging students to stay for lunch as we want to limit exposure during the school day and lunches for siblings may be at different times. If a student must go home, please ensure that your child knows to go straight home and back. Students should not come back early and are to return just before the bell. They must sanitize their hands at the door and should wash their hands when they arrive in their classroom.

Belongings

This year the lockers (intermediates) and cubbies (in Kindergarten) will not be in use. Students will take their essential belongings straight to their class. As you can imagine, space is limited in classrooms so students are encouraged to bring only what they need to learn and their snack/lunch. We recommend that you go through your children's belongings nightly to wash and sanitize them.

Classrooms

Caretakers and Teachers are working hard at making sure classrooms have enough space for distancing. Carpets have been removed and desks are spaced in Junior/intermediate. Primary students are spaced where only 2 or 3 students are at a table. Please label everything with your child's name.

Children must also bring their own water bottle as the communal water fountains are closed. Children can refill their water bottles in the classroom.

Online Forms

Please check the Knob Hill Website and TDSB website for up-to-date information. **All** registrations are done online. If you are unsure how to do this please contact the office and the lovely ladies in the office can assist you. Other forms such as medical, lunch, media etc will be sent through School Messenger. Please ensure the school has your most up-to-date email address.

Visitor Protocol

To ensure safety for all - visitors, parents, guardians will **not be permitted** into the building without an appointment. All school visitors must conduct a Covid-19 health screening at the front doors. There will be a sign in/out list for contact tracing. Please call the office if you need to set up an appointment. Masks must be worn and 2 meter distancing must be practiced at all times. Please report through the main front doors only. Phone calls and virtual meetings are recommended in order to limit the amount of people in the building.

Emergencies/Phone Usage

Students will not be permitted to use the office phone. If you need to contact your child, please call the office and we can relay the message. We don't want students to miss class time so phone calls should be limited to recess or lunch times except in emergency situations.

Elementary Virtual Learning

We understand that there has been quite a challenging transition for Virtual School due to the numbers of students registered and hiring of education staff. We appreciate your patience with this. Unfortunately, Knob Hill will not be able to answer all of your questions. Please see the information below if you require assistance.

Principal Contact Information

We understand that you may have questions or concerns and would like to speak directly with someone at your child's Virtual Elementary School. Please find Principal contact information by Learning Centre and grade below:

Learning Centre 3	Grades K to 1: Zorina Alli - Zorina.Alli@tdsb.on.ca Grades 2 to 4: Phyllis Jackson - Phyllis.Jackson@tdsb.on.ca Grades 5 to 8: Laura Slater - Laura.Slater@tdsb.on.ca
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Independent Home Learning

As shared earlier this week, for those students who do not yet have a classroom teacher, please continue to access independent learning resources on the [Asynchronous Learning web page](#). We have continued to add more activities throughout the week and will do so until all classes have a teacher so students have access to ongoing learning opportunities. We will also be adding additional live video sessions for students to take part in.

Brightspace and Technical Support

We know that some families have had login challenges and difficulty accessing Brightspace. If you are experiencing account and password issues, the quickest and most efficient way to access support is to [complete this form](#). Once the information has been verified, login and password information for your child will be emailed to you. Additionally, you can access [Brightspace support 24 hours a day](#).

Mental Health and Well-Being

Below are some links that provide information and resources to families. This is a school focus this term.

[School Mental Health](#)

[Children's Mental Health Ontario](#)

[About Kids Health Covid 19](#)

Again, Thank you so much for your patience and co-operation as we continue to figure things out.

Stay safe and take care,

Ms. Dockstader and Mrs. Siriram