



Sir Samuel B. Steele Junior Public School

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Ms. K. Kumar, Principal

Friday, February 12, 2021

Good afternoon Sir Samuel B. Steele Families!

We are very excited about welcoming our students and families back for in-person learning. It is critical that we work together ensure the safety of our school community.

Please see below for our current and new health and safety measures:

New TPH Screening Tool for Students

One of the most important things we can do to slow the spread of COVID-19 in our schools, is for [students](#) to screen themselves daily for any symptoms of COVID-19 and also follow the circumstances in which they should stay home. Toronto Public Health (TPH) has revised its screening tool for students, effective immediately. The update is that everyone in a household must now complete the updated COVID-19 screening daily. Both the [TDSB Student Health Pass](#) and the TDSB Health App have been updated with this change.

Entry and Exit

Each morning, when the bell rings, classes will line up (socially distanced) on their designated class location markers as indicated with spray painted lines and X's. Our staff will check for the TDSB Student Health Pass before entry into the school building. The expectation is that the parent/guardian will screen their children daily for any COVID-19 symptoms and **sign the TDSB Student Health Pass** and have their children show it to the staff at the entry door. At the end of the day, teachers will bring their classes to this same location for dismissal. We ask that you remain at a distance in the **field** away from the classes to ensure social distancing during entry and exit.

Typically, during **inclement weather**, students would be admitted into the building early. This will no longer happen because we cannot cluster a large number of students in a hallway or open space and they cannot go to their classroom prior to the start of the school day. So, on these days, or any day really, come prepared for the weather and to spend time outside.

Teachers will endeavour to take their students outside as much as possible and to provide opportunities for them to take a break from wearing their mask so appropriate clothing for the weather, including rain, is essential.

Parents Entering the School

If there is a situation where a parent or caregiver needs to enter the school, they will need to sign in and be screened at the office so that tracing information is provided and can be made available to Toronto Public Health if requested. Please do your best to call

the school ahead of time if you are hoping to enter the building. Please ensure that your child leaves home in the morning with all necessary items to get through the day (e.g., lunches, indoor shoes, extra clothes, etc.). On the rare occasion that a “drop-off” is absolutely necessary, please call the school first to inform of your intent, wear a mask and leave your labelled item (student name and room # or teacher’s name) on the table inside the main front doors on the right when entering.

For students who exhibit symptoms of Covid-19 while at school, they will go to our Wellness Room. Parents/caregivers will be contacted, and they will need to come to the school and pick-up their child as soon as possible.

Recess and Lunch

While our recess and lunch times will continue to look very different, we are very fortunate to have the gift of space behind our school which will make it easier to maintain physical distancing.

Our yard is divided into play zones (cohort zones labelled with alphabetical letters) so that when students go outside for recess or lunch, they will play in their class designated zone. Zones will be rotated on a week by week rotation.

Students will eat snacks and lunches (during instructional time) in their classrooms where they will remain in their assigned seats. Students need to bring litterless lunches and take home any and all wrappers or packaging.

We expect that the routine for Kindergarten can remain the same; each class has their own lunchroom supervisor so they can eat in their class and take turns using the outdoor kindergarten space.

Testing for COVID-19

Toronto Public Health recommends staff, students and their household members who have even one mild symptom of COVID-19 get tested. TPH will continue to recommend asymptomatic testing in schools where necessary and will work with testing partners to coordinate testing in high-risk cohorts. We will provide updates on testing as it becomes available.

Continued Health and Safety Practices

Please remind your child of the continued importance of hand washing, physical distancing and mask wearing, which is required for all staff, visitors and students JK to Grade 12. Toronto Public Health offers guidance on the [qualities of a good mask](#), which includes being made of at least two layers of tightly woven fabric and, if possible, a middle “filter” layer. Please remember that parents and students are not to congregate in the school yard, and, outside of school, students should not gather with others, even with those in their cohort.

In our school, we will continue to promote these strategies as well as continue with our enhanced cleaning practices including twice daily cleaning of high touch surfaces, increasing air flow and improving ventilation including through the use of HEPA filters (in all learning spaces without mechanical ventilation), and opening windows for short periods of time throughout the day to introduce fresh air in classrooms and schools. Public Health Nurses will also continue to support schools with responding to COVID-19 and building healthy school communities.

Mental Health and Well-Being

These challenging times are not only hard on our physical health, but also our mental health and well-being. Please join us for a [webinar](#) with our TDSB mental health professionals tonight -- Thursday, February 11 at 6:30 p.m. -- to learn practical strategies for coping through COVID and have an opportunity to ask questions and learn with our TDSB community. We hope you'll join us.

Thank you for your continued support and patience. Together, we can slow the spread of COVID-19 and continue to keep our schools safe so our students can focus on learning.

**A Happy and Prosperous Lunar Year to everyone celebrating!
Happy Valentine's Day and a Family Day!**

Thank you and have a great long weekend 😊

Krishna Kumar