

2020-21 LSK Back to School Parent Information Sheet

We have used the Nova Scotia Back to School Plan and Mi'kmaw Kina'matnewey to guide us in creating our plan to safely reopen L'nu Sipuk Kina'muokuom. To help families navigate these changes, we have used CCRCE School Parent Information Sheet to guide us in providing our community with an update and comparison. Our plans are similar, but differ in a few ways. Our plans are based on our community's needs and input. This plan was a joint effort by Sipekne'katik employees, Principal, Director of Education, Health Director and Emergency Management Officer.

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.
If you are unsure if you or your child should self-isolate, contact 811.

Getting to School

- Masks are required for all students travelling on buses.
- Before students board the bus, their temperature will be taken with a touchless thermometer. If they have a temperature, they will not be permitted to board the bus. If their temperature is normal, they will sanitize their hands as they board the bus.
- Family members traveling on the bus should sit together.
- A few windows will be slightly open to provide ventilation.
- As students arrive at the school, their temperature will be taken again before they enter the school and will sanitize upon entering.
- Students will follow the arrows to their designated class. Staff members will be present to greet students.
- Breakfast will be provided for students in their class.
- **NO visitors will be permitted into the School except Essential Services. You will be able to pick your child up at one of the side doors after speaking with Security.**

During the School Day

Masks

- Water fountains will not be accessible. Water bottles will be provided for all students and filled by a staff member to avoid any cross contamination.
- Masks are required by all students on the bus and in the hallways.
- Masks are required for students in Grades 4- 12 in the classroom, if they cannot physically distance.

- Students in grades K 3-grade 3 will only be required to wear a mask on the bus and in the hallway.
- Each student and staff member will be provided with six non-medical 100% cotton face masks on the first day of school. We have 4 different sizes of masks from Showcase. Students will change their mask in the afternoon. Staff will write names on masks with a fabric marker and wash masks daily at the school. We have been informed by Public Health that this is a safe procedure. Face shields will also be available.

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.
- There is a “no-sharing” policy on food, personal belongings and their individual school supplies.
- Students supplies in grades K4-9 will be stored in separate bins in their classroom.
- A custodian will be assigned to each wing of the school and another for the k3/k4 building. Each custodian will be responsible to complete a check list consisting of documenting cleaning of bathrooms and high touch areas in assigned intervals.
- Students in grades 10-12 and the Learning Centers, will disinfect their areas upon transitioning to their next class.

School Design

- Music, Physical Education, Library and Mi'kmaw teachers will go to each student's designated classroom.
- Students in grades 10-12 will go to their assigned classes. Students in grades 10-12 will be considered a bubble.
- Each class from K3-grade 9 will be considered separate bubbles.
- Students receiving extra supports will be escorted to the designated room. Any staff member working with students from multiple classes will be required to always wear a mask when social distancing is not possible. Plexiglass barriers will be available for extra support classrooms. Teachers will disinfect areas before teaching another student.
- Classrooms will have less material and furniture, and desks/tables will be spaced out allowing students to have more physical distance. All items that cannot be disinfected will be removed from classrooms.
- 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 hand washing instructions.
- The front doors, main entrance, will be the only location staff and students can enter. Staff and students cannot exit from the main entrance and must follow the arrow signage.
- Lockers will not be in use for the 2020-21 school year.
- Jackets will be stored on the back of student's chairs.

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 be provided lunch in their classroom. Microwaves will not be available.
- Recess break will be an indoor recess.
- The playground structures will be available for use by one class at a time. The playground structures will be cleaned with a pressure washer throughout the day during non-winter months. Students will clean their hands before and after using the playground structures.
- **Technology** – Students will be provided a Chromebook. Chromebooks are asked to stay at the school, as they will be used during their daily instructions to ensure all students are prepared to move to online learning. Chromebooks will be charged at the end of the day and disinfected before and after being removed from the charging cart.

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 wait in or outside of the Vice Principal's office to be picked up. Students who become ill during the day will not be permitted to return home on the bus.
- 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.
- If a staff exhibits COVID symptoms, they must contact 811 to receive advice from Public Health on what to do next, including if/when they can return to work.
- Upon receiving the information of an individual being recommended by Public Health to receive a COVID test, all families of students in the class bubble will be notified and the class bubble will move to online learning until the test results are received.
 - If the test is negative, students will return to school the following day of being notified.
 - If a COVID-19 case is identified, Public Health will provide direction to our community and school. All L'nu Sipuk Kina'muokuom students will move to online learning, until the school is fully disinfected.
- Parents are asked to communicate with the school staff, with as much detail as they are comfortable, on any illnesses their child may have.

After the School Day

- Dismissal of classes will be staggered to reduce traffic in the hallways. Students will exit through the back or side doors of the building.

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

- **Families with specialized needs** will work together with Administration and Classroom, Learning Center and Resource teachers.

We will be sharing a video regarding our reopening soon. We will continue to provide regular updates. Please visit our website at www.lkschool.ca or our Facebook group L'nu Sipuk Kina'muokuom.

If you have any concerns or questions, Please contact us. We will continue to strive to improve communication and relationships with our families.