



February 19, 2021

Dear Families,

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to keeping our schools and communities as safe as possible during the COVID-19 Pandemic. We are grateful for your partnership as we work together to keep our schools open and safe for our students and staff.

The Ministry of Education has provided direction to school boards on a new school screening tool and other changes to health and safety measures. Effective immediately, please take note of the important information noted below.

#### **STUDENT SCREENING TOOL**

As you are aware, all students are required to complete a daily screen before coming to school. [The student screening tool](#) has been updated and we are returning to the single-symptom criteria that was in place earlier this year. This means that students who have one or more symptoms of COVID-19 cannot come to school. The link for the screening tool can also be found on our Board website at [www.ncdsb.on.ca](http://www.ncdsb.on.ca) and must be done every day before school. A reminder that all secondary students are required to confirm that the screen has taken place upon arrival to school.

#### **ISOLATION REQUIREMENT FOR HOUSEHOLD CONTACTS**

Effective immediately, there are new isolation requirements being applied to staff, students and children. The requirement is that they stay home from school if anyone in their household has new or worsening symptoms of COVID-19 and has been recommended for isolation and testing. This means that if a student is sick, all other school-aged children must stay home and follow public health guidance. This measure is being put in place across the province due to the concerns of the rapid rate of variant transmission. Our schools will work with families to ensure that student learning continues in cases that require students to stay home under these new isolation requirements.

We remain committed to doing what we can to protect the health and safety of our students, staff, and broader communities.

Stay well, stay safe, and continue to take good care of yourselves and each other.

Sincerely,

Tricia Weltz  
Director of Education