



Owen Sound District Secondary School

Jeff Brookshaw, Principal
Maureen Radbourne, Vice-Principal
Susan Lavergne, Office Manager

750 9th Street West
Owen Sound, ON N4K 3P6
Telephone: (519) 376-6050
Fax: (519) 370-6632
www.osdss.bwdsb.on.ca



Dear Parents/Guardians:

We are excited to be able to offer face-to-face instruction again at OSDSS. We have put in place, many new Health and Safety protocols to help protect our students and your families from COVID-19. This letter includes details on some of these protocols and what families need to do help keep all our students safe and healthy.

Prior to the First Day

All students must wear a mask to school each day. If a child does not have a mask, one will be provided.

Students will receive calls from their first period teachers detailing where their first period class is located.

All Bluewater students MUST complete a COVID-19 screening BEFORE leaving home. The COVID-19 symptom checklist can be found on our website and/or its contents can be found at the bottom of this letter. If your child is presenting any COVID-19 signs/symptoms they must remain at home. Please place a call to the school and detailed message regarding the symptoms that your child is exhibiting. It should be noted that if a student is presenting COVID-19 symptoms, parents will be required to pick up their child immediately. In addition, if a student is presenting 2 or more COVID symptoms, the school is legally obligated to report it to Public Health. Students will be required to remain at home until they are symptom-free or a negative COVID-19 test is provided.

Parents/Guardians will **ONLY** be provided with direct access to the school in the case of an emergency related to their child(ren). Please call the school and we will work with you to limit the need to enter the school. Parents who must enter for an urgent situation must do a screening questionnaire before entering the school and are required to wear a mask. Please note that all meetings with parents will be held by phone or virtually.

The First Day at OSDSS

Buses will drop students off students at the front of the school in the bus loop or at the sidewalk as usual. Students will enter the door nearest to where they were dropped off. (There are three entrances at the front of the school: East guidance doors, Main entrance and West teacher parking lot entrance).

All students must wear their mask upon entry into the building and must use hand sanitizer when entering and exiting the school.

Upon entering in the school, students will make their way directly to their classroom being mindful of social distancing and following all directional arrows on the floor. Lockers will not be used during the Pandemic.

All students walking to school and students being dropped off are NOT to be in the building prior to 8:50am. If you plan on using 9th street for drop off, please use the East parking lot drop off area. All

student pick-ups and drop-offs will use this East parking lot or the back school parking lot area. Please **DO NOT** enter the bus loop area.

At the end of each school day (approximately 3:10) , all students will dismissed in an orderly fashion from their classroom based on the timing of their bus. Students walking to school and students using other transportation will exit the school and school grounds as soon as dismissal occurs.

During afternoon school bus time, markers will be used to give students cues on where line up for their bus. Once their bus has arrived and any transfer students have departed the bus, students move from the marker and board the bus safely.

Students may leave the school at the beginning of Study period (2:00) each day if the BWDSB form 6220 "Permission to Leave School Property during supervised study period" is signed by the parent or guardian and returned to their classroom teacher. This form can be found on our school website.

***** Reminder ***** *The BWDSB is using a staggered start to the school year. Tuesday September 8th will be grade 9 students only and Wednesday will be grade 9 and 10 students only. Thursday will be grade 9, 10 and 11 students only and lastly on Friday September 11th all students will be at school.*

Safety With in the School

There is signage on the floor to encourage physical distancing and several sanitizing stations around the school with the corresponding signage. There are entry and exit doors along with "up" and "down" stairwells.

Classrooms are set up to support physical distancing and schedules are designed to limit the number of transitions students make and the number of students using a space at one time.

Lunch

Our cafeteria will be open for daily sales of healthy lunches and snacks. Students can buy their lunch and then return to their classrooms to eat. Science classes and some technology classes will be assigned to the cafeteria or another classroom to eat their lunch for safety reasons. Secondary students who chose to leave the school for lunch will have to leave for the entire lunch period. Secondary students who choose leave the building will be required to sanitize their hands before leaving the building and upon arriving back at school.

Microwaves and kettles will NOT be available for heating up food.

It should also be noted that all students must take their garbage and leftover food home. This helps limit the amount of materials in the building for cross-contamination.

Lockers

OSDSS will **NOT** be using lockers at this time as physical distancing is a challenge. It is recommended that students bring only essential items including:

- Books/necessary class materials
- Water bottle (water fountains are closed, but water bottle filling stations are open)
- Sunscreen or jacket if class is being held outside
- Any student who is having difficulty getting a backpack please let their first period teacher know and we will endeavour to supply one

Phys. Ed and Extra-Curriculars

Physical Education classes will take place outdoors whenever possible. All equipment will be cleaned before and after use.

Students are required to change for Phys. Ed. Change rooms will be open for use, however, the number of students allowed in the room at one time is limited. Note: at this time the use of showers are prohibited.

All extra-curricular activities, including school functions and parent teacher interviews, are cancelled for the time being.

Breakfast Club

Grab and Go style snacks will be available, however, this may not available the first days of September.

COVID-19 Symptoms

The most common symptoms of COVID-19 are:

- Fever (37.8C or greater)
- New or worsening cough
- Shortness of breath

Other symptoms:

- Sore throat
- Difficulty swallowing
- New taste disorder/loss of taste
- Nausea/vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain
- Runny nose, nasal congestion

We are working with our local Public Health Unit to take steps to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in our school and will keep you updated with new information as it becomes available. To reduce the risk of in our school, multiple measures have been implemented: for example, enhanced cleaning and reducing the number of contacts among individuals in the school, including students, staff and others. Here are a few things you and your family can do to increase safety:

- Wash your hands often with water and soap
- Use alcohol-based sanitizer
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth
- Avoid touching others
- Practice physical and social distancing
- Stay home when you are feeling sick

If you have any questions please feel free to contact the school.

Sincerely,

Jeff Brookshaw
Principal

Maureen Radbourne
Vice Principal

Todd Wainwright
Acting Vice Principal

Parents/Guardians and Students

COVID-19 Information

Screening Questionnaire

Parents/guardians must use this questionnaire daily to decide if their child should be in school. Students 18 years of age and older will use the questionnaire daily to determine if they should be in school.

Does your child or a student 18 years of age or older have any of the following symptoms of COVID-19?

- **Fever**
- **New onset cough**
- **Chills**
- **Unexplained fatigue**
- **Headache**
- **Sore throat**
- **Runny nose**
- **Stuffy or congested nose (new onset and not allergy related)**
- **Lost sense of taste or smell**
- **Difficulty breathing**
- **Difficulty swallowing**
- **Pink eye**
- **Digestive issues (nausea/vomiting, diarrhea, stomach pain)**
- **For young children, sluggishness or lack of appetite**

OR

Has your child or a student 18 years of age or older been exposed to someone with COVID-19 or someone who has developed new respiratory symptoms?

If your child or a student 18 years of age or older has any of the above symptoms or has been exposed to someone with COVID-19, they are not to attend school at this time. Please contact your healthcare provider or visit an Assessment Centre for testing. Your child or a student 18 years of age or older should not attend school until they are free of symptoms or have received a negative COVID-19 test result.