



The First Virtual Healthy Schools and Communities Principal Meeting

October 28, 2020 – 9:30 to 11:00 a.m.
Technical challenge? Javier.Rincon@halton.ca

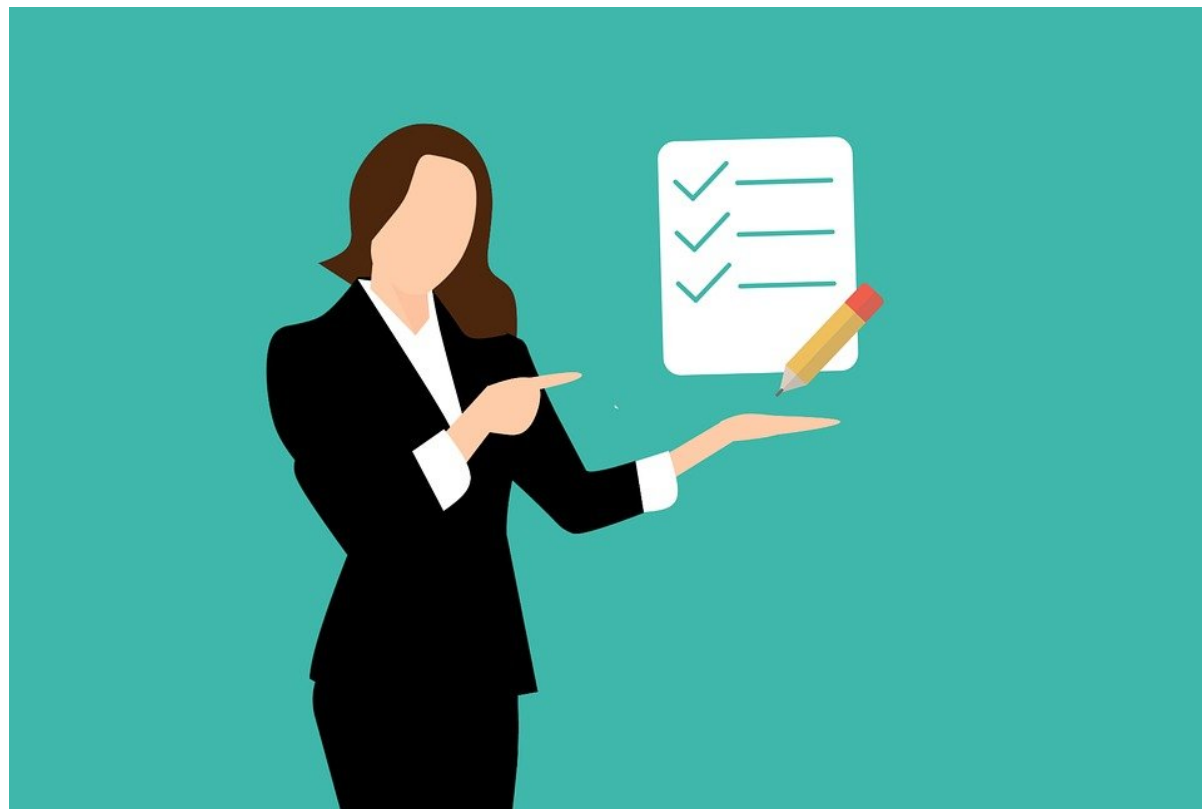


Agenda

Time	Topic	Speaker
9:30 a.m.	Welcome and Introductions	Lynne Hanna, Manager, School Years Program, Moderator
9:40	COVID-19 Update	Dr. Hamidah Meghani, Commissioner & Medical Officer of Health
10:00	School IPAC resources, education, promotion and visits: What to expect	Brenda Soper-Manning, Public Health Nurse, Halton Region Public Health
	Our experience	Mark Witter, Principal, St. Francis of Assisi Elementary School, HCDSB; Brian Slemko, Principal and Rasha Balche, Vice Principal, Irma Coulson Public School, HDSB
10:30	Q&A	Dr. Hamidah Meghani, Commissioner & Medical Officer of Health
10:55	Wrap up	Lynne Hanna, Manager, School Years Program, Moderator



Polls I & II



COVID-19 cases over time



Total cases: 2,055

- Active: 226
- Resolved: 1,796
- Deceased: 33



Fig: Number of new COVID-19 cases, by day and type, Mar 1-Oct 26 2020

COVID-19 cases by age

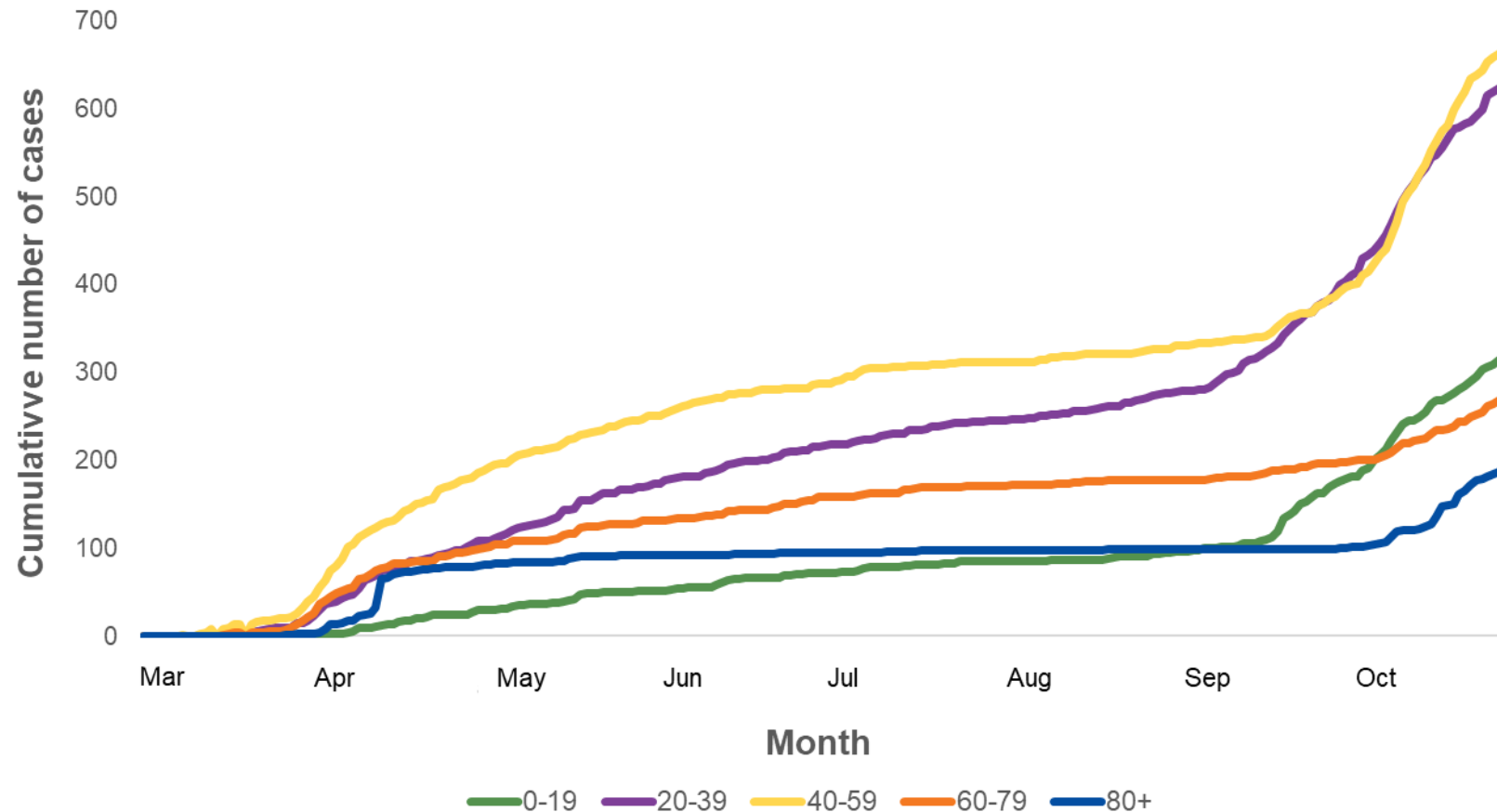
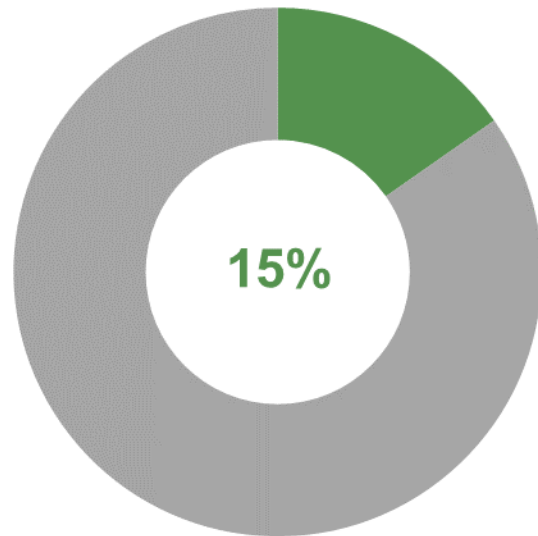


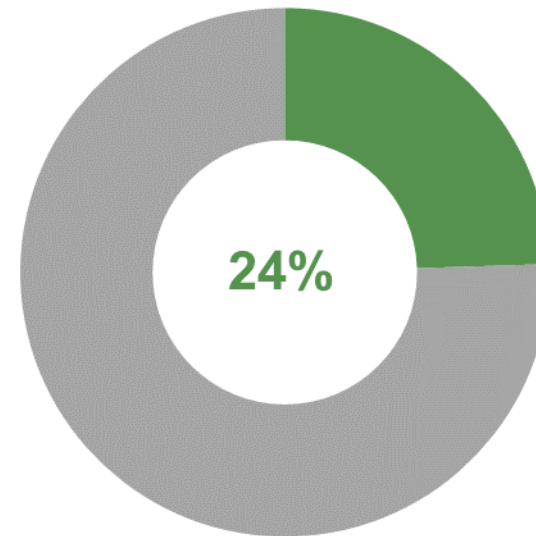
Fig: Cumulative number of COVID-19 cases, by age group, Mar 1-Oct 22 2020

Proportion of COVID-19 cases by age

% of cases aged 0-19 (Halton)



% of population aged 0-19 (Halton)



Common COVID-19 symptoms among children

So far, most children infected with the virus experience mild symptoms.



- Fever
- Cough
- Runny Nose
- Sore Throat
- Headache
- Body Ache
- Diarrhea

Cases in Halton schools

Between the start of the school year and October 26:

52

schools have had at least one confirmed or probable case among their students or staff, including **18** staff and **77** students. Most acquired the infection outside the school.

1

school has experienced an outbreak, involving **6** cases.

1,060

contacts associated with schools have been identified



COVID-19 Contacts in Halton

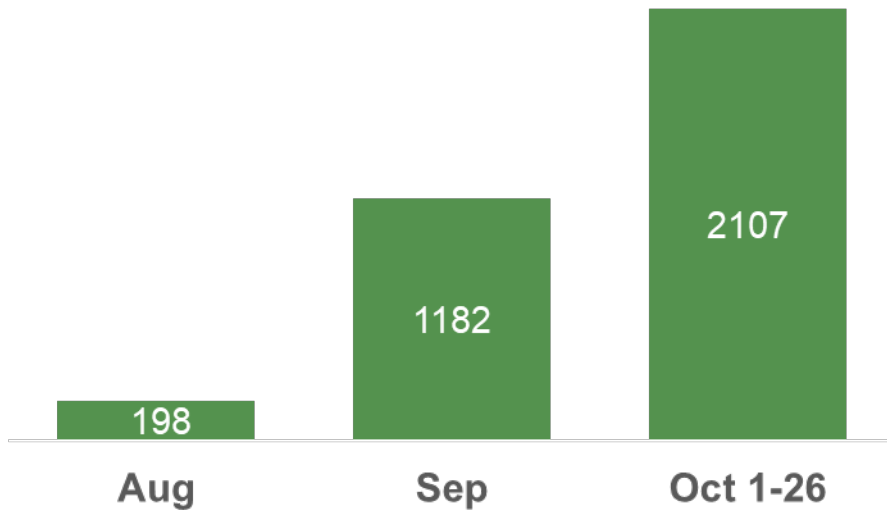
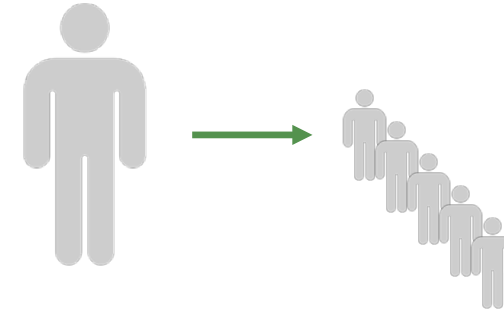


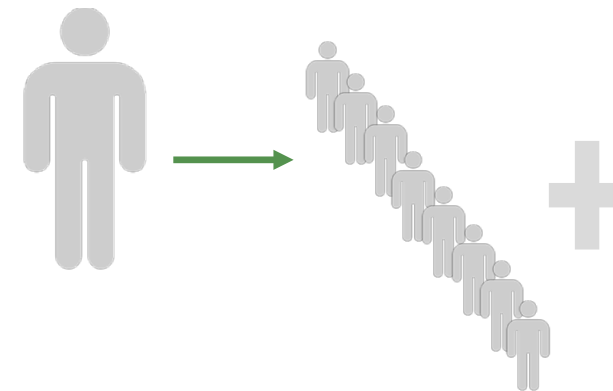
Fig: Number of new high-risk contacts, Halton, Aug 1-Oct 22 2020



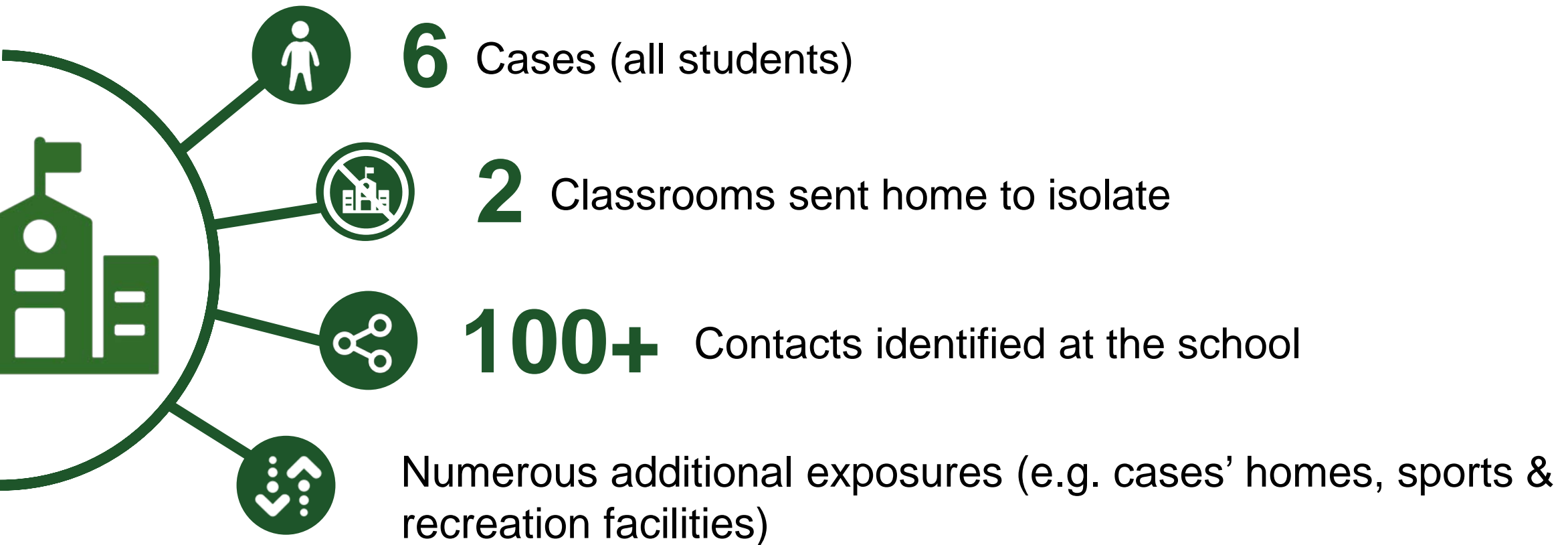
Wave 1: 2-5 contacts per case



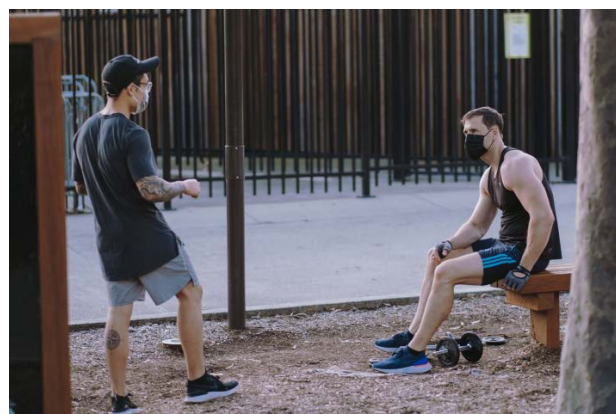
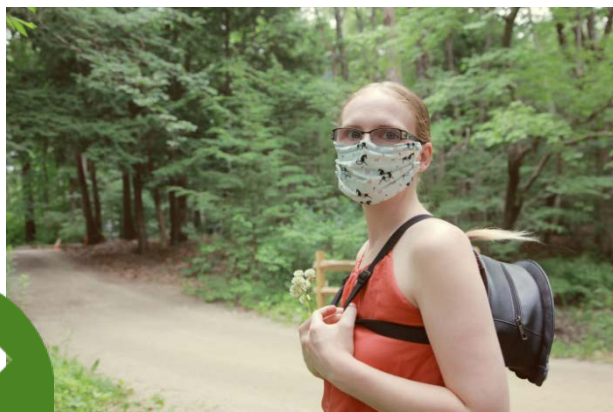
Wave 2: 2-8 contacts per case, but with extreme outliers



COVID-19 school outbreak



Team sports and fitness clubs



Roles



Ministries of Health/Education

- Guidance
- Standards
- PPE
- Screening tool
- Reporting
- Communication



Halton Region Public Health

- Prevention & preparedness
- Case & contact management
- Outbreak assessment and management
- Surveillance
- Coordination and communication



School Boards

- Boards
 - Safety plans
 - Policies
- Schools
 - Implement IPAC measures
 - Notification
 - Staff screening
 - Teach hand hygiene
 - Provide isolation method/space
 - Reporting



Parents

- Screen children
- Reinforce public health messaging

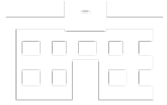


Ontario Health/Hospitals

- Coordinate planning
- Deploy testing
- Assessment Centres
- Virtual Care
- Critical Care

Public Health

- Provide recommendations, guidance and resources to help school boards and private schools develop policies and procedures to ensure the health and safety of staff, students, parents/guardians and visitors
- Support training and educational opportunities for school staff regarding infection prevention and control practices
- Develop processes and protocols for managing sick students and staff at school
- Develop guidance around managing a confirmed case of COVID-19 and an outbreak at school
- Ensure schools have child-friendly resources that support healthy behaviours in the school setting
- Support infection prevention and control (IPAC) with schools; and
- Conduct surveillance of student/staff absenteeism specific to COVID-19



Case Management and Contact Tracing

If an outbreak is declared at a school, **we will investigate** to see whether others are impacted, **define the outbreak area** and **identify any others who will need to be contacted and tested.**



Management of
a confirmed
COVID-19 case
in your school
community

Recent changes

- Class order
- Screening guidelines
- Program changes



Class Order

Key amendments to the Class Order include:

- Revision of the categories of people to whom the Class Order applies, and directions for how long they need to self-isolate
- Household contacts of symptomatic individuals are no longer required to self-isolate (provided they have no COVID-19 symptoms themselves); and
- Emphasis on the legal requirement for individuals to remain reachable for monitoring by Halton Region Public Health and to share the names and contact information for all contacts if requested by Halton Region Public Health



Screening Tool

Set One

Fever and/or chills (temperature of 37.8°C/100.0°F or greater)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Cough (more than usual if chronic cough) including croup (barking cough, making a whistling noise when breathing) <i>Not related to other known causes or conditions (e.g., asthma, reactive airway)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Shortness of breath (dyspnea, out of breath, unable to breathe deeply, wheeze, that is worse than usual if chronically short of breath) <i>Not related to other known causes or conditions (e.g., asthma)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Decrease or loss of smell or taste (new olfactory or taste disorder) <i>Not related to other known causes or conditions (e.g., nasal polyps, allergies, neurological disorders)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

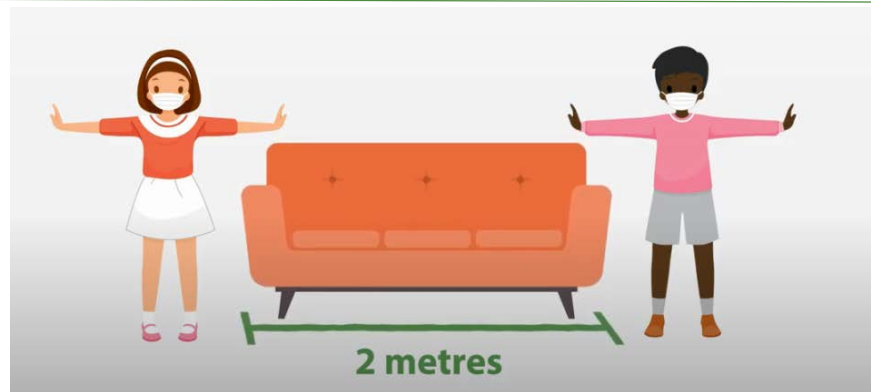
Set Two

Sore throat (painful swallowing or difficulty swallowing) <i>Not related to other known causes or conditions (e.g., post nasal drip, gastroesophageal reflux)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Stuffy nose and/or runny nose (nasal congestion and/or rhinorrhea) <i>Not related to other known causes or conditions (e.g., seasonal allergies, returning inside from the cold, chronic sinusitis unchanged from baseline, reactive airways)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Headache that is new and persistent, unusual, unexplained, or long-lasting <i>Not related to other known causes or conditions (e.g., tension-type headaches, chronic migraines)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Nausea, vomiting and/or diarrhea <i>Not related to other known causes or conditions (e.g., transient vomiting due to anxiety in children, chronic vestibular dysfunction, irritable bowel syndrome, inflammatory bowel disease, side effect of medication)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Fatigue, lethargy, muscle aches or malaise (general feeling of being unwell, lack of energy, extreme tiredness, poor feeding in infants) that is unusual or unexplained <i>Not related to other known causes or conditions (e.g., depression, insomnia, thyroid dysfunction, anemia)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

Additional Measures



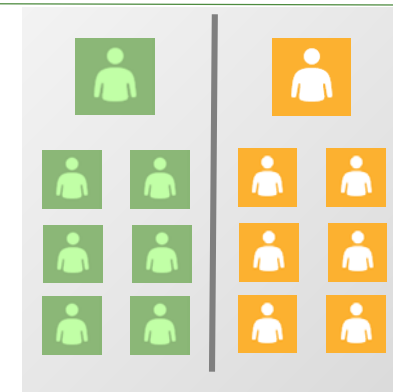
Stay home when ill



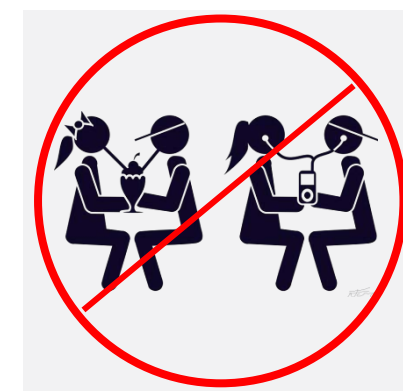
Physical distancing



Masking



Cohorts



Infection prevention and control measures

Program changes



Immunization



Oral Health



School Years

Immunization

- Halton Public Health delivers the Grade 7 school-based vaccine program and enforcement of the *Immunization of School Pupils Act* (ISPA) and *Child Care and Early Years Act* (CCEYA)
- This program relies on partnership and collaboration with school boards, child care facilities, and Halton families
- Because of COVID-19, delivery of this year's vaccine program will be at venues within the community, outside of the school setting
- Grade 7 immunization clinics delayed



Oral Health

- Follow-up through phone calls and letters is underway for children whose files remain open from 2019-20 school screening program
- If feasible, the school screening program may resume in Winter 2021 for select schools
- Oral health promotion strategy is being augmented as a result of the impact of COVID-19 to the school screening program



School Years

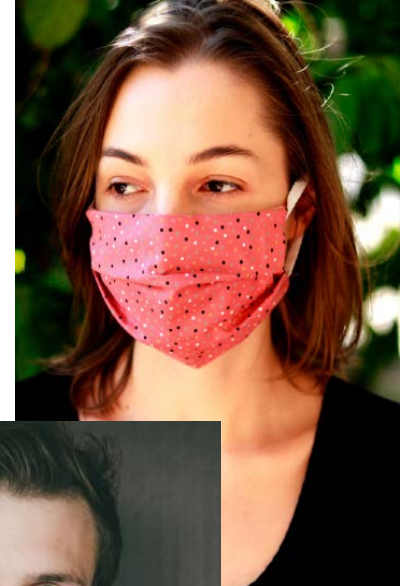
- Significant change in core model of service as staff deployed to COVID-19
- Support communications, policy development and safe re-opening and operations



Roles for School Health Nurses

Support existing school health and infectious disease control programs in public health:

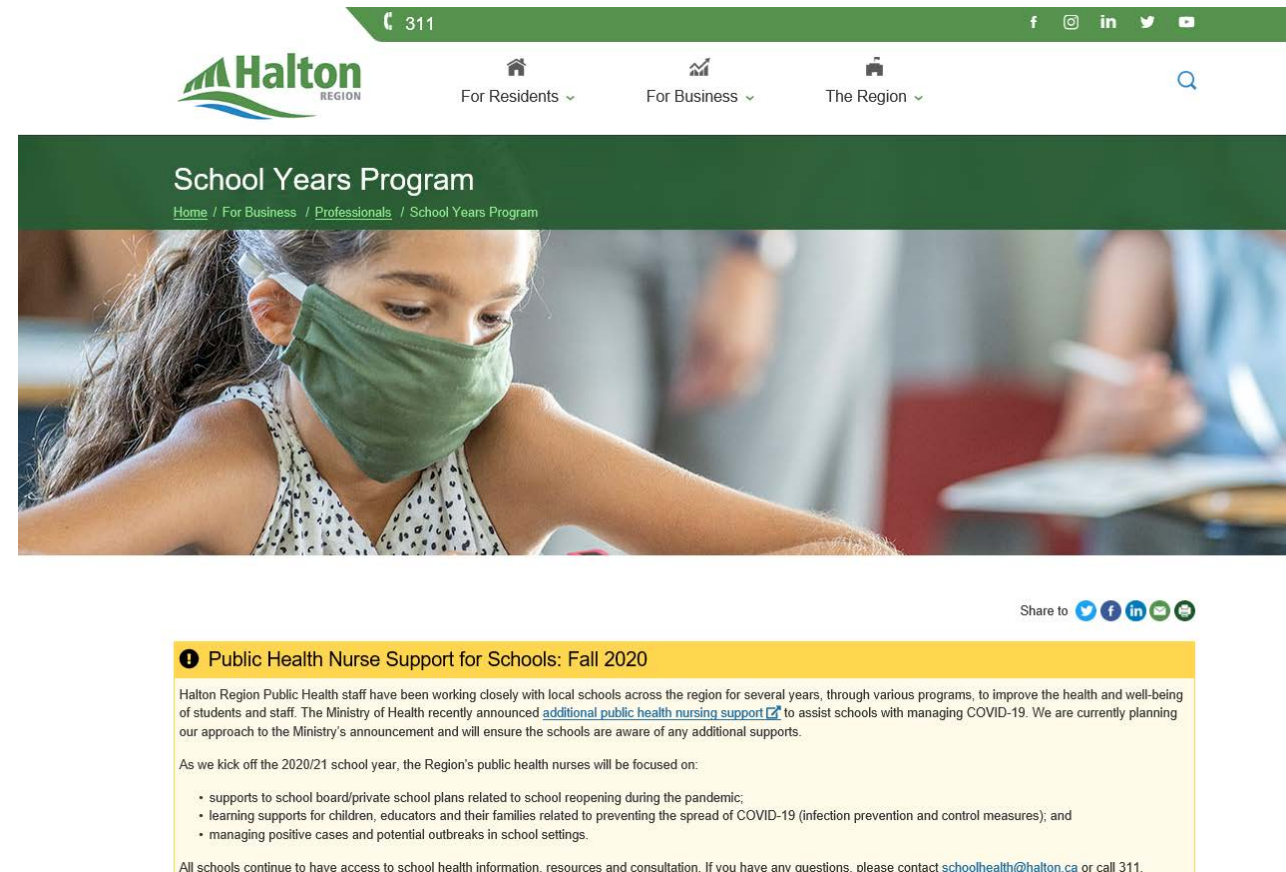
- manage positive cases, high-risk contacts and potential outbreaks in school settings
- provide school boards/schools with guidance and resources to support school reopening and ongoing operations
- provide resources and support for educators, children and their families to prevent the spread of COVID-19; and
- address other health and wellbeing issues such as, mental health



Resources (I)

School Years Program webpage

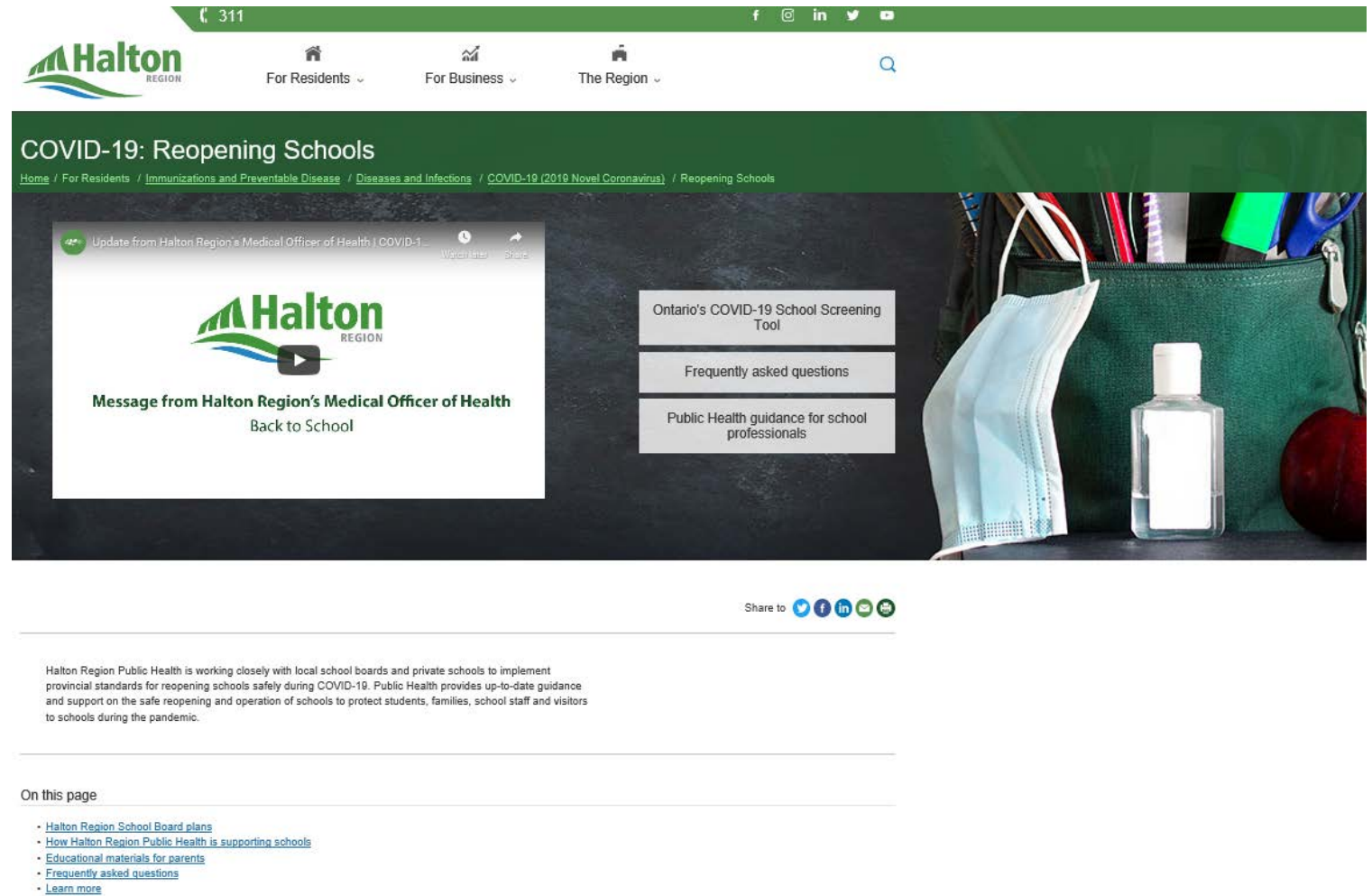
- Public Health Recommendations for School Reopening 2020-2021
- School and Child Care Protocol for Individuals with COVID-19 Symptoms
- Return to School and Child Care Protocol for Individuals with COVID-19 Symptoms
- Public Health Update for Schools E-newsletter



Resources (II)

Reopening Schools webpage

- Links
- Educational materials
- FAQ



311

Halton REGION

For Residents For Business The Region

COVID-19: Reopening Schools

Home / For Residents / Immunizations and Preventable Disease / Diseases and Infections / COVID-19 (2019 Novel Coronavirus) / Reopening Schools

Update from Halton Region's Medical Officer of Health | COVID-19

Halton REGION

Message from Halton Region's Medical Officer of Health
Back to School

Ontario's COVID-19 School Screening Tool

Frequently asked questions

Public Health guidance for school professionals

Share to

Halton Region Public Health is working closely with local school boards and private schools to implement provincial standards for reopening schools safely during COVID-19. Public Health provides up-to-date guidance and support on the safe reopening and operation of schools to protect students, families, school staff and visitors to schools during the pandemic.

On this page

- [Halton Region School Board plans](#)
- [How Halton Region Public Health is supporting schools](#)
- [Educational materials for parents](#)
- [Frequently asked questions](#)
- [Learn more](#)



What happens if there is a confirmed case?



Notify

- Notify the school principal within 24 hours of the PHU knowing about the case

Investigate

- Investigate and manage reports of cases and contacts by phone with school principal
- Provide letter(s) to notify staff and parents/guardians of the COVID-19 exposure

Review

- Review the Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) and outbreak control measures; refer to reference documents

Follow-up

- Follow up with principal if any new cases are reported

Support

- Support school to address any other questions/concerns related to the confirmed COVID-19 case

What if there is more than one confirmed case?



Notify

- Notify the school principal within 24 hours of the PHU knowing about the case

Investigate

- Investigate and manage reports of cases and contacts by phone with school principal
- Investigate clusters

Assess risk

- Assess risk to determine whether to declare an outbreak

Declare outbreak/ Testing

- If an outbreak is declared a declaration letter is provided to the school principal with recommendations on cohort isolation, testing requirements and any school dismissal communication.

Follow-up

- Complete daily follow-up (IPAC in place, new people with symptoms, assess status, provide support. Review IPAC and refer to reference documents)
- Declare outbreak over (by phone and written communication)

Preparedness and Prevention

School visits will include:

- Assessment
- Education
- Resources

Tools:

- [Halton's Recommendations for Schools Reopening](#)
- Public Health Ontario's Preparedness and Prevention [Checklist](#)



Our Experience

St. Francis of Assisi Elementary School - HCDSB



Outbreak Context and Infection Prevention and Control Measures (IPAC)

Outbreak Context

- One initial positive, with a sibling identified as probable. Sibling was later confirmed positive
- Two classes quarantined for 14 days affecting 41 students and 4 staff members
- Outbreak grew to include 6 students and 1 staff member. Staff member case was unrelated to school cases

Control Measures (Previously in place or implemented during outbreak)

- IPAC measures as per board re-opening plan
- Recess zones and scheduled outdoor learning blocks for each class
- Dedicated space for each class to line-up while physically distancing
- Daily health and safety reminders to all students and staff which are documented
- Email, Twitter and website posts to communicate IPAC measures of the school to community
- Increase signage for parents/guardians to reinforce the importance of school safety measures.



Health and Safety Reminders		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Walk/No running ○ Indoor/outdoor shoes ○ Close locker doors ○ Dress appropriately for the weather 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Wet floors ○ Field closed ○ Icy, Wet, Windy Weather 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Pick up personal items and garbage from hallways ○ Find an adult when needed ○ Line up quietly at the bell
Covid-19 Reminders		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Hand hygiene – Soap and water for 20 seconds, regularly during the day, before/after eating, after washroom, before/after outdoor play ○ 4 students in washroom only 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Physical distancing ○ Respiratory etiquette – cover nose and mouth when sneezing/coughing, sneeze/cough into arm, use tissues and dispose in garbage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Water consumption ○ No sharing of water bottles, snacks or lunches ○ No sharing of personal items such as pencils, crayons, markers, calculators, etc.



Learning, Successes, Challenges

Learning

- Importance of the partnership if Public Health
- Importance of accessing support of board strategic communications and senior administrative team

Successes

- Contact tracing: Importance of documenting class seating plans, bus seating plans, bus emergency contact information, class schedules, staff schedules, etc.
- Clear and transparent communication to school community
- Visibility of administrator during morning arrival and afternoon dismissal to address community concerns
- Importance of administrator ensuring that bus seating plans are implemented – be involved in the bus departure process

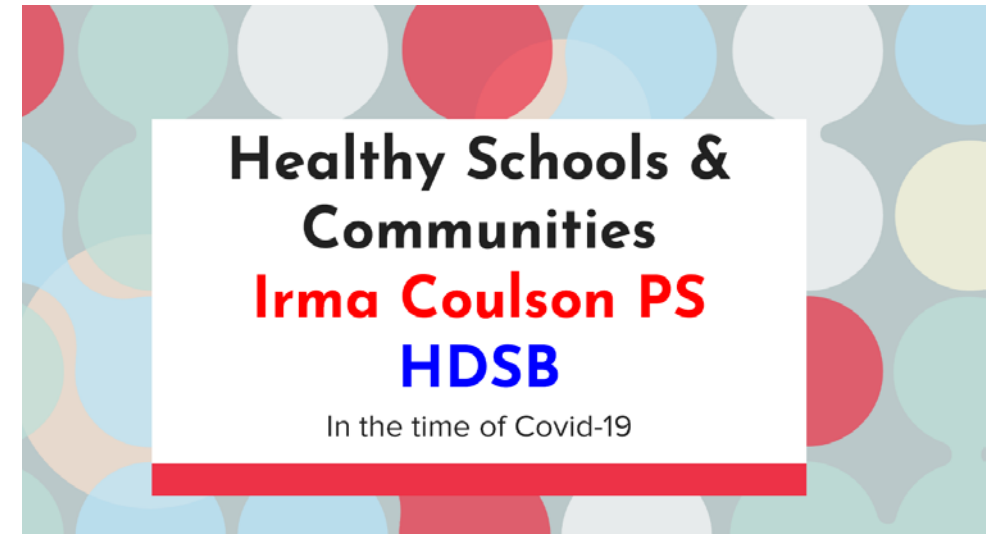
Challenges

- Responding to parent/guardian concerns, while respecting and upholding student privacy – the community knew more about the outbreak because of neighbourhood conversations compared to what the school was able to share.



Our Experience

Irma Coulson Public School - HDSB





Approaching everything with a positive attitude and a focus on the Health and Safety of everyone was crucial. We prioritized calmness and confidence in our building!

We talked about making it realistic, sustainable and engaging for kids. The first day of school, kids were met with staff holding coloured lanyards, coloured helium balloons and colourful pylons highlighting zones! It was clearly serious but also exciting and a “happy” for kids (and parents! lol)

Yellow
Zone



Students were divided into 9 colour Zones within the building and on our school grounds. No more than 3 classes in a Zone. Zones were determined by room proximity/grade levels.

Each colour zone has been assigned a designated :

- Door Entrance/Exit
- Stairwell
- Washroom
- Hallway



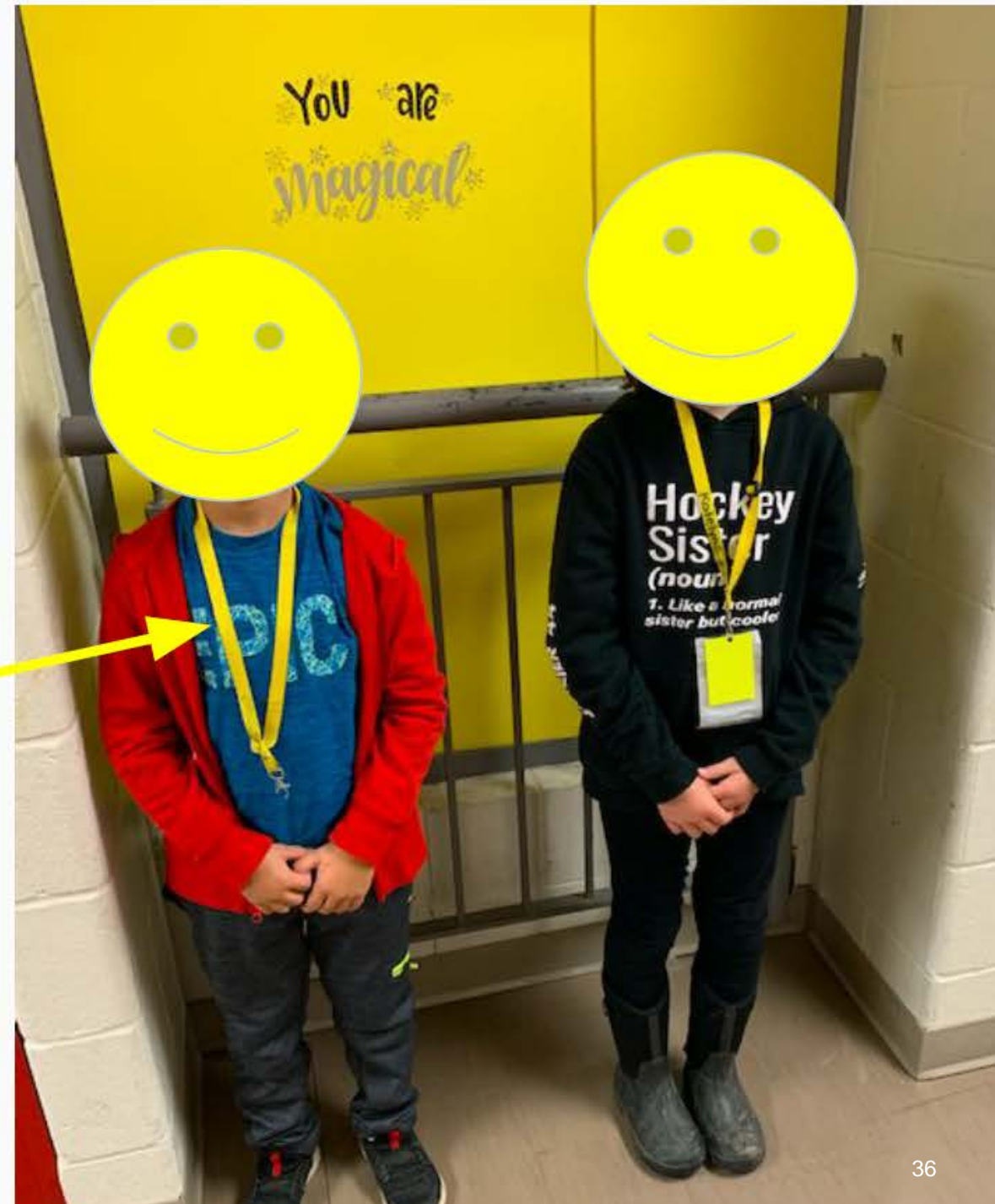
**Clearly and
colourfully
marked with
the
designated
colour zone**

The Lanyard System

Every student was provided with a coloured lanyard to represent which cohort they belonged to. The lanyard also has a zippy pouch attached for masks when they are outside. Lanyards are also used as washroom passes to determine how many people are in the washroom (placed on hook)

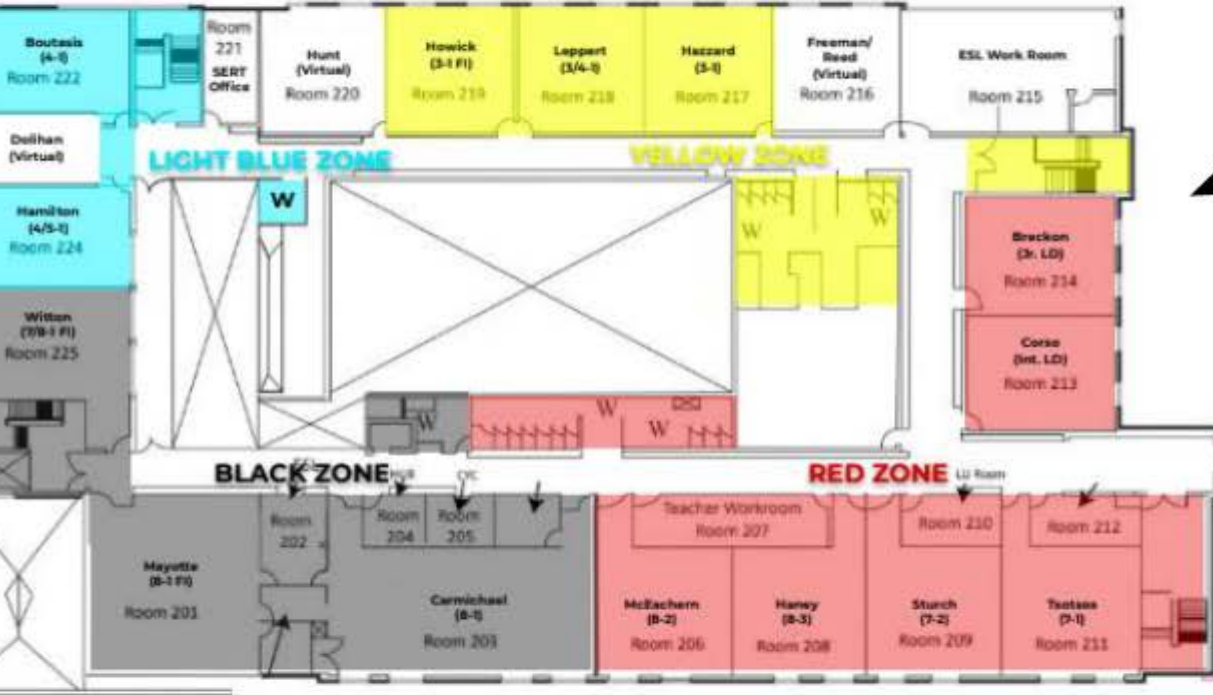
Here are 2 lovely students who are wearing their yellow lanyards.

This helps staff and students in the building to quickly identify which colour zone they belong to both inside and outside of the building.

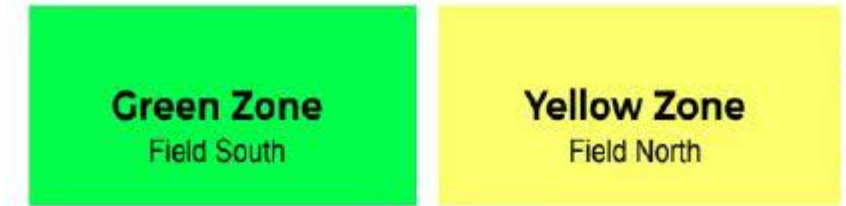


Colour Zone Mapping

Irma Coulson Public School - Second Floor Layout



Inside the School (2nd Floor)



Recess Zones (2nd Half)



Outside for Recess

Communication is Key!

Many conversations, reflections and information sessions to get to where we are! Parents, staff and students are all working together to ensure everyone's safety!

Here are a couple of **school videos** we shared with our Community to gain trust and calm fears in the HDSB/School Plan:

Welcome Back ICPS Families: <https://youtu.be/hY6rM3yKGFo>

Face to Face Learning at ICPS: <https://youtu.be/OOvkv22l66Q>

Questions and Answers



Questions

- Q. How can we coach students in a cohort to distance while outdoors? Without balls and playground equipment, it feels impossible to keep our students separated. Is it unreasonable to expect students in a single cohort to distance?
- Q. If a parent travels outside Canada (specifically to the Florida, USA), and will be in the same home as the child/student when returning, what does that mean for the student who attends school? Will the student also have to isolate for 14 days from the time the parent returns home?

Questions

Q. Will children be able to celebrate Halloween this year?

Q. We are being asked about community events like fundraising and food drives. Are there guidelines specific to events like these?

Questions

Q. What makes staff high vs low risk?

Q. How does information about positive cases flow between public health units?
We have staff that live in one area and work in another, and sometimes get conflicting advice about what to do. We are also concerned about how quickly we might hear if there is a positive case connected to the school that gets reported to a different public health units.

Questions

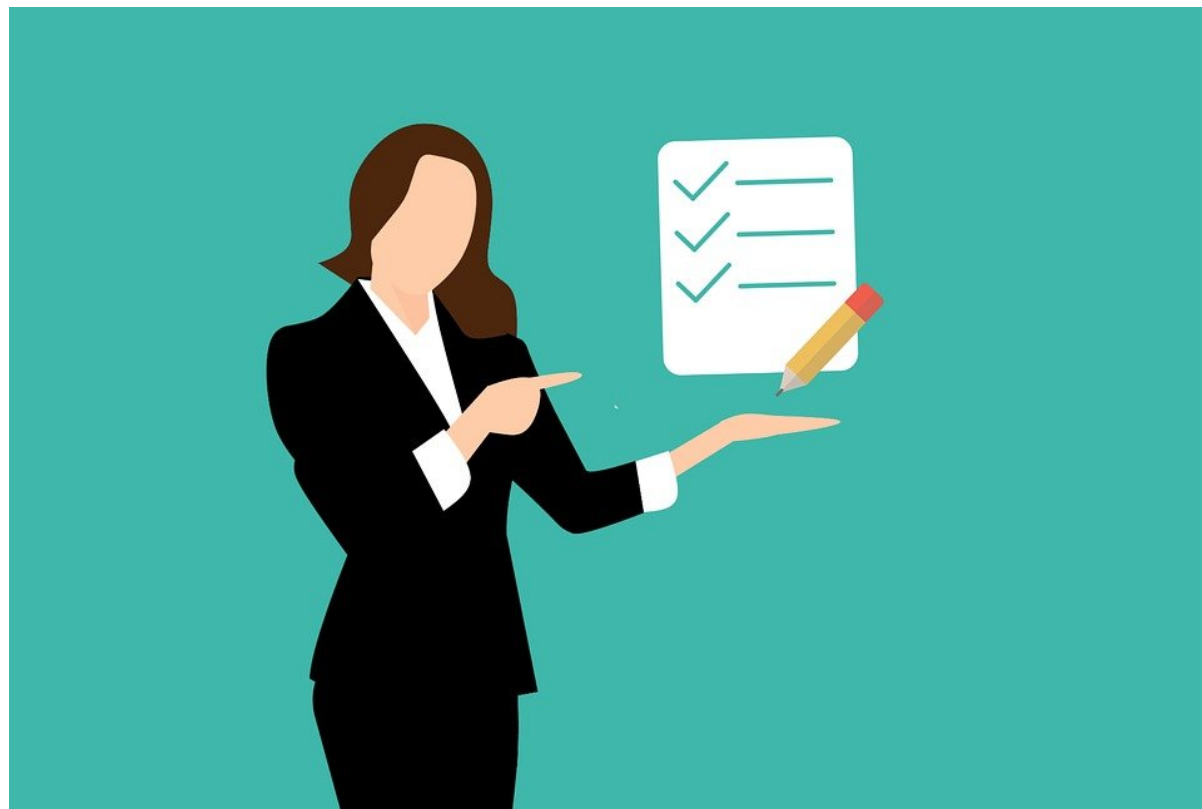
- Q. Could you review guidelines for privacy and confidentiality and review the rationale behind not sharing the name with Principals and how public health ensures that they have all the contact tracing information they need to conduct their investigation if the Principal doesn't know who the student is.
- Q. What is considered an outbreak in a school?

Questions

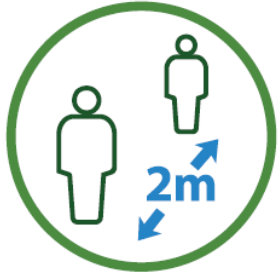
Q. What PPE are staff required to wear?

Q. If one child in a household is experiencing symptom(s) of COVID-19, are their sibling(s) also required to stay home and self-isolate?

Poll III



Wrap up



Practice physical distancing by maintaining a 2-metre (6-foot) distance from others outside of your social circle or household.



Wear a mask.*



Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or sleeve.



Avoid touching your eyes, mouth and nose.



Wash hands frequently with soap and water or with alcohol-based hand rub.



Get tested for COVID-19 if you have a symptom or are concerned that you have been exposed.



*Teachers are required to wear medical masks while in the school setting

Thank you!

**Stopping the spread
of COVID-19 is a
community effort.**

Following Public Health guidance is
the most effective tool in reducing
transmission.

