

# Thames Valley District School Board

*Return to Learn*

**September 2021**

**TVDSB Community Guide**



# Table of Contents

<b>OVERVIEW</b> .....	<b>4</b>
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION GUIDANCE.....	4
<b>INSTRUCTIONAL AND OPERATIONAL EXPECTATIONS</b> .....	<b>5</b>
ELEMENTARY IN-PERSON LEARNING.....	5
Instructional Expectations.....	5
Operational Expectations .....	5
SECONDARY IN-PERSON LEARNING.....	5
Instructional Expectations.....	6
Operational Expectations .....	6
VIRTUAL LEARNING.....	7
Elementary Virtual Learning .....	7
Secondary Virtual Learning.....	7
DIGITAL LEARNING PLATFORMS .....	8
TECHNOLOGY DEVICES FOR STUDENTS.....	8
DAILY SCREENING .....	8
PICKING UP STUDENTS AT SCHOOL WHO ARE EXHIBITING SYMPTOMS.....	8
ATTENDANCE .....	9
MASKING.....	9
MASK ACCOMMODATIONS/ EXEMPTIONS .....	9
STAFF PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)/VISITOR MASKING REQUIREMENTS.....	10
HAND HYGIENE.....	10
DISTANCING AND CONGREGATING .....	11
SCHOOL ARRIVAL, DEPARTURE AND SIGNAGE .....	11
RECESS AND OUTDOOR BREAKS.....	11
CLEANING AND DISINFECTION STANDARDS AND PROTOCOLS FOR SCHOOLS .....	11
SHARED MATERIALS .....	12
SHARED SPACES.....	12
CAFETERIA USE AND LUNCH PROTOCOLS .....	12
FOOD PROGRAMS.....	12
ASSEMBLIES.....	13
VISITORS .....	13
REGISTRATION OF NEW STUDENTS .....	13
STUDENT TRANSPORTATION.....	13
VENTILATION .....	14
VACCINATION .....	15
MENTAL HEALTH AND STUDENT SUPPORT.....	15

<b>ACADEMIC PROGRAMS AND REQUIREMENTS</b> .....	<b>16</b>
COOPERATIVE EDUCATION .....	16
MUSIC.....	16
HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION.....	16
FIELD TRIPS.....	17
EQAO.....	17
ONTARIO SECONDARY SCHOOL LITERACY TEST (OSSLT) .....	17
COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS .....	17
EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES.....	18
BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS .....	18
COMMUNITY USE OF SCHOOLS.....	18
<b>STUDENTS WITH HEALTH CONDITIONS</b> .....	<b>18</b>
<b>SUPPORTING STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS</b> .....	<b>18</b>
<b>MANAGEMENT OF COVID-19 IN SCHOOLS</b> .....	<b>19</b>
<b>PRIVACY</b> .....	<b>19</b>
<b>CONCLUSION</b> .....	<b>19</b>



# OVERVIEW

As we prepare for the return to learning in September, our priority is the safety and well-being of students and staff at the Thames Valley District School Board. We have involved our local Health Units as key partners in our planning, while also following the guidance and direction of the Ministry of Education to ensure that our schools and workplaces are prepared, and staff and students experience a successful return.

We recognize the importance of the 'school life experience' prior to the COVID-19 pandemic and we remain committed to providing as robust an educational program as possible, given health and safety regulations. We are looking forward to welcoming students and staff back to in-person learning and continuing to support learners who require virtual instruction.

This document will outline important information about what a school day will look like, our continued and revised health and safety practices, well-being resources, and more. Ongoing contact with the community will occur throughout the school year to provide further details about specific school-level information and board-wide updates.

## Ministry of Education Guidance

The Ministry of Education has provided school boards with guidance and direction through several memos and documents. These are located on the [Ministry website](#). The [COVID-19 Guidance for Health, Safety and Operations of Schools](#) document outlines the expectations for boards as they reopen schools in September 2021.

# INSTRUCTIONAL AND OPERATIONAL EXPECTATIONS

## Elementary In-Person Learning

Elementary students in Kindergarten through Grade 8 will attend school five days a week with 300 minutes of instruction per day, remaining in one cohort (class) for the full day. To support student learning, students may be placed in small groups for special instructional support (e.g., English-language learning, literacy support) with students from other cohorts.

In Thames Valley, Kindergarten students are required to wear a mask following a Board of Trustee motion passed in August 2020. As such, all students (Kindergarten-Grade 8) will be required to wear a mask indoors in school, including in hallways and during classes.

### Instructional Expectations

- Each day includes 300 minutes of face-to-face instructional time with students.
- All subject areas in the Ontario curriculum will be taught, assessed and reported on.
- Kindergarten programs will continue to support play-based, inquiry and outdoor learning opportunities.
- Increased outdoor learning opportunities will be encouraged.

### Operational Expectations

- School will begin and end at regular times; for both in-person and virtual classes.
- Schedules will include time for washroom use/drinks/hand washing opportunities.
- Recess and lunch times may be staggered to ensure health and safety regulations can be followed.

## Secondary In-Person Learning

Secondary schools will provide daily in-person learning for the full duration of the school day (five instructional hours).

Thames Valley secondary schools, and secondary remote learners in virtual programs, will follow a Modified Semester Model in September 2021. This model will replace the Quadmester Model used during the 2020-2021 school year.

In the Modified Semester Model, students will take a total of four courses over each of the two 20-week semesters. Students will alternate taking two courses one week, then the other two courses the next week.

Students will attend school 150 minutes each morning, followed by a lunch break, before returning for 150 minutes in the afternoon. Families are encouraged to refer to school websites for the start and end times of the school day as these times will be different at each school. Breaks will be built into each 150-minute learning block. The lunch break will occur between periods.

This model will be followed by students whether they attend school in person or virtually.

## Modified Semester Model

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week 1	<b>Period 1</b> (150 min) <b>Lunch</b> <b>Period 2</b> (150 min)	<b>Period 1</b> (150 min) <b>Lunch</b> <b>Period 2</b> (150 min)	<b>Period 1</b> (150 min) <b>Lunch</b> <b>Period 2</b> (150 min)	<b>Period 1</b> (150 min) <b>Lunch</b> <b>Period 2</b> (150 min)	<b>Period 1</b> (150 min) <b>Lunch</b> <b>Period 2</b> (150 min)
Week 2	<b>Period 3</b> (150 min) <b>Lunch</b> <b>Period 4</b> (150 min)	<b>Period 3</b> (150 min) <b>Lunch</b> <b>Period 4</b> (150 min)	<b>Period 3</b> (150 min) <b>Lunch</b> <b>Period 4</b> (150 min)	<b>Period 3</b> (150 min) <b>Lunch</b> <b>Period 4</b> (150 min)	<b>Period 3</b> (150 min) <b>Lunch</b> <b>Period 4</b> (150 min)
Week 3	<b>Period 1</b> (150 min) <b>Lunch</b> <b>Period 2</b> (150 min)	<b>Period 1</b> (150 min) <b>Lunch</b> <b>Period 2</b> (150 min)	<b>Period 1</b> (150 min) <b>Lunch</b> <b>Period 2</b> (150 min)	<b>Period 1</b> (150 min) <b>Lunch</b> <b>Period 2</b> (150 min)	<b>Period 1</b> (150 min) <b>Lunch</b> <b>Period 2</b> (150 min)
Week 4	<b>Period 3</b> (150 min) <b>Lunch</b> <b>Period 4</b> (150 min)	<b>Period 3</b> (150 min) <b>Lunch</b> <b>Period 4</b> (150 min)	<b>Period 3</b> (150 min) <b>Lunch</b> <b>Period 4</b> (150 min)	<b>Period 3</b> (150 min) <b>Lunch</b> <b>Period 4</b> (150 min)	<b>Period 3</b> (150 min) <b>Lunch</b> <b>Period 4</b> (150 min)

The Modified Semester Model is designed to address student and family concerns about the pace and intensity of courses experienced in the Quadmester Model, while still limiting the number of contacts each week for health and safety.

### Instructional Expectations

- Each day includes 300 minutes of face-to-face instructional time with students.
- Teachers will determine breaks within each period.
- Longer course periods will support science labs, tech classes, practical courses, etc.

### Operational Expectations

- Schools will begin their day at their regular start times. Please review start times on school websites.
- Periods 1 and 2 will be completed in the first week, and periods 3 and 4 will be completed in the second week.
- Staggered breaks will be provided during the 150-minute period.

## Virtual Learning

Students engaged in virtual (remote) learning will be provided with 300 minutes of live, online instruction that will include some opportunities for independent practice/ learning.

### Elementary Virtual Learning

- Kindergarten to Grade 8 programs will be offered in our virtual classes.
- Physical Education and Dance are not offered in our virtual classes.
- Students will use the Brightspace digital learning platform, as well as the Google Meet digital learning platform for synchronous (live) learning. Students and families will be provided with opportunities to learn about these platforms; resources are also available on our TVDSB website.
- Students will receive a minimum of 180 minutes (Kindergarten) and 225 minutes (Grades 1-8) of synchronous (live) instruction each day. There will also be opportunities for independent, small group practice/ learning.
- Students may attend virtual classes hosted at another school.
- Timetables/ schedules for virtual learners will be the same as for in-person learners at the host virtual school.
- Virtual classes may be a larger than in-person classes.
- Adult supervision at home is required.
- Attendance is taken at multiple points during the instructional day.

### Secondary Virtual Learning

- A variety of courses is offered in each grade level and pathway.
- Specialized programs such as: International Baccalaureate (IB), Aviation, Specialized High Skills Major and Environmental Leadership are not offered in our virtual program.
- Courses such as Dance, Music, Technology, Cooperative Education are not offered in our virtual program.
- A minimum of 225 synchronous (live) minutes of instruction each day for students. There will also be opportunities for independent, small group work/ learning.
- Timetables /schedules are consistent across secondary virtual schools to support student access to courses in more than one virtual school.
- Attendance is taken during each period.

## Digital Learning Platforms

All students in TVDSB in both the In-person Learning Model and Virtual Learning Model will be connected to a Digital Learning Platform (Brightspace or Google Classroom). Students will be provided with support, if required, to use these platforms.

Thames Valley asks all parents and guardians to keep in mind that public health officials may require schools to shift to remote learning as a result of the pandemic during the school year. Continuity of learning for our students will be supported if this transition occurs.

To support parents and guardians with understanding how to use these platforms, we have created several resources, which include videos, user guides and FAQs. These resources can be found at [www.tvdsb.ca/ParentTechSupports](http://www.tvdsb.ca/ParentTechSupports) and are available in multiple languages. Parents and guardians should reach out to their child(ren)'s teachers to learn more about the digital platform used for this school year.

## Technology Devices for Students

Students who are participating in virtual learning may request a loaned TVDSB device, if required. This device request should be made by the family through the student's home school. Students who are attending in-person classes may access TVDSB computing devices while at school.

## Daily Screening

Students must not come to school if they have symptoms/feel sick or are unwell. Daily screening of all students is required prior to students riding school transportation or attending school. Parents/ guardians will be provided with a checklist to complete this daily screening for each of their children (K-12) and are required to ensure their child(ren) pass the current COVID-19 screening tool. The screening tool can also be found on the Ministry's website at <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/school-screening/>. Students who are 18 or older are required to complete this screening tool themselves.

## Picking Up Students at School Who Are Exhibiting Symptoms

As part of our process to ensure the health and safety of students and staff, it is important to monitor signs and symptoms of students and staff during the school day. As such, if a student exhibits COVID-19 symptoms while at school, they will be relocated to a supervised designated location in the school. Staff will immediately contact the parent or guardian to pick up their child at school. We request that parents and guardians establish a process for the retrieval of their child if they are notified during the school day. Students will not be able to take school transportation if they have been isolated with symptoms.



## Attendance

Attendance will be taken for all students attending both in-person and in our virtual classes. For in-person learners, schedules and records will be maintained when students are in areas of the building other than their classroom. This will assist us with contact tracing should a positive case of COVID-19 be determined. Daily attendance, taken several times throughout the day, will also be taken for any student participating in virtual learning as there is an expectation by the Ministry of Education that student attendance in this learning model be monitored.

## Masking

Everyone must wear a face mask inside TVDSB schools and other TVDSB sites to help reduce the spread of COVID-19.

In Thames Valley, Kindergarten students are required to wear a mask following a Board of Trustee motion passed in August 2020. As such, all students (Kindergarten-Grade 8) will be required to wear a mask indoors in school, including in hallways and during classes.

Masks may be temporarily removed indoors for the following activities:

- Consuming food or beverages
- Singing
- The use of wind instruments

During these activities a minimum distance of two metres must be maintained between cohorts. Within cohorts as much distancing as possible must be ensured.

Masks are encouraged for indoor sports where they can be worn safely based on the activity (i.e., for all activities except where the heart rate is elevated for lengthy periods of time, such as during a basketball scrimmage). Masks must be worn during indoor sports while waiting to participate (e.g., on a bench, on the sidelines, etc.)

Students are not required to wear masks outdoors, but distancing will be encouraged.

Students are expected to bring their own masks to wear on student transportation and at school. Non-medical 3-ply masks will be available at school for students who require them.

## Mask Accommodations/Exemptions

Schools will review masking accommodations and exemption requests with a focus on student and staff safety. There is a process for parents and guardians to request, in writing, for their child(ren) to be approved for a mask accommodation or exemption. Please contact your child(ren)'s school for more information about this process.

## Staff Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)/Visitor Masking

TVDSB has prepared for all staff to have Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) which includes masks, face shields, gowns and gloves, as required.

Medical masks are required to be worn by school staff and approved visitors indoors at school, including in hallways and during classes.

Staff are not required to wear medical masks outdoors.

Parents and guardians can support younger students by helping them to understand that staff will be wearing PPE as part of the re-opening of schools.

## Hand Hygiene

Hand hygiene and mask wearing continue to be among the most important protective strategies against the transmission of COVID-19.

Schools will provide hand sanitizer in all classrooms and at school entrances. All staff, students and essential, approved visitors will be expected to practice proper hand hygiene, washing hands with soap and water or use hand sanitizer, at the following times:

- Upon entering the school
- At regular time intervals throughout day
- Before/after eating food
- After using the restroom
- Before/after outdoor play
- After sneezing or coughing
- Before/after use of shared materials
- Before putting on and after removing PPE and/or non-medical masks/face coverings

## Distancing and Congregating

Physical distancing is one of the many layers of public health measures that include screening, hand hygiene, cohorting, enhanced cleaning and masking to ensure student and staff safety.

As much physical distancing as possible will be practiced between students and between students and staff.

Desks will be placed to allow as much distancing as possible.

Periods of student movement will be staggered and visual reminders for distancing and traffic flow will be used throughout the school.

Cafeterias, libraries and auditoriums will be clearly marked to indicate room capacities and to ensure physical distancing.

## School Arrival, Departure and Signage

Drop-off and pick-up areas at schools will be equipped with reminder signs to parents/ guardians regarding the need for physical distancing. Schools may provide more information with respect to specific locations or “staging areas” for student drop-off/pick-up.

We recognize how important it is to provide safe drop-offs for students and appreciate parents'/ guardians' adherence to these new routines and processes.

## Recess and Outdoor Breaks

Students do not need to stay within their cohort during recess and breaks outdoors, but distancing will be encouraged between cohorts as much as possible.

Shared materials outdoors are permitted with appropriate hand hygiene.

## Cleaning and Disinfection Standards and Protocols for Schools

TVDSB is committed to ensuring the health and safety of students and staff. We continue to strive to have all high touch points thoroughly cleaned on a regular basis. All TVDSB staff will participate in mandatory COVID-19 training which includes revised cleaning protocols which are aligned to Ministry guidelines.

## Shared Materials

Shared materials are important for learning (for example, toys for imaginative play in kindergarten, manipulatives for math, computers and other tech materials, books, art supplies, indoor physical education equipment and shared outdoor equipment).

The use of shared materials is permitted. The risk associated with transmission with shared objects is low. Staff and students will practice regular hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette (masking) to reduce the risk of infection related to shared equipment.

## Shared Spaces

Shared homerooms, libraries (for group and individual use, for example, drop-in study time, etc.) and computer/technology labs, are permitted. Use of lockers/cubbies is permitted. When different cohorts interact in shared indoor spaces, masking and as much distancing as possible will be maintained between cohorts.

## Cafeteria Use and Lunch Protocols

Students may eat together:

- Outdoors, without distancing
- Indoors, with a minimum distance of two metres maintained between cohorts and as much distancing as possible within a cohort.

Schools will limit the number of students and cohorts eating lunch in proximity to each other (examples include staggered lunch periods, eating outdoors or in alternative spaces) where necessary.

Capacity limits for cafeterias in secondary schools will be established to enable two metres distancing. At this time, cafeterias and vending machines will not be selling food products. This service is expected to resume in November.

Students are permitted to eat offsite.

Students are encouraged to bring their own drink bottle that is labeled with their name.

## Food Programs

TVDSB will engage in a delayed start of food programs and non-instructional food events (such as pizza day). Schools may begin nutritional programs for students, if facilitated by staff. Hot lunches and other school-wide food programs may begin later this Fall.

## Assemblies

To begin our school year, we will continue with virtual or outdoor assemblies. Indoor assemblies may occur later in the school year.

## Visitors

We anticipate we will have a gradual return to welcoming visitors to our schools. To start the school year, visitors to the school will be limited to those who are essential and who have been approved by the School Administration. More information will follow regarding the requirements for approved visitors.

## Registration of New Students

Parents/guardians of new students are asked to register their child(ren) as soon as possible through our [online pre-registration process](#). Once the pre-registration documentation is received, parents/guardians will be provided with an appointment time to come to the school to show the appropriate documentation. Medical masks are required for all visits to schools.

## Student Transportation

Our bussing service, Southwestern Transportation Services (STS), will follow recommendations from the local health units for the safe transportation of students.

Please note school buses can operate at full capacity but, where possible, will limit capacity.

Masks are required for all riders (Kindergarten-Grade 12). Seating plans are required and must be adhered to by riders of all ages to support contact tracing.

STS reminds parents and guardians that bus stops are unsupervised and physical distancing is the responsibility of the students and their caregivers at the bus stop.

For more information, including STS's COVID-19 safety protocols, visit [www.mybigyellowbus.ca](http://www.mybigyellowbus.ca).

## Ventilation

Thames Valley is making ongoing efforts to optimize air quality in classrooms and learning environments through improving ventilation and/or filtration.

Parents, guardians and the community can be assured that all TVDSB schools will be operating within full compliance with the Ontario Building Code and with all Ministry of Education and Public Health guidelines.

Most TVDSB schools have full mechanical ventilation, which is routinely inspected and in good working order prior to the start of the school year. In addition, the systems use upgraded filters which are frequently changed. Ventilation systems are operated for extended hours throughout the day to increase air exchange and increase fresh air intake.

Thames Valley has invested more than \$64.5 million to install or upgrade mechanical ventilation systems over the last five years – with an additional \$15 million in system improvements during the summer of 2021.

By 2022, mechanical ventilation is expected to be installed at approximately 93 per cent of TVDSB schools.

For schools with limited mechanical ventilation, portable HEPA filtration units have been purchased for the re-opening of schools in September.

By September 2021, HEPA units will be in:

- Kindergarten classrooms in all TVDSB elementary schools
- All classrooms with students with complex medical and physical needs
- All common areas (classrooms, libraries, gymnasiums, guidance offices, staff rooms, etc.) in schools without mechanical ventilation

For more information on ventilation in TVDSB schools, visit <http://www.tvdsb.ca/ventilation>.

## Vaccination

Vaccination is an important tool to help stop the spread of COVID-19 and allow students, families, and staff to safely resume normal activities. TVDSB will follow direction from the Ministry of Education and our local health units. TVDSB will continue to work collaboratively with our local health units to support the opportunity for vaccinations for students and families in our district.

Recently, the Ministry of Education announced the requirement for all school boards to implement a COVID-19 immunization disclosure policy as an additional tool to advance safety and support local public health units in working with school boards to follow [COVID-19 Guidance: School Case, Contact, and Outbreak Management](#).

The policy will require that school boards ensure all school board employees undertake one of the following:

1. Provide proof of full vaccination against COVID-19; or
2. Provide a formal/official documented medical reason for not being vaccinated against COVID-19; or
3. Participate in an educational program approved by the Ministry of Education.

This approach will also apply to student placements, frequent school visitors (e.g., school nutrition program staff), and other professionals who deliver services in schools. It will also apply to student transportation drivers.

School board employees, student transportation drivers, frequent visitors and other professionals, who are not immunized, including those with medical reasons, will be required to complete regular COVID-19 testing as directed by the province. TVDSB is working on an implementation plan of this process.

## Mental Health and Student Support

We know that the COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on students, their families and staff. We are prioritizing the creation of school community and connection. It is important for the conditions of psychological safety, belonging, inclusivity, and connection to be established as students return to learning in both learning models.

In both in-person and virtual learning, our TVDSB professional staff will continue to support and provide service to students. This may be through in-person, phone or virtual means. Professional Services staff will provide in-person consultation and support for educators on social-emotional and mental health and well-being strategies in the classroom. TVDSB will also support school staff with additional information that is provided in the School Mental Health Ontario learning framework and toolkit.

All student and parent/guardian supports can be found on our website under [Mental Health and Well-Being](#).

# ACADEMIC PROGRAMS AND REQUIREMENTS

## Cooperative Education

For students enrolled in cooperative education courses, in-person community placements may be arranged provided that relevant health and safety requirements can be maintained. If in-person placements are not possible, students may be offered virtual placements.

## Music

Music programs will be in place in TVDSB schools this year. Singing is permitted indoors. Masking is not required if a minimum distance of two metres can be maintained between cohorts and as much distancing as possible maintained within a cohort.

Use of wind instruments is permitted indoors, within a cohort, if a minimum distance of two metres can be maintained. Use of wind instruments is permitted outdoors, in mixed cohorts, with distancing encouraged. Proper sanitization of wind instruments will occur between use.

## Health and Physical Education

The use of gymnasiums, change rooms, weight rooms, indoor physical education equipment and shared outdoor equipment are permitted with distancing. Windows should be opened when feasible to increase ventilation.

Masking is not required when playing high or low contact activities outdoors. Masking is encouraged for high-contact indoor sports where they can be worn safely.

High-Contact Sports	Low-Contact Sports
Basketball	Badminton
Football	Cross Country
Hockey	Curling
Lacrosse	Gymnastics
Rugby	Swimming
Soccer	Track & Field
Wrestling	Volleyball



## Field Trips

Day trips and overnight stays are currently on hold. Field Trips to TVDSB's Environmental Education Centres are permitted provided supervision ratios are met by TVDSB staff only.

## EQAO

This year, regular EQAO assessments for students in Grades 3 and 6 will resume in the new online format for math, reading and writing in the spring of 2022. The Grade 9 Math Assessment will also occur in online format. Future communication to families with students enrolled in Grade 9 Math will outline if this assessment may count towards a student's final mark.

EQAO assessments are required to be done in-person at the school. Students learning virtually can choose to participate in the EQAO assessments in person if all applicable health and safety measures can be met.

## Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT)

The OSSLT will be administered online this year for all in-person learners. Students who will graduate in 2021-22 are exempt from the literacy graduation requirement. More information will be provided by individual secondary schools. Students learning virtually can choose to participate in the OSSLT in person if all applicable health and safety measures can be met.

## Community Involvement Graduation Requirements

The community involvement graduation requirement has been reduced from 40 hours to a minimum of 20 hours for students graduating in the 2021-22 school year.

Temporary changes to reduce barriers students may face to earn their community involvement hours will continue for the 2021-22 school year. For the 2021-2022 school year eligible activities include:

- Activities that take place during the time allotted for the instructional program on a school day (e.g., walking a younger neighbour or sibling to and from school, helping younger siblings with their homework);
- Activities that include up to 10 hours of paid work, with the requirement to complete a reflection exercise indicating how their work contributed to service for others (e.g., grocery work during the pandemic); and
- Activities that consist of duties normally performed in the home (e.g., students could help an elderly relative with errands, provide after-school care for a sibling).

The community involvement graduation requirement of 40 hours will be restored in 2022-23. Students are encouraged to take advantage of these more flexible activities and ensure that their hours are properly documented at the school in the upcoming school year. Students and families can connect with their guidance counsellors for additional information.

## Extracurricular Activities

Currently, school-based clubs, activities, sports teams, bands (with wind instruments outdoors) and other extracurriculars are permitted with restrictions. Cohorts may interact outdoors with physical distancing encouraged, and indoors with masking and appropriate physical distancing. TVDSB is planning on a safe return to these activities for students and therefore, some activities may begin in a staggered manner. Staff are required to document daily attendance at these activities in order to support contact tracing. More information will be provided to students and families by school staff.

## Before and After School Programs

All Child Care Centres and Before/After School Programs are allowed to operate. These services are offered by third-party operators. Please contact the providers directly for more information.

## Community of Schools

Community use of schools is permitted provided activities are aligned with public health guidance and direction and TVDSB requirements.

## STUDENTS WITH HEALTH CONDITIONS

Some students will not be able to take part in the In-Person Learning model due to health conditions or other reasons. For this group of students, the Virtual Learning model will be provided and TVDSB will support these students in this model of learning.

## SUPPORTING STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Supporting students with special education needs will continue to be a priority. All staff in the TVDSB Special Education Department will actively support students in all learning models. School-based staff (e.g., Learning Support Teachers and Educational Assistants) will work as a multi-disciplinary team to collaborate with the classroom and Virtual Learning Teachers, students, and their families to ensure students with special education needs receive the support they need to be successful in any learning model.

Plans have been developed at each school to ensure that students with special needs are supported as they transition back to school. Professional Services staff will also work with individual school teams to develop and implement programs and services designed to fit students with special education needs, in support of their transition back to school.

The Identification, Placement and Review Committee (IPRC) process will be followed as per the TVDSB's Special Education Plan 2021-2022. The completion of all Annual IPRC Reviews and new IPRCs will proceed either in person or in a virtual format (as per parent(s)/guardian(s) preference).

- Students will have access to their Special Education Assistive (SEA) Technology in the Virtual Learning model. This includes computing devices (iPads, Chromebooks, and laptops) as well as mobility devices, sensory equipment, etc.

# MANAGEMENT OF COVID-19 IN SCHOOLS

The Ministry of Education and Public Health have provided direction in the Guidance to Schools Case, Outbreak and Management document. The processes are outlined in this directive. TVDSB is committed to communicating with families and staff in alignment with Ministry and local health unit practices.

In the event that schools are made aware of a positive diagnosis of COVID-19 for staff or students, key information pertaining to staff and students will be made available to our public health units, upon request, for contact tracing purposes.

For more information on the management of probable or confirmed COVID-19 cases in schools please visit the Ministry of Education website.

## PRIVACY

Staff will follow the directions from the local health units in terms of what medical/health information can be shared related to students or their families and that of TVDSB staff. TVDSB is appreciative that parents and guardians understand that not all personal information can be shared due to privacy concerns.

## CONCLUSION

The health and safety of students, their families and staff are our priority.

We remain committed to the TVDSB community and will provide regular updates on our Return to Learn plans over the next month. As we work together to plan for our return to learn and work, we value the collaboration of our stakeholders and partners.

Our TVDSB priorities are our commitments to relationships, equity and diversity, student achievement and well-being and these will continue to guide our work together as we plan for the safe return to learn at TVDSB.