

PUBLIC BOARD GIVES UPDATE FOR REST OF SCHOOL YEAR

DOES YOUR CHILD HAVE TO MASK ON A BUS? WHAT WILL GRAD LOOK LIKE?

LOUIE ROSELLA
lrosella@metroland.com

The Halton District School Board released on Thursday, March 10 an update on COVID-19 protocols that includes graduation plans, cohorting, masking and other measures.

These and others are now changing after the Government of Ontario announcement March 9 that some COVID-19 health and safety measures will be lifted effective Monday, March 21 and will impact all Ontario schools.

INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL REQUIREMENTS

"As a reminder, upon return from international travel, the Government of Canada requires

individuals to wear a mask at all times when in public spaces (including schools and child care), maintain a list of all close contacts for 14 days upon return to Canada and monitor for signs and symptoms of COVID-19," the board said. "The COVID-19 school screening tool has been updated to align with recent changes made to federal travel requirements."

MASKING

Masks will no longer be required for students, staff and visitors in schools, school board offices and on student transportation such as buses.

"We know that many students and staff may choose to continue to wear masks at times, or consistently for the remainder of the school year," the board said in its notification to parents and students. "Masks will continue to be available for students and staff who wish to continue to wear them."

COHORTING AND PHYSICAL DISTANCING REQUIREMENTS

Grouping students together and ensuring physical distancing to limit exposure is no longer required in classrooms or during outdoor breaks, the board said. School assemblies may resume and shared spaces such as libraries, tech labs, music rooms, etc. can be used without distancing, the board said.

ISOLATION REQUIREMENTS

Individuals with symptoms of COVID-19 are presumed to have COVID-19, whether or not this is confirmed by a rapid antigen/PCR test, and they should "self-isolate immediately," the board said.

But, household members without symptoms of COVID-19 who live with a confirmed case or someone with symptoms, are no longer required to isolate if they: are 17 or younger and fully vaccinated, are 18-plus and fully vacci-



Metroland file photo

Here's what students and parents need to know about the rest of the school year.

nated and have received their COVID-19 booster, or have tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 90 days and completed their isolation period.

Children under five without symptoms who live with a confirmed case or someone with symptoms are required to isolate for five days, the board said.

COVID-19 SCHOOL SCREENING REQUIREMENTS

All students learning in person must continue to complete the Government of Ontario online COVID-19 school screening

tool prior to attending school each day, the board said. But, providing daily confirmation of completing the screening tool will no longer be required. The screening tool has been updated to reflect updated isolation and self-monitoring requirements.

COVID-19 CASE AND CONTACT MANAGEMENT

If school absence rates rise to approximately 30 per cent (above baseline), principals will continue to notify Halton Region Public Health and families will be made aware. Schools will continue to report absence rates to the Ministry of Education daily.

GRADUATIONS/END-OF-SCHOOL-YEAR CELEBRATIONS

"At this time, these activities will be able to occur," the board said. "Schools will move forward with planning for these end-of-year celebrations. Future communication will be provided by schools."

Culligan Water™



**NO Payments
NO Interest
For
One Year!***

📍 5 Mountainview Rd N, Georgetown

☎ (905) 877-6242

🌐 www.culligan.com | info@culliganwater.ca

*On OAC. Dealer participation may vary.



Elite Home Nursing Care

- Over 14 years of diverse nursing care
- Urgent, Short Term & Long Term Care Options
 - Senior, Medical, Palliative at Home and Wellness Care
 - No Contracts or Minimums - provides you savings over larger agencies

WELCOME LYNN!

I am so very pleased to welcome Lynn to the Elite Home Nursing Care team! Lynn is a Personal Support Worker with 19 years of solid experience providing a variety of care for seniors. Lynn has a gentle, humorous and highly compassionate energy that will reassure clients and families that top notch care is what you or loved ones can expect to receive! Our community is lucky to have her!

-Lisa Zablony, RPN, Owner

📞 416-833-8203 🌐 www.elitehomenursingcare.ca