



North Cavan Public School
2001 County Road #10
Cavan, ON L0A 1C0

<http://northcavan.kprdsb.ca>

School office: 705-944-5366 School Fax: 705-944-4013



Principal: Jennifer Johnston Jennifer_j_johnston@kprdsb.ca
Superintendent: Anne Marie Duncan anne_duncan@kprdsb.ca
Trustee: Angela Lloyd angela_lloyd@kprdsb.ca
School Council Chair: Mary Benson marysemp863@hotmail.com

January 2022

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We would like to welcome you back to in-person learning. We are excited to have students back in the building. We also understand that some families may feel uncomfortable returning at this time. We are planning for a safe return to in-person learning. Thank you for all you have done to support your child during remote learning, as well as the return to school.

Information has been shared from our Director regarding the changes, enhanced measures and supports for returning to school. Our team has also been working to include these changes in our school routines and expectations. We continue to take direction from The Ministry of Education and guidelines from our public health partners to ensure safety at school. We appreciate your diligence in ensuring you complete the daily screening before sending your child to school each day. We want to ensure we all do our part in keeping our classrooms safe. This newsletter will include information about what to expect when your child returns to school.

If you are choosing to delay the return to school, please contact your child's teacher and the office. We will communicate with you to determine the next steps. The portal to switch to the Virtual Elementary School is open now and will close on January 21, 2022.

We would also like to inform you of some staffing changes. We wish JoAnne Mitchell-Agar congratulations on her retirement. Ms. Mitchell-Agar retired at the end of December. She made incredible contributions to the North Cavan school community in her 16 years of teaching. She will be missed. This position will be filled soon. We would like to welcome Cassidy Connelly to the .25 Overlay position. Ms. Connelly will be teaching some subjects to the Grade 2 and Grade 3 classes.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Johnston
Principal

Provincial Screening Tool and KPR Screening Confirmation

Our primary tool to ensure student safety is the completion of the [Daily Self-Assessment Tool](#) before coming to school. There have been changes to the symptoms list and the requirements for isolation. If the screening tool advises that your child must stay home, please scroll down to see the next steps screen which will let you know if your child and your household will need to isolate. **Most importantly, students and staff must not come to school when they are ill.**

After completing the screening, please fill out the [KPR Daily Screening Confirmation Form](#) for each of the students in your household. Multiple students can be added to the form. This form must be completed each day.

Updated Mask Protocol

ALL students must wear a properly fitting cloth or medical mask, except for those with approved medical exemptions. This now includes kindergarten students. Note: neck gators and bandanas are not a substitute for masks. Masks must have ear loops or head straps and properly fit your child. Masks must be worn over the nose and mouth.

Masks are required both indoors and outdoors.

Students who do not comply with the mask protocols will result in parents/guardians being contacted and possible exclusion from school or buses.

Students are encouraged to bring a few masks to school each day. Masks that become wet or soiled are no longer effective. Students will also have access to a limited supply of 3- ply cloth masks at school.

ALL parents, guardians and caregivers are required to wear masks on school property at all times.



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The full updated mask protocol can be found [here](#).

We will notify parents/guardians when these are sent home. Schools will also have a limited supply of PCR tests on hand. These will be distributed to students and staff who develop symptoms while they are at school, while supplies last.

Virtual Learning Portal

For any families who wish to transfer to virtual learning for the rest of the school year, the [Virtual Learning Portal](#) is now open to accept transfer requests. Virtual learning requests will be accepted for elementary students from **January 13 - 21**, with students transitioning to **Virtual Elementary School (VES)** February 1.

While students wait to begin in the VES, they will continue to be connected to their current class and can discuss options for doing this with their school principal.

Ventilation

North Cavan has centrally controlled air refresh system, monitored and maintained in optimal condition by qualified staff. Higher grade air filters (MERV 13 filters) have been installed. The system also has alarms so that the Board can identify and fix problems immediately. KPR has also upgraded the minimum amount of fresh air in our air exchange systems from 20% to at least 35%.

Over the past year, 2 stand-alone HEPA (high efficiency particulate air) filters were placed in Kindergarten classrooms. There is also a HEPA filter in one portable. One additional filter was received to support in other areas of the school, such as the Sick Room and staff areas. All classrooms and portables are serviced by either HVAC system or stand-alone HEPA filters.

Air inside KPR schools is totally exchanged 1-2 hours before students and staff arrive each day. KPRDSB also hired an independent HVAC consultant to review all plans to ensure the best possible steps are made for the next 5 years at schools.



WEAR YOUR MASK AT SCHOOL!
STAY SAFE!

COVID-19 Reporting Confirmed Cases

Due to recent provincial changes to case and contact management by the Ministry of Health and Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health, schools and school boards are not required to report COVID-19 cases in schools.

As part of KPRDSB's commitment to support student and staff safety and open communication, when we are informed of possible exposure as a result of positive PCR or Rapid Antigen Tests, we will share that information with affected classes/staff and/or buses. Letters will be sent to those individuals.

Public Health will no longer be dismissing students or staff as close contacts when there are confirmed or suspected COVID cases in schools. **In accordance with public health guidelines, students and staff who may have been exposed to COVID at school are NOT required to isolate themselves as close contacts, unless they do not pass the [school screening tool](#).**

Rapid Antigen Tests

The provincial government has announced plans to provide two Rapid Antigen Tests to all staff and students. We will distribute our allocation as soon as it is available.



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For more information regarding ventilation in our schools, please visit:
https://www.kprschools.ca/en/our_schools/SchoolImprovements.html

Information on Safe Return Link

ABCs of Back to In-person Learning!

To further help with some of the questions parents may have around returning to in-person learning, we encourage everyone to [watch the recorded presentation](#) with local medical officers of health.



What to Expect when Students Return:

Cohorts – Students will remain with their own class during instructional time and on the yard. Limiting the number of contacts is important for preventing the spread of COVID-19, especially the Omicron variant.

Recess – Students will wear their masks at recess. Classes will be designated an area of the yard for recess. These areas will be rotated for older grades to give them access to other areas of the yard. Due to winter weather and the frozen ground, play structures will remain closed for safety reasons. Students are welcome to share equipment such as balls, Frisbees, etc. at recess.

Arrival – Students will proceed directly into the school on the first day returning from remote learning. On subsequent days, students will line up on their designated spots, physically-distanced and in their own cohorts until the entry bell at 9:15 a.m.

Kindergarten students will be supervised in their designated area of the yard.

Classes will enter the school separately to avoid mixing co-orts, as much as possible.

Eating time: Students will remain in their seats and may remove masks while eating. As soon as they have finished eating or drinking, masks will be put back. Windows will be open, wear possible to help with ventilation as recommended by the government. Students are encouraged to bring a sweater to wear in class.

Visitors and Guests: We will be pausing previously organized visits from Think Outside – Nature Nancy and Jimmy Chapman, NRG Breakdancing.

Virtual Assembly: Teachers will be teaching students the new expectations when they arrive at school. We will continue to support them with reminders and re-teaching in the first week. Students will be welcome back to school with a Virtual Assembly. Roaree's Kindness Cubs will make an appearance.

Breakfast Program and Lunch Programs – These programs will continue.

Inclement Weather

Schools will be open when busses are cancelled. When busses are cancelled in the morning, they are also cancelled in the afternoon. Those who wish to attend and are driven to school must be picked up at 3:35 p.m. dismissal. For further information visit <https://www.stsco.ca/delays-cancellations.asp>



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Important Dates:

Virtual Learning Portal Open: January 13 – 21, 2022

PA Day: January 31, 2022

VES transfer day: February 1, 2022

Family Day: February 21, 2022

Pink Shirt Day: February 23, 2022