



RETURN TO SCHOOL PLAN

SOUTH SHORE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL
SEPTEMBER 2021



REOPENING SSCS!

- The reopening plans incorporate a risk reduction strategy based on the best evidence provided by the Association of Christian Schools Inc.(aka ACSI), Windsor Essex County Health Unit and Ministry of Education.
- If a child or someone in the child's household has a medical condition such as diabetes, cancer, high-blood pressure or a compromised immune system, we encourage you to speak to your health care provider when deciding to return to school.
- We recognize that some people may still have further questions after reading this report. Please feel free to contact any Board member or the Principal with questions or concerns.

REOPENING, TEACHING AND LEARNING



- Screening
- School Arrival
- Physical Distancing
- Hand Hygiene and Respiratory Etiquette
- Suspected cases / positive test results
- Personal Protective Equipment
- Cleaning
- Communication and Outdoor Learning
- Recess
- Visitors
- Lunch and Hot Lunch
- Ventilation
- Vaccinations
- Mental Health & Resources
- Music and Worship
- Physical Education
- Extracurricular Activities and Field Trips



SCREENING

- Ensuring that students and staff are symptom free before entering any of our schools will be of critical importance.
- Prior to entering the school, all staff will be required to complete a self assessment on a daily basis. Staff members will promptly notify the principal if they fail their daily self – assessment. Staff must stay at home, self-isolate, and contact the Windsor Essex County Health Unit (WECHU) for further direction. Staff members who are ill will follow normal procedures for reporting absences.
- Parents are required to assess their children daily and disclose whether they are experiencing any signs of illness, and are expected to keep them home if they are. Parents will be provided a checklist to perform daily screening of their children before arriving at school.
- Signs with all of the self-assessment screening questions will be posted on the exterior doors of our school.
- Staff members will be provided with information on signs and symptoms of COVID-19 so that appropriate action can be taken if children develop symptoms during the day.



SCHOOL ARRIVAL

- Prior to the first day of school, all families will be notified of their child's teacher and designated entrance door to enter their classroom.
- Students will be assigned designated entrances/exits.
- Drop-off/pick-up should include parents staying in their vehicles and students walking two meters apart.

PHYSICAL DISTANCING

- Maintaining proper physical distancing between students and staff whenever possible is important.
- When students are not in their classrooms, all efforts will be made to ensure that students maintain appropriate physical distancing. Unnecessary furniture and desks will be spread apart as much as possible to allow as much teaching space as possible.
- To maintain distancing in hallways, washrooms and common areas, there will be staggered start/end times for classes. Posting signs and marking traffic flow directions on walls as well as limiting the use of the washroom may also be implemented.

HAND HYGIENE AND RESPIRATORY ETIQUETTE



- Proper hand hygiene is one of the most effective strategies to prevent the spread of most respiratory viruses including COVID 19.
- Students and staff will be encouraged to wash their hands regularly, practice proper respiratory etiquette and to avoid touching their face, eyes, nose and mouth. Regularly scheduled hand hygiene breaks will be incorporated into the school's routine.
- Free-standing hand sanitizer dispensers will be placed at entrances and exits, and hallways. Parents are encouraged to send their children to school with personal hand sanitizer if possible.

SUSPECTED CASES AND POSITIVE TEST RESULTS

- Any student who experiences symptoms of illness while in school will follow the same procedures as in the past by separating them from others, in a separate room where possible. Isolated students will be supervised, physical distancing maintained, and personal protective equipment provided.
- Schools will notify parents/caregivers immediately and they will be told to pick up their child from school as soon as possible. Parents will be directed to consult their health care provider.
- Parents or guardians should immediately inform the school if their child has tested positive for COVID-19 and will not be attending school.
- If a staff member develops symptoms of illness, they will be directed to return home and seek medical attention. If they cannot leave immediately, the staff member will be isolated in a specific area until they are able to leave.
- School will report confirmed cases of COVID-19 within the school to the local health unit.
- To support successful case and contact management, schools will ensure records of classes, transported students, and visitors to the school are maintained and readily available to be provided to public health for contact tracing purposes.
- In the event that a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19, the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit will manage all of the contact tracing, with support from the Board. It is unknown at this point whether or not the entire school will shut down for a limited time, or something different.

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)



- Students in Grades 1 to 8 will be required to wear non-medical or cloth masks indoors in school, including in hallways and during classes. Outdoor times like recess can be used as opportunities to provide students with breaks from wearing masks within their cohorts.
- Students in Kindergarten will be encouraged but not required to wear masks in indoor spaces.
- Students may wear their own non-medical masks, and non-medical masks will also be made available for students. Reasonable exceptions on the requirement to wear masks will apply.
- School-based staff who are regularly in close contact with students will be provided with appropriate personal protective equipment. Staff will be trained on the care, use and limitations of any PPE. A resource for staff can be found on the Public Health Ontario's website:
<https://www.publichealthontario.ca/-/media/documents/ncov/ipac/ppe-recommended-steps>
Recommended Steps for Putting On and Taking Off Personal Protective Equipment.

PPE continued

- A PPE kit will be made available in the event that a student, staff or essential visitor becomes ill while at the school. This kit will include instructions on proper use, alcohol-based hand rub, disposable gloves, surgical masks, and gown as well as eye protection.
- Masks should be changed if visibly soiled, damp or damaged.
- Parents and students would be responsible for the safe use during the school day and ensuring cleanliness of the mask.
- It is encouraged to bring a spare mask in case there is a need to change their mask throughout the day.
- Students with sensory or breathing difficulties may be exempted by the principal.

CLEANING

- Cleaning protocols will be enhanced as a method of reducing the likelihood of transmission.
- Additional cleaning volunteers will be required for the duration of the pandemic and will be responsible solely for enhanced cleaning protocols which follow the guidelines of the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit. They will focus primarily on cleaning and disinfecting touch points throughout the day, with special emphasis on most often and commonly touched surfaces including door knobs, sinks, bathrooms and other horizontal surfaces.
- Students and staff will also be encouraged to promote constant and good cleaning practices.

COMMUNICATION and OUTDOOR LEARNING



- Communication between school staff, Board members and families will be through Google Classroom, emails, texts, or phone calls. There will be opportunities to talk directly to your child's teacher with pre-arranged meeting times.
- Signage will be posted throughout the school to help children remember safety protocols.
- Our teachers plan to have as much outside class time as possible in order to allow students a break from wearing their mask. More picnic tables will be provided for the students to do their school work outside. We will attempt to never have students wear their mask for more than 50 minutes at a time.

RECESS AND PLAYGROUNDS

- There will be 2 recess times. Hand Hygiene will take place prior to and following outdoor activity times.
- Proper sanitizing of equipment will be implemented.





VISITORS

- Any visitors to the school are required to self-screen, sign in and out and wear a medical mask while on the school premises.
- Visits to ensure school safety, such as inspections by fire prevention officers or by public health, will continue to take place.



LUNCH AND HOT LUNCH

- Students will be required to bring their own food, eat at their desks or outdoors if possible.
- Students will not be allowed to share any food.
- Hot Lunches will be implemented following health guidelines.
- The use of common spaces such as the gymnasium and kitchen will be scheduled by the principal.

VENTILATION

- SSCS has installed “Lifebreath” fresh air exchanges in all classrooms for the protection of all students and staff.
- Outdoor learning will be encouraged as much as possible to all students fresh air.





Vaccinations

School Employees:

SSCS requires one of the following:

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

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

Individuals who are not immunized, including those with medical reasons, will be required to complete regular COVID-19 testing as directed in provincial guidance.

Children/Adults over 12 yrs old

Vaccinations will not be mandated by SSCS.



MENTAL HEALTH

- We understand that students may have been struggling with mental health issues such as anxiety and depression as a result of school closures, isolation as well as wearing a mask.
- Our teachers will be provided with additional training and resources to better identify students who are struggling in order to refer them to the appropriate services if necessary.
- Parents who feel that their children require mental health support should call the school office or call one of the following services:



MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES

- Kids Help Phone: This is the only 24/7 support service available. Professional counselling, information, and referrals are provided. Volunteer-led, text-based support is offered in both English and French. For immediate help you can call or text.
- Call: 1-800-668-6868
- Text CONNECT to 686868
- Windsor-Essex County Telehealth Options:
- RCC (Replaces Walk-In Clinic): Provides quick, confidential access to mental health services for children and youth up to 18 years of age.
- Hours: Monday to Thursday, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Friday 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- Call 519-257-5437
- Windsor-Essex Counselling Support Line (24/7 during pandemic): Professional counsellors who are members of the Ontario College of Social Workers.
- Call 519-946-3277 or 1-877-451-1055

MUSIC and WORSHIP

- Every morning students will gather for worship time including songs and bible verses in the gymnasium (or other)
- Masks will be required
- Singing indoors is permitted with a physical distancing of 2 metres being maintained between cohorts.
- Music classes will continue to be delivered during the school year. At this time, students will receive lessons that focus on singing, theory and music appreciation.



PHYSICAL EDUCATION

- Where possible, consideration will be given to holding physical education classes outside.
- Masking is not required when playing high or low contact activities outdoors.
- Masking is encouraged but not mandated for indoor sports where they can be worn safely based on the activity.
- Physical distancing will be encouraged.



EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES AND FIELD TRIPS

- Initially, there will be no external extracurricular activities or field trips. We will monitor the situation and make decisions in the near future.
- Day Trips and overnight stays will be permitted under the Reopening Ontario Act as soon as possible.

