



# RETURN TO SCHOOL PLAN

SOUTH SHORE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL  
AUGUST 2020



# 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, Ministry of Education and the most recent Sick Kids Hospital's recommendations for school reopening.
- 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
- Recess
- Visitors
- Lunch and Hot Lunch
- Scheduling
- 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 via SSCS Screening App. 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 or SSCS Screening App 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. More information on how this will be done in the most effective and efficient manner will be provided as time goes on.





# 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.
- Chapel area may be used for additional classroom space if necessary.

# 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.
- Portable hand washing stations will be made available for each classroom.
- 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 4 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 to Grade 3 will be encouraged but not required to wear masks in indoor spaces. Students are encouraged to practice wearing masks and learn what type of mask is most comfortable for them.
- 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.



# 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 and other horizontal surfaces.
- A room by room analysis has been completed and any area rugs, soft furnishings or other items that cannot be easily cleaned and disinfected will be removed and stored.
- 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 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

- Recess times will be staggered to support cohorting. Hand Hygiene will take place prior to and following outdoor activity times.
- Proper sanitizing of equipment will be implemented.







# VISITORS

- At this time, only essential visitors will be allowed to enter the school and must do so by making pre-arranged appointments.
- Parents will not be allowed to enter schools at this time, except in case of emergency.
- Communication between parents and teaching staff or administration will be through phone calls or email.
- Visits to ensure school safety, such as inspections by fire prevention officers or by public health, will continue to take place.
- Any visitors to a school will be required to self-screen and to wear a mask while on school premises.

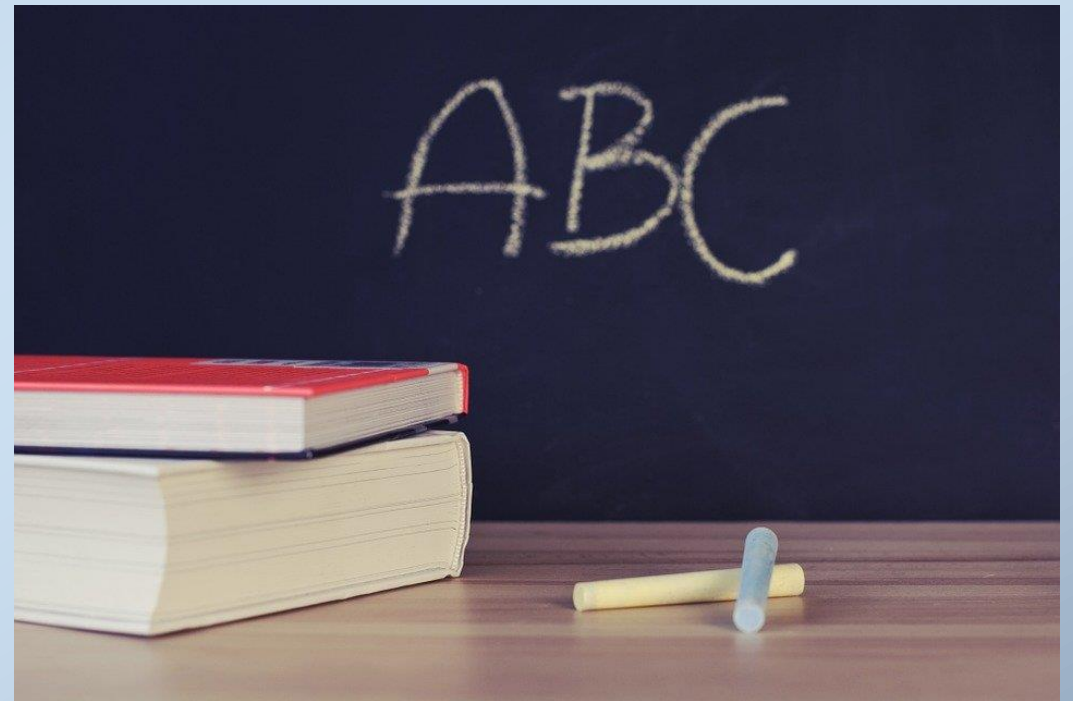


# LUNCH AND HOT LUNCH

- 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 modified to offer students prepackaged or individualized snacks. Parent volunteers who would typically oversee the programs will not be utilized at this time. Such programs will be maintained by school staff. Our goal will be to try various food options from local restaurants.
- The use of common spaces such as the chapel and kitchen will be scheduled by the principal.

# SCHEDULING

- SSCS will follow a conventional school day with enhanced safety measures. All students will attend a full day of school, five days a week with the exception of JK/SK where this program will run 3 days one week and 2 days the following week.





# 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

- Each morning students will start the day with their own in-class worship time including songs and bible versus. This will be done at the discretion of each teacher.
- Music will continue to be delivered during the school year. At this time, students will receive lessons that focus on theory and music appreciation.



# PHYSICAL EDUCATION

- Where possible, consideration will be given to holding physical education classes outside. All equipment used by students must be properly sanitized. In the event that equipment is shared between students (ex. baseball bat), proper sanitization will be required prior to transition from student to student and class to class.





# EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES AND FIELD TRIPS

- Initially, there will be no extracurricular activities or field trips. We will monitor the situation and make decisions about these activities as guidelines change.
- Any large gatherings such as chapel will be cancelled for the foreseeable future.

