



August 26, 2021

To all students and parents/guardians:

Re: School Reopening Guidelines for 2021-2022 School Year

We are excited to welcome students back to in-person learning when the 2021-2022 school year begins! We hope that you enjoyed a well-deserved summer vacation with family and friends.

Yellowknife School Boards and District Education Authorities in Dettah and Ndilo continue to work closely with the GNWT's Department of Education, Culture and Employment (ECE) and the Office of the Chief Public Health Officer (OCPHO) to ensure a safe learning environment when schools reopen. The OCPHO is responsible for setting the standards to ensure we have effective practices to keep us as safe as possible during the pandemic.

School reopenings have the potential to be high-risk for COVID-19 transmission. As a result, Yellowknife, Dettah and Ndilo schools are committed to providing the safest learning environment for everyone. The OCPHO's recommendations are reflected in the following health and safety requirements that will be in place when schools reopen:

- In response to the OCPHO public health order issued on August 25, 2021, masking is **mandatory** for all students and staff (JK-12) in all school settings at all times.
- Masking is **mandatory** for all students (JK-12) on school buses.
- Drama classes or musical productions, singing, choir and playing of wind-blown musical instruments will not be permitted at this time.
- Physical education programming or extra-curricular activities that involve high contact sports or activities will not be permitted.
- No sports or non-sports competitions, tournaments, events will be permitted at this time.
- Assemblies, concerts/events and other gatherings will not be permitted at this time.
- Students will remain in their classroom bubbles at all times, including during lunch and recess. No eating in communal areas.
- Students and staff are to continue using personal supplies of materials and equipment, sharing is not permitted.
- Regular hand washing, screening for symptoms daily, and increased disinfecting and sanitizing in all schools is still required.
- Visitors are restricted from entering buildings. This ensures that our students interact with as few people as possible. Parents/guardians are to pick up and drop off their children outdoors until further notice.



Daily screening for symptoms is an important mitigation strategy for preventing the spread of COVID-19. Parents are expected to monitor their child(ren) for COVID-19 symptoms before school every day. Students and staff will not be permitted to attend school if they have symptoms. The latest screening tool for students, staff and early childcare workers can be found [here](#). A healthcare practitioner will also determine when it is safe for a student or staff member to return to school following a period of self-isolation or illness.

If a school has a case of COVID-19, the OCPHO will be requesting that unvaccinated students stay home for 10 days and that vaccinated students can remain in school, but must wear a mask. To prevent the spread of COVID-19, we encourage all members of our school communities to get vaccinated. You can learn more about the vaccine on the GNWT's website [here](#).

For school-specific questions, please contact your child(ren)'s school directly.

Sincerely,

Yellowknife Education District No. 1
Yellowknife Catholic Schools
Commission scolaire francophone des Territoires du Nord-Ouest
Ndiilo District Education Authority
Dettah District Education Authority