

Key Health & Safety Routines for Students at c'usqunela

Dear Families,

As we approach the return to class for the students I wanted to share with you **a few** of our school's health and safety protocols to give you a better sense of what you should expect for your child. Hopefully this additional information will give you a better sense of the thoughtful manner in which we are approaching this provincial return to school plan. Many of these approaches were in place and worked well last June when we had almost 50% of the students return. I hope it gives you even more confidence that your child(ren) is safe and well cared for at c'usqunela!

1. The province's mandated daily student and staff health checks means that this year anyone entering our school is expected to be healthy and symptom free. As a staff, we will be monitoring for illness, and there will be a timely removal of any symptomatic students (or staff) from classroom settings. If any student becomes sick during the day school we will call the parents to request pick up and discuss next steps. We have a new normal with regards to flu and colds, and for the safety of everyone, anyone experiencing symptoms can't remain in classrooms.
2. Our school building is basically closed to the public so only teaching staff and students who are doing daily health screens may enter. Parents and others must make special arrangements to enter c'usqunela.
3. Each of our classrooms will be its own cohort or individual "bubble". Each classroom will operate a lot like a small school within our bigger context. There will be very limited contact between classes indoors. Things like assemblies, and bigger activities where classes interact together, are "paused" during this time. So, even though there are many children within the school, your child will really only interact with their teacher and classroom peers inside the building. Any staff working in close contact with students that are in classrooms beyond their cohort class are required to wear a mask.
4. Our school has a regular hand washing schedule through out the building to ensure students hands are clean when they enter the school, eat, participate in recess/lunch, and after any other activities where they maybe using shared equipment.
5. Outside at recess and lunch we will again be having separate recess and lunch play times. Only half of the school will be outside playing at any one time. Outdoors there is a very low transmission risk so with reduced student numbers, hand washing routines, and the fact that most children play mostly with their classmates already you can be confident that during these play times there is low risk for transmission.

6. To reduce congestion during drop off/ pick up times both around the school grounds, and near our POD entrances, we will be implementing a staggered entry system. Classroom teachers will be asking their individual classes to enter and exit their POD in five minute intervals (ie 8:30/8:35/8:40). This will allow for less congested entry points and good hand washing routines. We will do a similar staggered release approach at the end of the school day. Staff will provide further details once children know who their classroom teacher will be.
7. There is extra custodial time in place for cleaning high touch points during the school during the day as well as the regular evening cleaning times.
8. Our beautiful school is very well designed to accommodate the new health and safety protocols. We have brand new heating and ventilation systems, big wide hallways, open POD spaces, touchless taps, and touchless toilet flushes. There are many school features which allow us to social distance and reduce common touch points.

I hope that this snapshot of some of our health and safety procedures will help you to feel confident that our school has a good plan to maintain a safe learning space for your children.