

February 1, 2022

Dear Private and Parochial School Partners,

This letter is to inform you that Huron Perth Public Health (HPPH) has updated the **Public Health Instructions for Private Schools**. The changes to the Instructions reflect updated provincial testing, case and contact management guidance, and additional public health measures for schools, in response to the Omicron surge.

What has changed?

Screening

- Schools must confirm completion of daily screening of their staff, students, and visitors at the start of every school day, or before entering the school.

Isolation

- Individuals who test positive for COVID-19 or who have symptoms must isolate for 5 or 10 days depending on their vaccination status. Household members must isolate for the same amount of time, whether or not they are vaccinated.

Mask requirements

- HPPH now requires students in Kindergarten to wear a mask or face covering:
 - In school, including in hallways and during class
 - On school transportation
 - Outdoors, where physical distancing cannot be maintained

Absenteeism monitoring and reporting

- Schools must monitor student and staff absenteeism and notify HPPH when the rate reaches 30% or more above baseline.
- HPPH will no longer investigate COVID-19 cases associated with schools, dismiss cohorts, or declare outbreaks.

When do the updated instructions come into effect?

The updated Instructions come into effect at 12:01 a.m. February 7, 2022, or five school days after receipt, whichever is later. The instructions remain in effect until further notice from Huron Perth Public Health. Any decision on an end date will depend on whether provincial legislation still calls for adherence to public health advice, recommendations and instructions, and whether there is still evidence of COVID-19 transmission.

More information

School guidance and resources related to these instructions are available on our website at www.hpph.ca. For more information, call the HPPH School COVID Team at 1-888-221-2133 ext. 3560.

Sincerely,

Huron Perth Public Health