



# **COVID-19 RE-OPENING IET PARENT GUIDE**

August 31, 2020

**The information outlined in this guide is based on information as of Monday, August 31, 2020 and is subject to change at any time based on evolving circumstances, Ministry of Health recommendations, Ministry of Education directives or HBKRH protocols. Any changes will be communicated to families as soon as possible.**

## **Response to COVID-19**

Bloorview School Authority (BSA) is dedicated to protecting the health and safety of your children, our staff, partners, and the community. We are closely monitoring COVID-19 and base our responses and actions on recommendations from Toronto Public Health, the Ministry of Health, Health Canada, the Ministry of Education, and Holland Bloorview Kids Rehab Hospital. Our full “Operational Guide for Normal School Day Routine” revised July 31, 2020 will soon be available on our school’s website.

### **The following practices will be in place:**

- Staff will receive enhanced infection prevention and control, and health and safety training.
- Policies and procedures have been developed specific to COVID-19 in order to increase the health and safety of children, staff and families.
- Procedures will be updated and revised regularly to ensure best practices in accordance with Public Health authorities.
- All staff will be screened daily, and all staff in direct contact with students will wear PPE.
- Parents are required to screen their child daily before coming to school.
- Students will be monitored throughout the day for COVID-19 related symptoms.
- Staff will monitor children to ensure social distancing and infection prevention and control practices are prioritized.
- Students will be in a class of up to eight students, two educational assistants and a teacher (a cohort). This cohort will not have contact with any other cohort.
- Parents are asked not to come inside BSA unless it is by appointment.

### **Before your child leaves your home:**

1. Take your child’s temperature and make a note of it.
2. Screen according to the chart in the front of your child’s communication book and sign the attestation form to confirm the screening has been completed. A copy of this screening checklist is attached to this email for your reference.

**\*\*Please do not administer any fever reducing medication up to 6 hours before sending your child to BSA.\*\***

### **If your child or an immediate family member is ill:**

You must keep your child at home if anyone in the home is displaying any signs or symptoms of COVID-19 without an underlying cause. Please call our Safe Arrival line at (416) 424-3831 to report the child’s absence and the COVID-19 symptoms your child or family member is experiencing.

Symptoms of Covid-19 include, but are not limited to: fever, cough, and shortness of breath, sore throat, runny nose, nasal congestion, headache, nausea and a general feeling of being unwell. Children in particular should be monitored for atypical symptoms and signs of COVID-19. For more information please see the symptoms outlined in the ‘COVID-19 Reference document on the Ministry of Health COVID-19 website:

[http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/coronavirus/docs/2019\\_reference\\_doc\\_symptoms.pdf](http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/coronavirus/docs/2019_reference_doc_symptoms.pdf)

If your child is showing symptoms at home, please keep your child at home and contact your doctor or Telehealth Ontario. Please follow the direction of the medical professionals. Children can return to school after 14 days if symptom free, or if they test negative for COVID-19 and no longer have any symptoms.

If you or your child are being managed by Toronto Public Health, (e.g., contact with confirmed cases of COVID-19) follow instructions from Toronto Public Health to determine when it is safe to return to Bloorview School.

### **If a child becomes ill at school:**

If a child becomes ill at Bloorview School, they will be separated in an isolation room and supervised by one of our staff members. Parents will be notified to pick up the child immediately. Ill children will not be able to ride the bus.

The area will be cleaned and disinfected immediately after the child with symptoms has been sent home. All items that cannot be cleaned (paper, books etc) will be stored in a sealed container for a minimum of 7 days.

Toronto Public Health and HBKRH will be informed of the potential case and we will follow their guidance on next steps.

The Ministry Guidelines for dealing with COVID-19 in schools can be found here:

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/operational-guidance-covid-19-management-schools>

### **Dropping off and picking up your child:**

If you are driving your child to school regularly (your child will not be taking the bus), you will be given a drop off and pick up time. Staff will meet you outside to receive your child. If you are dropping off or picking up your child outside of the normal times (i.e. for an appointment), please remain outside and call the school office or use the intercom system and follow the given directions.

### **Entering the School:**

Please do not enter the school. No parents are able to come into the school. If you need to pick up your child for an appointment at Holland Bloorview, or are bringing them to school after an appointment at Holland Bloorview, please enter through the hospital entrance. Once you have been screened please call us at the office: 416 753-6090 and we will bring your child to you.

### **Lunch and Snacks:**

Students will be eating lunch in their classrooms, physically distanced from their peers. Please ensure that your child's lunch bag and containers are labelled. Please send any required cutlery. Sharing food, cups, plates, bowls or utensils will not be permitted.

### **Outdoor Play:**

Bloorview School will schedule outdoor play by cohort in order to facilitate physical distancing. If play structures are used they will be cleaned and disinfected before and after each use by each cohort. Students will only have outdoor time with students in their own class.

### **Clothing and Belongings:**

Please provide us with everything your child requires daily on the first day of attendance. This includes, diapers, (a package, or sleeve so that it can be disinfected upon arrival), specialized feeding equipment (i.e., cups, bottles), and extra clothing. Please make sure everything sent is labelled with your child's name.

Personal toys, stuffed animals and other soft toys will not be permitted into the school.

If your child requires specialized sensory chewelry that can remain at school, we will take responsibility for cleaning and disinfecting.

### **Questions and Answers**

**1. Do I have to send my child back to school right away?**

We understand that this is a highly personal decision. Families can choose to send their children back to school full-time, or choose to access online learning until they feel they are ready to have their child return. We suggest that parents consult with their health care provider when making this decision.

**2. Is it true that if my child doesn't start school immediately, there will not be an opportunity to attend again for months?**

This may be true for larger school boards. Luckily, we have the flexibility to accommodate what you decide is best for your child. We will work with you to bring your child back to school as soon as you are ready.

**3. I'm ready for my child to return – when can they start?**

IET classrooms will begin school the week of September 14th. We will communicate your child's specific start date and time by Friday, September 11<sup>th</sup>.

**4. What will happen the first week of school?**

- On Tuesday, Sept. 8<sup>th</sup> or Wednesday, Sept 9<sup>th</sup> your child's teacher will be calling you to gather updated information and answer any questions you may have.
- Two 'get to know you' class meetings will be scheduled virtually. Exact times and details will be shared with you.
- If your child requires **specialized procedures** during the school day, we will invite you to come to the school to demonstrate them for the classroom team.

**5. My child will usually come on the bus, but can I bring them on their first day?**

If you would like to bring your child for their first day please let us know and we will provide you with a scheduled drop off time. Staff will meet you outside to welcome your child. Feel free to take a photo of your child on his/her first day, before the school staff takes him/her inside. Parents will not be invited inside at this time. Please make sure to inform the bus company of your plan.

**6. I want to keep my child at home, but I need technology to access the online learning.**

If you choose to access online learning, we will have technology available for your family to borrow.

**7. How can I get more details of what is in place to keep my child safe at school?**

We have written an Operational Guide to Reopening that has been vetted by Toronto Public Health, the Ministry of Education and Holland Bloorview Kids Rehab. This guide will soon be available on our school's website.

**8. Does my child have to wear a mask?**

Students in our Kindergarten and Grade One programs will not be required to wear a mask. Older students in our Resource Program will be wearing masks when possible.

**9. How often will classrooms be cleaned?**

All classrooms will be cleaned thoroughly daily by Holland Bloorview Environmental Services. In addition, high touch points such as tables, door knobs, railings etc., will be cleaned regularly throughout the day. Students will have assigned seating that is used only by them. Learning materials will be used by the cohort only, and will be removed immediately if contaminated to be cleaned and disinfected. Students will have their own toolkit of frequently used items (markers, crayons etc.)

**10. What will remote learning look like?**

Our remote learning plan will be developed based on the needs of the students who opt for remote learning. Staff will be calling all families on September 8th or 9th to gather more information. Families who are choosing remote learning will receive confirmation of their online start date and their schedule by Friday, September 11th.

**11. Will the students be on buses with students from other schools?**

At this point, our understanding is that bus routes will be shared with neighboring schools. Please use this link to access information from the busing consortium regarding protocols for buses: <https://www.torontoschoolbus.org/covid-19/>

**12. Will students continue to all wait together for buses at the end of the day?**

Students will remain in a separate area with their cohort while waiting for buses. Students will no longer be waiting all together in a group.

**13. If I have said I will drive my child, can I change my mind later and have them take the bus?**

We are able to apply for busing at any time. Please note that a new application for busing can take up to a month to process.

**14. How many students will therapists work with each day and will they change PPE between students?**

We are working with the therapy team to schedule students from the same cohort to work with therapists on a given day/half day. We will minimize movement of therapists between rooms as much as possible. PPE such as face masks are changed when soiled or wet, face shields are reusable and are cleaned when needed, and gloves are single use and will be changed between students.

**15. Will there still be swimming and how will you handle the crossover of staff between school and hospital?**

Unfortunately, our swimming program will be suspended until further notice. Staff from the hospital that are in our school will follow all of our procedures.

**16. How many students have siblings in other schools?**

We are not privy to this information. If a sibling of one of our students were to be COVID-19 positive, we would follow the instructions of Toronto Public Health.