



COVID-19 RE-OPENING IET PARENT GUIDE

September 2021

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 response and actions on recommendations from Toronto Public Health, the Ministry of Health, Health Canada, the Ministry of Education, and Holland Bloorview Kids Rehab Hospital.

As you know, BSA was open almost the entire previous school year. We are all very familiar with the protocols necessary to keep our students safe and are excited to be welcoming students back for another great year.

The following practices will be in place as we start the year:

- 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.
- There is active screening for staff daily
- All staff in direct contact with students will wear PPE.
- Parents are required to screen their child daily before coming to school and sign an attestation form.
- Staff will monitor children to ensure 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.
- All visitors are screened through Holland Bloorview
- We have HEPA filters in all our Kindergarten and Grade 1 classrooms
- We have enhanced cleaning of all high touch surfaces.

Family Visits and Staggered Start

We look forward to having all of our families come into the school for a family visit. All visits have been scheduled and you should have received your date and time, as well as the start date for your child's first day of school. This information was provided in June. If you have not received it please contact Wendykay@bloorviewschool.ca

When you arrive you are welcome to park in the bus area if there is space. Please press the buzzer and someone will welcome you. You and your child must be able to pass screening to enter the school. Please use this screening tool before coming for your visit: [School Screening Tool](#). If anyone in your family is unwell, please contact us and we will reschedule your visit.

During your visit, you will be offered a COVID test for your child, have a chance to meet with your child's team, and demonstrate medical procedures if required.

Before your child leaves your home:

Screen your child according to the chart in the front of your child's communication book (coming soon) each morning and sign the attestation form to confirm the screening has been completed.

****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 currently include, but are not limited to: fever, cough, and shortness of breath, sore throat, vomiting, nausea, diarrhea and/or a general feeling of being unwell.

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

Guidance is continually changing. Please refer to the [Ministry Screening Tool](#) for the most up to date information at this time.

If at any time you need to have your child tested for COVID-19 please call the Holland Bloorview testing intake number 416-419-4623. This is a testing site specifically for children with complex care needs.

If a child becomes ill at school:

If a child becomes ill at Bloorview School (without underlying cause), 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 and will be offered COVID-19 testing for their child onsite by Holland Bloorview. The child will not be permitted to go home on the bus.

The area will be cleaned and disinfected immediately after the child with symptoms has been set home.

Children who are sent home due to illness will require a negative COVID test before returning to school, AND be symptom free for 24 hours (48 hours for diarrhea or vomiting). If your child is not tested they will need to remain at home for a minimum of 10 days as per public health guidelines.

Dropping off and picking up your child:

If you choose to bring your child to school, 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, 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 unless you have a prearranged appointment. If you are coming for a prearranged appointment, please enter through the main doors at Holland Bloorview Kids Rehab Hospital and be screened. At this time, no parents will be admitted through the school entrance (except for our family visits). Please wear a mask. If you do not have a mask, one will be provided for you at screening. Once screened you may come through the hospital to the school office. Please follow the markings on the floor.

Masking

Please send masks with your child if they are medically able to try using them. Students should wear masks on the bus ONLY if they are able to remove them independently. If your child is not able to remove the mask they should not wear one on the bus as this presents a safety hazard.

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.

Clothing and Belongings:

Please provide us with everything your child requires on a daily basis on the first in-person day. This includes, diapers, specialized feeding equipment (i.e., cups, bottles), and extra clothing. Please make sure everything sent is labelled with your child's name.

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

Vaccination of Staff

Statistical information regarding vaccination rates of staff should be available by September 15 as per the Government of Ontario immunization disclosure policy.