

Astral Drive Junior High School
Getting Ready for School During the Pandemic – A Checklist for Families

This document will be updated as new information is received

Week Before School Begins:

- Review good hand hygiene and cough/sneeze etiquette
- Become familiar with the COVID-19 screening tool
- Check school supply list and prepare a backpack with the essential supplies
- Ensure students are aware they will be required to wear a mask during class and in the hallway (some exceptions for physical education, eating and drinking)

Day Before School Begins:

- Check email for homeroom assignment, assigned entry door and time
- Check that a mask(s) is in the backpack
- Pack snacks, a full water bottle and a lunch if staying during lunchtime
- Pack a smart phone/iPad/Chromebook/Laptop if available

First Day of School:

- Go through the COVID-19 screening tool
 - Keep student home and contact 811 if symptoms are present
- Arrive at the designated time and door wearing a mask
- Proceed directly to homeroom class, following floor indicators
- Sanitize hands upon entering classroom
- Maintain social distancing at all times

At Lunchtime:

If leaving:

- exit through the assigned door when dismissed and proceed home
- re-enter through the assigned door just before 12:30 PM and proceed to class

If staying:

- disinfect your hands before eating
- remain in your assigned seat while eating lunch
- pack all garbage, compost and/or recyclables into the backpack and clean the desk
- teacher/lunch supervisor will make every effort to take the cohort outside to their designated break area (weather permitting)

At Dismissal:

- Depart through the assigned door and proceed home
- Maintain social distancing at all times

What If? and other questions...

What if my child feels ill during the school day?

- They will be isolated with a supporting adult
- Parent/guardian will be contacted to pick the student up as quickly as possible
- Parent/guardian should contact 811 if COVID-19 symptoms are present

What if a staff member feels ill during the school day?

- They will notify the office and leave immediately
- Another staff member will be assigned to replace them until arrangements are made for a substitute

What if my child cannot wear a mask due to a medical condition?

- Communicate with the school as soon as possible
- Medical documentation is not required at this time

What if I need to drop-off/pick-up my child during the school day?

- Communicate your plans with the office in advance when possible
- Student will check-out/in at the office and will meet you outside

What if my child has special needs and requires different support from what is described here?

- Contact the school so we can plan together to meet your child's needs

What if my child doesn't have required supplies in their backpack?

- During a pandemic, "not sharing is caring"
- School staff will make every effort to provide missing supplies

What if my child forgets or loses their mask?

- Inform the staff member at the assigned entry door and they will make arrangements for a disposable mask to be brought to them

Will there be student fees this year?

- We are not planning to collect student fees, as there is a balance from last year due to school closure
- If fees are needed later in the year we will consult with our School Advisory Council and communicate with you

Why are we being asked to send a phone or other device with my child? What if we don't have one to send?

- We will be using technology regularly for learning activities to prepare for the possible transition to learning at home
- We have ChromeBooks for students to use if they do not have their own personal device
- Any shared school-based devices will be cleaned and sanitized between use

What if I need to drop something off for my child during the school day?

- Communicate with the office in advance when possible
- Wear a mask
- After being buzzed in, sanitize your hands and leave the item labelled with your child's name on the table just inside the main door (please do not enter the second set of doors)

- The item will be delivered to your child and the table will be sanitized

Can I come to school with my child on the first day?

- Non-essential people are not permitted in the building – please plan for them to come on their own
- If there are any special circumstances, please contact the office in advance to discuss arrangements that meet public health requirements

What if I need to speak with a staff person or arrange a meeting?

- Contact the school and arrangements will be made for a phone meeting, Zoom call or Google Meet as appropriate

Will there be cafeteria service and if so, how will it work?

- We are planning to offer cafeteria service by October
- Only lunch items will be available and must be pre-ordered
- Food will be delivered to your child's classroom

Will school photographs be arranged this year?

- School photography has been postponed at this time, as non-essential personal are not permitted in the building

It says above to pack a full water bottle. Will water be available at school for my child?

- Either the fountains or water coolers will be available to students during the day
- We ask for a full bottle to limit the need to leave the classroom as much as possible

It says above that students need to take lunch garbage, compost, and recyclables home. Why?

- We have opted for a "Litterless Lunch" in an effort to keep classrooms as clean and hygienic as possible

What happens if a student or staff member has symptoms or has tested positive for COVID-19?

- Public health will be immediately involved and will provide direction to the school and community

Please check the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development Resources for Families:

<https://www.ednet.ns.ca/backtoschool#faq>