

**August 27, 2021**

Dear UCDSB Families,

We are just over a week away from the first day of school and we understand it's important for you to have clear and up-to-date information on what to expect this school year.

Last week's note to you outlined the UCDSB's remote learning options. Know that our school board's biggest goal is to provide inclusive and equitable access to education for all students. While we believe in the benefits of in-person learning for a student's well-being, we will support students and families who require remote learning due to concerns related to COVID-19.

We have created a [COVID-19 Info Centre](#) where you can find our [Return to School Guide for Families](#), an [FAQ](#), as well as [information about steps we are taking to improve the safety of our schools](#).

Here are some highlights from the guide:

- All students will need to screen for COVID-19 symptoms each day, prior to attending school using the [provincial COVID-19 screening tool](#).
- All staff and all students in Grades 1-12 will be required to wear masks while indoors and on student transportation. Students in Kindergarten are strongly encouraged to wear masks, but it's not mandatory.
- Kindergarten to Grade 8 students will continue to be in cohorts.
- Students in Grades 9-12 will have two courses for the fall (first nine weeks), similar to last year's schedule.
- We are offering two digital remote learning options for those families who require remote learning due to concerns related to COVID-19. While we expect that most students will only need it for a short period of time and not the duration of the school year, we want to clarify it's not limited to a set duration of time.
- At this time, students do not need to be vaccinated against COVID-19 to attend school. Vaccinated students do not need to show proof of vaccination.

We understand there's a lot of information to digest, so we've also put together a list of [Return to School FAQs](#)

Read the UCDSB [Return to School Guide for Families](#)

Read the UCDSB [Return to School FAQs](#)

Visit the UCDSB [COVID-19 Info Centre Webpage](#)

Do you still have questions? Please contact your school directly.

Thank you,

Ron Ferguson  
Director of Education  
Upper Canada District School Board

