

RETURN TO SCHOOL PLAN SUMMARY

for UCDSB families and students

Updated Sept. 3, 2021

We are excited to welcome our students back to in-person learning on Tuesday, Sept. 7.

We want to ensure our families have clear and up-to-date information on what to expect this school year. Here is an overview of school operations, the learning environment (including remote learning and student re-engagement) and health and hygiene practices.

Please see our website FAQ (www.ucdsb.on.ca/FAQ) or contact your school principal if you have additional questions.



SCHOOL OPERATIONS

- The first day of school is September 7, 2021, for all students in Kindergarten to Grade 12. In-person learning will take place each day, for the full school day. Some schools may have a staggered start for Junior Kindergarten students. If your child has an alternative start day, you will be contacted by your teacher or principal to coordinate details and to ensure this works for your family.
- All students will need to screen for COVID-19 symptoms each day, prior to attending school using the provincial COVID-19 screening tool (<https://covid-19.ontario.ca/school-screening/>). Students will need to provide confirmation they've screened for symptoms (active screening) during the first two weeks of the school year, following breaks (i.e. Thanksgiving, Christmas), and after an outbreak is declared at the direction of the health unit. **See the Confirmation of Daily Screening Form at the end of this document.**
- The school year calendar and the secondary operational calendar can be viewed here: www.ucdsb.on.ca/SYC.
- 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 masks are not mandatory for these students. Students are not required to wear masks when outdoors and within their cohorts.
- Based on the guidance of our local public health units, students in Kindergarten to Grade 6 will not mix cohorts at any time. Given the potential for students in Grades 7 and 8 to be vaccinated against COVID-19, they do not need to stay within their cohort during recess and breaks outdoors. **Masks will be worn outside when social distancing cannot be maintained and mixing of cohorts occurs.** Handwashing/sanitizing before and after recess and breaks is required.

- Students should limit the number of personal belongings they bring to school to the essentials (backpack, lunch kit, water bottle, indoor shoes, change of clothing for kindergarten or students with physical education, etc.).
- Extracurricular clubs (with mixing between cohorts) are not permitted for students in K-6. They are permitted for students in Grade 7-12. Masking is required inside at all times and outside when social distancing cannot be maintained.
- **The use of lockers and cubbies outside the classroom will be at the discretion of the school principal.** Your school will let you know if they will be in use at your school.
- Students will eat in cafeterias or their own classrooms. There is no eating at lockers. Secondary students will be permitted to leave school property at lunch but are encouraged to respect public health social distancing guidelines.
- Hot lunch and student nutrition programs will be able to resume this year. These will be organized at the school level. All staff and volunteers organizing these programs will be required to follow health protocols that will be provided by the school board and our local public health partners.
- Cafeterias will be available for food service again this year. Schools will work with their food service provider to confirm local considerations meet all health and safety requirements. Within cafeterias, there should be two metres distance between cohorts and as much social distancing as possible within a cohort.
- Child care facilities located in our schools will continue to operate in the fall. Please contact the providers directly with questions on space, hours and availability. If you do not have the contact info, contact your school office.
- Non-essential visitors are discouraged from entering the school (i.e. pick-up/drop-off). Visitors (parents, community partners) are permitted for a specific meeting if following COVID-19 procedures for masking and signing in.



THE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

- This fall, UCDSB educators will focus on connecting with students and reinforcing daily school routines. Educators will strive to meet students where they are and prioritize key curricular outcomes to shape the curriculum for the learner. There will be an emphasis on self-regulation, social emotional learning, and well-being for all.
- 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. Classes will consist of 150 minutes of instruction. Students will have one class in the morning and one in the afternoon with a lunch break in the middle. Short breaks will be provided during classes as well.
- The UCDSB is offering two digital remote learning options for students who require remote learning due to concerns related to COVID-19. The remote learning options will be available to students for as long as needed. However, we expect that most students will only need it for a short period of time. **Please discuss with your school principal the remote learning options that meet the needs of your family and that are best suited for your child.**
- More information about remote learning can be found on the UCDSB website (www.ucdsb.on.ca/remoterelearning). Updated fact sheets about digital remote learning options can be found at the end of this document.
- Sports and clubs will resume this fall for Grades 7-12, with some modifications. **High-contact/intensity activities are only permitted indoors if masks are worn** (i.e. basketball). Activities are permitted outdoors with masking required before and after the sport. More info will come from your school and coaches about when these activities will start.
- Singing (i.e. choir) inside is only permitted within a cohort with masking and distancing required. Singing is permitted outdoors between cohorts and masking is required if distancing cannot be maintained. Wind instruments are not permitted at all inside but are permitted outside if distancing can be maintained.
- Field trips will be able to occur during the 2021-2022 school year though not for the first two weeks of the school year.
- Libraries and Learning Commons will be able to be used again this year. Schools will develop schedules to reduce contact and mixing of cohorts.



HEALTH AND HYGIENE

- All students will need to screen for COVID-19 symptoms each day, prior to attending school using the provincial COVID-19 screening tool (<https://covid-19.ontario.ca/school-screening/>). Students will need to provide confirmation they've screened for symptoms (active screening) during the first two weeks of the school year, following breaks (i.e. Thanksgiving, Christmas), and after an outbreak is declared at the direction of the health unit. See the Confirmation of Daily Screening Form at the end of this document.
- Similar COVID-19 protocols from last year will be in place, such as heightened cleaning, increased hand washing, and hand sanitizing upon entry into the school.
- If there is a confirmed case of COVID-19 at your school, families will be notified. The health unit will do an investigation at the school to determine if there is any risk to other staff or students. The health unit will provide direction to those deemed as high-risk contacts. More guidance from our public health units will share available soon. We will share it to our COVID-19 Info Centre on the UCDSB website (www.ucdsb.on.ca/COVID-19info).
- Water bottle filling stations will be available for use in the schools; however, all drinking fountains will be decommissioned. The UCDSB is adding more than 400 water bottle filling stations throughout the school district. Students should come to school each day with a full water bottle, labelled with the student's name.
- The UCDSB has been continuing to improve ventilation in all schools and classrooms using the Ministry of Education guidance as a baseline. We have been optimizing and improving air filtration on a school-by-school basis to the maximum level possible, improving temperature and humidity controls and replacing or upgrading some mechanical systems. The UCDSB needed 289 HEPA units to meet ministry standards. We have gone above and have purchased 2,230 HEPA units, with 1,996 to be in place in schools by the start of the school year. Detailed information on specific ventilation measures can be found in the UCDSB COVID-19 Info Centre (www.ucdsb.on.ca/COVID-19info).
- At this time, Ministry of Education guidelines state students do not need to be vaccinated to attend school and students who are vaccinated do not need to show proof.

Please see our website FAQ (www.ucdsb.on.ca/FAQ) or contact your school principal if you have additional questions.



UCDSB Elementary Programming 2021-2022

FACT SHEET



PLANNING

We expect that UCDSB students will return to in-person learning in the 2021-22 school year.

We recognize that some students may require remote learning as a result of public or personal health concerns related to COVID-19, and we are making two **digital** remote learning options available.

Students who are not able to attend school in-person will be able to study synchronously (remote, in real-time) from home, or asynchronously (independently, on their own time) from home. In both cases, the student will be part of the regular class at their home school and access digital learning materials that will be provided by the regular classroom teacher.

There will be no non-digital remote learning options available for the 2021-22 school year.

In exceptional circumstances, if a student is not able to attend in-person or access digital materials, an alternate remote learning program will be considered. This will be done in consultation with the school and subject to the approval of the Superintendent of Schools.

Students who require access to a remote learning option to start the 2021-22 school year must notify the school principal by contacting the school between August 25, 2021 – September 1, 2021.

SYNCHRONOUS REMOTE LEARNING

The format for Synchronous Remote Learning will be standardized across all UCDSB elementary schools. Real-time instruction will be provided by the classroom teacher using audio and/or video on the Microsoft Teams and/or D2L platform.

Synchronous Remote Learning is not intended for single-day or short-term absences. In these circumstances, teachers will continue to provide students with any work they would have missed while away.

UCDSB ELEMENTARY PROGRAMMING 2021-2022

FACT SHEET

Each school day has 300 minutes of instructional time. The daily schedule of synchronous instruction will be determined by the classroom teacher in consultation with the school principal.

- Regular program students will participate synchronously in English Language Arts; Core French and Mathematics for a total of 180 minutes per day.
- French Immersion students will participate synchronously in English Language Arts; French Language and Mathematics for a total of 180 minutes per day.
- Other subjects may be integrated into synchronous learning or offered in an asynchronous, independent learning format.

Attendance for remote learners in this model will be taken in the morning and afternoon.

Requests to participate in remote learning will be processed by the school principal within three school days.

ASYNCHRONOUS REMOTE LEARNING

Asynchronous remote learning is a form of learning that is done on the student's own schedule and at their own pace, without live instruction from a teacher.

The regular classroom teacher will upload instructional materials for students to the Microsoft Teams and/or D2L platform. These materials may be those used during in-person instruction or may be materials centrally developed by the school board, which are not necessarily being used in that class.

Students work independently from home on the provided materials and submit completed work to the teacher via Microsoft Teams for assessment and evaluation.

Teachers will respond to student/parental inquiries within one school day and will check in on independent remote learners on a weekly basis.

Attendance for asynchronous remote learners will be taken on a weekly basis and will be measured by evidence of engagement in learning tasks provided to them each week.



UCDSB Secondary Programming 2021-2022

FACT SHEET



PLANNING

In the 2021-22 school year, secondary schools will be organized by quadmester from September 2021 to January 2022. Students will take two courses per quadmester: one course in the morning and one course in the afternoon. Decisions about our ability to return to a regular semester format for the second part of the school year will be made by the New Year.

We expect that UCDSB students will return to in-person learning in the 2021-22 school year. We recognize that some students may continue to require remote learning for a period of time as a result of public or personal health concerns related to COVID-19, and we are making two **digital** remote learning options available.

Students who are not able to attend school in person will be able to study synchronously (remote, in real-time) from home, or asynchronously (independently, on their own schedule) from home. In both cases, the student will be part of the regular class at their home school and access digital learning materials that will be provided by the regular classroom teacher.

There will be no non-digital remote learning options available for the 2021-22 school year.

In exceptional circumstances, if a student is not able to attend in person or access digital materials, an alternate remote learning program will be considered. This will be done in consultation with the school and subject to the approval of the Family of Schools Superintendent.

Students who require access to a remote learning option to start the 2021-22 school year must notify the school principal by contacting the school in between August 25, 2021 – September 1, 2021.

SYNCHRONOUS REMOTE LEARNING

Synchronous Remote Learning will be provided by the classroom teacher using audio and/or video on the Microsoft Teams or D2L platform.

Synchronous remote learning is not intended for single-day or short-term absences. In these circumstances, teachers will continue to provide students with any work they would have missed while away.

- Synchronous remote learning requires that students participate in 120 minutes of live/synchronous instruction per course, per class, each day. Each class is 150 minutes long. The schedule of when the real-time instruction will take place is determined by the classroom teacher in consultation with the school principal.
- Synchronous remote learning is unavailable in technological studies courses, some arts courses and some health and physical education courses. **Accommodations may be possible in exceptional and unforeseen circumstances.*
- Attendance for synchronous learners will be taken daily in each course.

Requests to participate in remote learning will be processed by the school principal within three school days.

ASYNCHRONOUS REMOTE LEARNING

Asynchronous remote learning is a form of learning that is done on the student's own schedule and at their own pace, without live instruction from a teacher.

The teacher will upload instructional materials for students to the classroom's designated digital platform which will be either Microsoft Teams or D2L.

Students work independently from home on the provided materials and submit completed work to the teacher via Microsoft Teams or D2L for assessment and evaluation.

Teachers will respond to student/parental inquiries within one school day and will check in on independent remote learners on a weekly basis.

Attendance for asynchronous remote learners will be taken on a weekly basis and will be measured by evidence of engagement in learning tasks provided to them each week.

Technological studies courses, some arts courses and some health and physical education courses are not available in the remote independent format. **Accommodations may be possible in exceptional and unforeseen circumstances.*

Confirmation of Daily Screening

Following updated health and safety precautions from the Ministry of Education and our public health units, students participating in in-person learning need to actively screen for COVID-19 symptoms for the next two weeks and confirm their results indicate they are safe to go to school. A separate form will be needed for each child/student in your family.

We ask that parents/guardians :

1. Complete the Ontario COVID-19 School and Child Care Screening.
2. Sign and date this form to verify that your child is safe to go to school.
3. Send this form with your child to school each day.

Please scan the QR code to access the provincial COVID-19 School and Child Care screener **OR** use the PDF version of the tool provided.



Student Name: _____ Student Grade: _____

Date: _____ Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____ Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____ Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____ Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____ Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

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