

COVID-19: OCS Safe Reopening Plan 2021

August 12, 2021



Orangeville Christian School

We are more than a school; we are a community.

SAFE REOPENING PLAN FOR ORANGEVILLE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL:

On August 3, 2021, the Ontario government released Version 1 of the **COVID-19: Health, safety and operational guidance for schools (2021-2022)**. The information below provides a summary of our safe reopening plan for the 2021-22 school year.

PROTECTIVE STRATEGIES *

Screening

All staff and students must self-screen every day before attending school. Please refer to local and provincial screening tools.

Student Masks

Students in Grades 1 to 8 are required to wear properly fitted non-medical or cloth masks indoors in school, including in hallways and during classes, as well as on school vehicles. Masks may be temporarily removed indoors for low-contact physical activity and when consuming food or drink. Students are not required to wear masks outdoors. Students in kindergarten are encouraged but not required to wear non-medical or cloth masks in indoor spaces, as well as on school vehicles.

Reasonable exceptions to the requirement to wear masks are as follows:

- A child under the age of five (5) years either chronologically or developmentally and he or she refuses to wear a face covering and cannot be persuaded to do so by their caregiver;
- Wearing a face mask would inhibit the person's ability to breath in any way;
- For any other medical reason, the person cannot safely wear a face covering such as, but not limited to, respiratory disease, cognitive difficulties or difficulties in hearing or processing information; or
- The obligation to provide reasonable accommodation under Ontario Human Rights Code requires exemption from this requirement.

Please note:

A medical note or proof of exemption will not be required for exempt students at OCS. All exemptions to **Section 22 of the Health and Protection and Promotion Act** will be enacted and enforced in "good faith".



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Hand Hygiene and Respiratory Etiquette

Appropriate hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette will continue to be taught and required. Please refer to local and provincial fact sheets on how to wash hands.

Distancing and Congregating

Periods of student movement will be staggered, when appropriate (i.e. recess times including washroom access). Specific details concerning school arrival and departure will be provided before the start of school.

Recess and breaks outdoors

Students do not need to stay within their cohort during recess and breaks outdoors. Sharing materials outdoors is permitted.

Inclement weather days

OCS will continue to follow its **No Bus Days & School Closure Policy & Procedure**.

Please note:

The policy does not include pivoting to remote learning on inclement weather days.

Cleaning and disinfection standards and protocols

OCS will review our cleaning protocols and reinforce them if needed to meet current public health requirements. The review will include cleaning products, program and high touch surfaces.

Shared materials

The use of shared materials is permitted.

Shared spaces

The use of shared spaces is permitted.



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Cafeteria use and lunch protocols

Students may eat together outdoors without distancing and indoors with cohorting. Each student is encouraged to bring their own drink bottle that is labeled, kept with them during the day and not shared. Use of shared microwaves/kitchen space is permitted.

Food programs

Nutrition/third party food programs and non-instructional food events (such as a pizza day) are permitted to operate, provided that food handlers use adequate food handling and safety practices.

Assemblies

School assemblies or other student/school gatherings are permitted. This includes allowance for in-school student to student peer support programs such as “reading buddies”.

Visitors

Any visitors to the school are required to self-screen and to wear a medical mask. (Reasonable exceptions apply.)

SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION

Capacity

School vehicles can operate at full capacity. Where school vehicles are able to operate at less than full capacity, students should be seated in a manner that maximizes physical distancing.

Masks are required

The use of non-medical masks for students in grades 1 to 8 is required on school vehicles. Students in kindergarten are encouraged to wear masks on student transportation. Exceptions should be made for students with medical conditions or special needs that prevent masking.



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Assigned seats

Students should be assigned seats and a record of the seating plan should be kept to assist with contact tracing in the case of a student or driver contracting COVID-19. Students who live in the same household or are in the same classroom cohort should be seated together where possible.

Cleaning

School vehicles should follow an enhanced cleaning protocol.

SPECIFIC ACADEMIC PROGRAMS AND REQUIREMENTS**Music**

Music programs are permitted in areas with adequate ventilation. Singing and the use of wind instruments are permitted. The band program will return for students in grades 6-8. The gymnasium will be used for student instruction.

Health and physical education

The use of gymnasiums, indoor physical education equipment and shared outdoor equipment are permitted.

Field trips

Day trips and overnight stays are permitted.

MAP Testing

Measures of Academic Progress testing for grades 3-8 will resume.



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EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES AND COMMUNITY USE OF SCHOOLS

Clubs

Clubs, activities, sport teams and extra-curriculars are permitted. More details concerning inter-school sport activities will be provided, when appropriate.

Before and after school programs

Before and after school programs are permitted.

Community use of schools

Community use of the school is permitted provided activities are aligned with public health guidance and direction.

* Private schools must follow all protective strategies and immediately report any suspected or confirmed cases of COVID-9 within the school to the local public health unit as required under the **Health Protection and Promotion Act**. Private schools are not required to follow requirements in the document that apply only to school boards, such as requirements relating to in-person instructional time and remote learning.



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