

Bond Academy Updated Return to School Protocols

- Please review Bond Academy's updated Covid-19 policies based on the latest Ministry of Education and Toronto Public Health guidelines
- Due to the high number of Covid-19 cases in our community, rapidly increasing ICU numbers and the ease of transmission of the Omicron variant, it will be essential for all students to comply with all Covid-19 protocols including:
 - properly wearing a mask
 - maintaining social distance
 - using hand sanitizer
 - completing the daily Covid-19 questionnaire before arriving at school and before 9:00am
- **Consistent failure to do so will result in:**
 - communication with parents
 - addressing non-compliance with progressive consequences

Masks:

From Toronto Public Health

- *Wearing a mask is an important public health measure to stop the spread of COVID-19. Please ensure your child wears a high-quality, well-fitted mask when in school. If possible, send an extra mask with your child in a clean labelled bag.*
- *95 Masks encouraged – Medical Grade 1 – Mandated for staff*

COVID-19 Vaccination

From Toronto Public Health

- *COVID-19 vaccination continues to be strongly recommended for those who are eligible and who are not fully vaccinated. Children can also receive their COVID-19 vaccine at one of the City-run immunization clinics, hospital clinics, or one of the more than 525 participating pharmacies.*
- *Booster appointments are also available for individuals who are eligible and over the age of 18. Appointments can be booked by visiting the Ontario COVID-19 Vaccination Portal or by calling the Provincial Vaccine Booking Line at 1-833-943-3900. Please see Toronto Public Health's (TPH) website for more information on How to get vaccinated.*

Screening:

- The daily Covid-19 questionnaire has been updated to include the various symptoms of Omicron
- Staff and students can continue to use the Bond app for answering the daily questionnaire
- Please do so before 9:00am daily and before entering the school
- Bond will continue to send the daily Covid-19 questionnaire as a reminder
- Parents are encouraged to remind their son and/or daughter to set a daily alarm on their phone from Monday to Friday, as a reminder to answer the questionnaire

From Toronto Public Health:

Remember – do not send your child to school if they are experiencing any symptoms, even if they are mild

When to stay home and self-isolate:

Everyone in your household must stay home and self-isolate if your child or another member of the home has:

- *Symptoms of COVID-19*
 - *A positive PCR test or*
 - *A positive rapid antigen test.*
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- *Rigorous screening and monitoring of symptoms by students, families, and staff is critical to limiting transmission and ensuring schools remain safe and open for in-person learning.*
 - *Anyone who has symptoms suggestive of COVID-19 or is confirmed positive case must self-isolate, regardless of vaccination status.*
 - *If a student/staff is experiencing **at least one** symptom most commonly associated with COVID-19 or **two or more** symptoms less commonly associated with COVID-19 they must self-isolate as per public health guidelines.*
 - *If a student/staff is experiencing only one symptom less commonly associated with COVID-19 they must stay home until their symptom has been improving for 24 hours (48 hours for nausea, vomiting and/or diarrhea).*
 - *Household members, including siblings, must stay home until the household member experiencing symptom(s) is cleared from their isolation.*
 - *School principals can connect with the local public health units for further advice if there is a 30% absenteeism rate*

Testing:

From the Ministry of Education

- *the PCR self-collection initiative in schools will continue in a modified format for participating private schools*
- *Effective January 2022, PCR self-collection kits are to be provided to symptomatic elementary and secondary students and education staff experiencing symptoms most commonly associated with COVID-19*
- *Staff or students can pick up a test from Bond*
- *Completed tests can be returned by a family member and will be couriered to Sick Kids Hospital*

How Long to Self-Isolate?

From Toronto Public Health

- *If your child has symptom(s) they will have to self-isolate for:*
- *5 days: If the child is 12 years of age and older and fully vaccinated; or 11 years or younger regardless of vaccination status*
- *10 days: If the child is 12 years or older and not fully vaccinated; or immune compromised.*
- *All household members must self-isolate for the same amount of time as your child. This includes siblings.*

Returning to School

- *Your child can return to school when symptoms are improving for at least 24 hours (or 48 hours if nausea/vomiting/diarrhea) and:*
- *Your child has completed the required self-isolation time, OR*
- *Your child has a negative PCR test, OR*
- *Your child has two negative rapid antigen tests 24 to 48 hours apart*
- ***The negative tests are only required for individuals who had symptoms of Covid-19 and not individuals who tested positive for Covid-19, since they may still test positive after the transmission period has ended and their symptoms have subsided.***

Notify Close Contacts

- *Remember to notify all close contacts in the community with which your child had contact in the last 48 hours before your child's symptoms began or their positive test result. A close contact in the community is anyone who your child:*
- *Spent at least 15 minutes of time with outside of the classroom/school AND*
- *Where the contact was within two meters for at least 15 minutes, or multiple shorter lengths of time.*
- *If your child was identified as a close contact of someone with COVID-19 in the community (e.g. at an indoor gathering, playdate, indoor activity) take the following measures based on provincial requirements:*
- *If your child is fully vaccinated and without symptoms, they do not need to self-isolate.*
- *If your child is 12 years and older AND either partially vaccinated, unvaccinated OR immune compromised of any age, they must self-isolate for 10 days from the last contact with the infected person.*

Reporting of Covid-19 Cases

- Guidance for contact tracing and cohort dismissal is no longer provided to schools by Toronto Public Health
- Bond will continue to report confirmed cases of Covid-19 based on both a PCR test or the rapid antigen test, in order to remain fully transparent with our school community and allow families to make informed decisions
- If necessary, cohort dismissal will occur
- All personal health information of the infected individual will remain private

Cohorts:

- Students must remain physically distanced during lunch in a classroom setting
- No mixing of cohorts during lunch time or eating and drinking in the hallways
- Bond is looking into potentially opening the cafeteria soon, so that students can leave the classroom at lunch, while staying socially distanced from other cohorts

Classrooms:

- Desks and chairs are sprayed down after Period 2 and Period 4
- During the pandemic only, students can get volunteer hours for duties assigned during the school day
- Desks should continue to be spaced out as far as possible and students must adhere to social distancing protocol during class time, lunch and breaks

Sports/Extracurricular Activities:**From the Ministry of Education**

- *Indoor high contact and high intensity activities, such as basketball, multi-cohort choirs and wind instrument ensembles, will be paused temporarily to ensure the health and well-being of students. Rules regarding extra-curricular activities constitute return to school direction issued by the Ministry of Education and approved by the OCMOH.*
- Therefore, high intensity contact sports, such as Phase 1/Bond basketball and in Phys.Ed classes are on pause until further notice from the Ministry
- Low intensity, socially distanced non-contact sports and training are still permitted with masks and social distancing in Phys.Ed class only, since it is one class cohort and not a mixture of numerous grade or class cohorts

Online Extracurricular Clubs

- are encouraged, especially for students who have or may suffer from mental health issues exacerbated by the pandemic/remote learning