



#SeptemberReady

#September Ready Framework

ST. CLAIR CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

AUGUST 14, 2020

*#September
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Safe Return
to School
Project

#SeptemberReady

- St. Clair Catholic is a caring community of Catholic educators, support staff and administrators, who put the safety, health and wellbeing of our students first
- Our *#SeptemberReady* safe return to school project team began its work in June
- From the beginning, health, safety and wellness for all students and staff has been the number one priority
- The *#SeptemberReady* safe return to school project team includes professionals with expertise in emergency management, education and school administration
- Our team has consulted widely with stakeholders across the system, to identify risks and put in place measures to manage that risk
- Our plan is guided by extensive consultation with our local Medical Officers of Health – *Read an Important Letter to Parents/Guardians from the Medical Officers of Health for Chatham-Kent and Lambton at:*
<https://newsdesk.st-clair.net/2020/08/12/important-letter-to-parents-from-lambton-and-chatham-kent-medical-officers-of-health/>

Consulting with Our Local Medical Officers of Health



Every step of the way the project team continues to consult our local medical offices of health



The Board awaits provincial guidance that will inform our outbreak protocols



The local Medical Officers of Health continue to assist the Board in developing proactive strategies to reopen schools

Under the advisement of the Ministry of Education and our Public Health partners, the Board has taken into consideration accessibility and accommodation requirements for students and staff in all aspects of our planning for the safe return to school.

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Risk
Assessment
Results

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Following extensive consultations with system leaders and our staff union and association partners more than 50 key areas in Academic Operations were identified



In all decision making the safety and wellbeing of our students and staff is our first priority



Key Considerations as a results of the risk assessment

School Safety

Mental Wellness

Staff Workload

Planning

Transportation

School
Communications

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Communication

Sharing
Important
Information
with Our
Communities

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- Since July 9, parents/guardians, staff and community partners have received regular weekly updates regarding the *#SeptemberReady* safe return to school project
- A page on the public facing Board website has been dedicated to communications regarding the *#SeptemberReady* safe return to school communications
- Visitors to the website can subscribe to a weekly summary of updates posted to the site
- Visitors can also sign up to receive notifications, as information is posted
- FAQs are posted to the *#SeptemberReady* web page and are updated regularly
- For the latest information, visit the *#SeptemberReady* web page at:

<https://newsdesk.st-clair.net/category/september-ready/>

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Guidance for School Administrators

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- A comprehensive handbook for School Administrators has been created by *the #SeptemberReady* Academic Operations team
- Areas of attention were generated from the Risk Assessment
- MOE Approach & Guidance documents are resourced

- Key components Include:
 - Safety of Students, Staff & Families
i.e. Distancing & movement in school
 - Mental Wellness of Students, Staff, & Families
i.e. Transitions of students to school
 - Staff Workloads
i.e. Classroom set up, assignments
 - Transportation
i.e. Bus operator procedures
 - Communication plan for Public Confidence
i.e. School signage & communication to parents
 - Planning
i.e. Child Care, Before & After programming

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Managing
Risk Through
Enhanced
Health and
Safety
Measures

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Enhanced Health and Safety Measures

Under the advisement from local Medical Officers of Health, Ministry of Education and Public Health Ontario, enhanced health and safety measures include the following:

- Daily COVID-19 self assessment screening for all staff and students
- Good hand hygiene - hand washing / hand sanitizers
- Enhanced cleaning measures
- Encouraging physical distancing where possible – includes staggered school movement, routines and scheduling
- Limiting physical contact of students and staff through cohorting of students
- Masks to be provided
 - Students in Grade 4 to 12 will be required to wear non-medical or cloth masks while in school
 - Students in Kindergarten to Grade 3 will be encouraged but not required to wear masks in common spaces
 - Medical masks and other appropriate PPE where required, will be provided for teachers and all other school staff
- Respiratory etiquette
- Appropriate school signage
- Early transitions supports for students with special needs
- Mental health and wellbeing supports available for staff and students
- Training for all staff and students
- Outbreak protocols to be determined in consultation with public health partners and guidance from Ontario Public Health

Specific operational protocols regarding enhanced health and safety measures are to be reviewed by the Joint Health and Safety Committee of the St. Clair Catholic District School Board

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School Site
Assessments

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School Site Assessments

Individual site assessments are underway at all St. Clair Catholic school locations to review items such as:

- Classroom size considerations
- Classroom configurations
- School signage locations
- Isolation room locations
- Appropriate use of gymnasiums, libraries, outdoor play spaces, closed classrooms, etc.
- School office considerations

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Classroom
Organizations

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The Board will endeavour to limit class sizes to enhance physical distance between students and staff

Decisions will be made based on school survey results, average class sizes and available resources

Possible Learning Models

The Ministry of Education has required school boards to be prepared for and plan for three possible learning models:

- **1. Conventional Model** – In person delivery of teaching and instruction 5 days a week
- **2. Adapted Model** – Class cohorts of approximately 15 students on alternating schedules with at least 50 percent of in-class instructional days
- **3. Full Remote Delivery** *(in the event the Ministry directs all schools to be closed)* – Full time teacher-led online distance learning, with access to learning materials posted online to support both synchronous and asynchronous learning opportunities during the day

Parents also have the option to select Voluntary Online Teacher-led Learning at Home

Ministry Direction to Elementary Schools

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- The Ministry of Education has directed **all elementary schools in Ontario** to reopen with a conventional face to face model of teaching and learning with enhanced health and safety protocols in place
- In this model students attend school full time – 300 minutes a day, five days a week starting on September 8, 2020

Elementary Model – Conventional

Starting in September 2020 at St. Clair Catholic Elementary Schools:

- Students will be grouped together in a cohort for the full day, and stay together as much as possible during recess and lunch
- All students attend school face to face every day
- Conventional timetable with 300 minutes of instruction time
- Timetables will limit, as best as possible, the number of specialty teachers, while maintaining delivery of all subject areas in the Ontario curriculum
- Increased outdoor learning opportunities will be encouraged
- Schools will begin and end at regular times
- Schedules will include time for washroom use/drinks/hand washing

Elementary
Model –
Adaptive
(If directed by
the Ministry
of Education)

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***If directed by the Ministry of Education
(does not apply to St. Clair Catholic
Elementary Schools for September 2020):***

- Classroom cohorts divided into 2 smaller cohorts (to be determined)
- Cohorts attend school on assigned days (e.g. alternating days – to be determined)
- On alternate days when not at school, students in each cohort learn from home, in a blended synchronous/asynchronous model

Elementary
Model – Full
Remote
Delivery
(If directed by
the Ministry
of Education)

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In the event the Ministry of Education directs that schools be closed (does not apply to St. Clair Catholic elementary schools for September 2020):

- Learning at home with opportunities for students to engage with their teachers in both synchronous (e.g., live teacher lesson with students participating virtually) and asynchronous learning (e.g., teacher-recorded lessons)
- There will be opportunities for both whole group and small group learning

Elementary Model – Voluntary Learn at Home

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Some families may choose to have their children learn from home rather than return to school in September

- We have developed a plan to support online learning from home
- Parents are indicating their preference through a survey which is open until August 28, 2020
- For students enrolled in Voluntary Learn at Home, attendance will be taken according to the school's daily protocol
- Students will be provided with a daily schedule of subjects/courses according to a 300 minute instructional day with opportunities for teacher-led synchronous and asynchronous learning
- Voluntary Learn at Home classes will be led by staff who may or may not be attached to the child's home school
- Students from multiple schools may be assigned to the same distance learning class
- The Board will make every effort to provide instruction in French for French Immersion students
- Further details to be confirmed

Secondary Model – Conventional

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Beginning in September 2020 at St. Clair Catholic Secondary Schools:

- All teachers will maintain a digital learning platform for their students who attend in-person
- Students will be supported to become more familiar with these platforms at school during face to face learning in the event that the SCCDSB is required to transition to Full Remote Learning throughout the COVID-19 pandemic response plan

Secondary Model – Conventional Octmester

Beginning in September 2020 at St. Clair Catholic Secondary Schools:

- One credit Octmester means all secondary students attend school daily for the full 300 minutes for which they take one subject for 22 days
- On the 23rd day students would complete the course exam or culminating activity
- This model keeps the students with the same class (cohort) for the entire school day minimizing direct and indirect contact with other students
- Octmester 'A' runs from September 8 - October 7, 2020 with an exam or culminating activity on October 8, 2020
- Students will then commence Period 2 on October 9 for 22 school days followed by an exam or culminating activity on the 23rd day
- This process will repeat for period 3 and 4 concluding on January 26, 2021

Secondary
Model –
Adaptive
Octmester
(If directed by
the Ministry
of Education)

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If directed by the Ministry of Education (does not apply to St. Clair Catholic Secondary Schools for September 2020):

- Students would attend classes in cohorts of approximately 15 students on alternating schedules with at least 50 percent of in-class instructional days
- Cohorts attend school on assigned days (schedule to be determined *i.e. alternating days*)
- On learn from home days students would be engaged in a blend of synchronous and asynchronous digital learning
- In the Octmester model, students would continue their studies

Secondary
Model – Full
Remote
Delivery
(If directed by
the Ministry
of Education)

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***In the event the Ministry of Education
directs that schools be closed:***

- Students would continue to learn at home for the remainder of the Octmester with the same teacher they had face to face in the Conventional or Adaptive Model
- Expectations for synchronous and asynchronous learning during a Full Remote Delivery as directed by the Ministry of Education

Secondary Model – Voluntary Learn at Home

Some families may choose to have their children learn from home rather than return to school in September

- Secondary students who choose Voluntary Learn at Home will have the opportunity to enroll in courses offered by SCCDSB teachers
- Students should expect to have different teachers deliver the online course than their scheduled teacher at their home school
- Attendance will be taken according to the school's daily protocol
- Students will be provided with a daily schedule of subjects with opportunities for synchronous and asynchronous learning
- Students may also have access to e-learning courses offered via E-Learning Consortia
- Fully independent learning models are also available through the TVO Independent Learning Centre (ILC)
- All reasonable requests by students for independent study will be considered as best as possible and students should be able to access guidance counsellors to confirm that credits support their academic pathway
- Student performance will be assessed and evaluated as per Ministry of Education guidelines

Responding to Families

After **August 28, 2020** there will be limited opportunities for students to switch between in-person classroom learning and teacher-led online learning at home.

Entry dates are identified below. Parents/guardians who opt to switch between in-person classroom learning within this guideline and teacher-led online learning must give the school advance notification.

The schedule to accommodate the moves is noted below.

Elementary schools:

- Nov. 12, 2020 (with advance notification by Oct. 22, 2020)
- Feb. 3, 2021 (with advance notification by Jan. 12, 2021)
- April 20, 2021 (with advance notification by Mar. 30, 2021)

Secondary schools – *The timeline for secondary schools was determined to align with the Ontario Secondary School reporting periods.*

- Feb. 3, 2021 (with advance notification by Jan. 12, 2021)

If a family/student requests a change of learning models at a time that is different than those stated above, the change will be reviewed on a case by case basis.

Special Education, Mental Health and Wellness

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- Teachers are essential in the planning and programming for students with special education needs
- All students with special education needs who will engage in remote learning will have live contact with a teacher and expectations for learning based on curricular expectations and IEP
- Secondary students in congregated programs will attend daily even if in an adaptive model and programming will be supported
- **Individual Education Plan (IEP):** IEPs are the foundational documents for communication of program goals, expectations of focus, strategies to support learning , assessment and transition planning. Schools will follow the requirements to provide students with their IEPs in collaboration with the IEP team and parents/guardians. Changes in the school environments and/or remote learning needs will be considered when creating and updating the IEPs
- **School Based Team, Student Success and IPRC Meetings** will continue either face to face and/or remotely using a secure platform. Professional Support Services and other members of the team will be included as usual (e.g., Social Worker, Consultants etc.) to be in attendance
- **Itinerant Staff:** Itinerant staff (e.g., SLP, Teacher for Deaf & Hard of Hearing) will continue to support both remotely and in person following physical distancing guidelines and a Tiered Approach based on a student's IEP
- **Special Equipment Amount (SEA):** Students will continue to access SEA equipment/assistive technology and staff will continue to be supported with SEA equipment training to enhance student access to learning

Special Education, Mental Health and Wellness

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- We know that the COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on our students, their families and our staff. We are prioritizing the building of school community and connection by establishing the conditions of psychological safety, belonging, inclusivity, and connection using resources entitled, *Mentally Healthy Return to School Toolkit from School Mental Health Ontario*
- Our Student Support and Wellbeing Team consisting of CYWs and Social Workers is available to provide support to students on caseload, new referrals and crisis counselling as needed
- Our Student Support and Wellbeing Team will provide in-person consultation and support for teachers on social-emotional and mental health and well-being strategies in the classroom
- Our Student Support and Wellbeing Team will also support school staff with additional information that will be provided in the School Mental Health Ontario learning framework and toolkit entitled, *Mentally Healthy Return to School Toolkit from School Mental Health Ontario*

Transportation

- All eligible students will be accommodated for transportation to school
- Courtesy seat application process is open
- Enhanced health and safety measures for busing includes:
 - Bus seating plan
 - Students in same family or classrooms sit together where possible
 - Personal protective equipment for drivers and students
 - Enhanced vehicle cleaning
 - Mandatory self-screening for bus drivers and students
- Look for:
 - CLASS COVID-19 website information materials for parents/students/general public at schoolbusinfo.com

More
Information to
Come



This *#SeptemberReady* Framework was presented to the Board of Trustees on August 13, 2020

The St. Clair Catholic *#SeptemberReady Welcome Back to School Plan* will be posted to the Board website the week of August 17, 2020

As new information is provided and plans are finalized, the plan will continue to be updated

Please continue to visit the *#SeptemberReady* web page on the Board website at

<https://newsdesk.st-clair.net/category/september-ready/>

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