

Dear Parents and Guardians of Tweedsmuir Students,

We look forward to welcoming back our students the week of September 14. We want to provide you with another update and some information about our safe reopening. Our renovations and the building of our new gym are continuing as we return. The building is being renovated in phases and we are nearing the end of phase 1. This means that new classrooms and bathrooms are projected to be ready for student use at the beginning of October. Currently, our new parking spaces and bus bay are being completed in front of the school and will be operational for September 14. As we continue with the construction phasing, students will move into different classrooms as school year progresses. We will update you after the initial opening of our school when classroom changes are occurring.

Here's a reminder about start days for students as we reopen:

Staggered Start: TVDSB is implementing a staggered start to the school year. It will look like:

September 8-11: No students will be attending school as schools will be preparing for learning. A staggered start will allow time for students to adjust to the enhanced health and safety routines, ensure students have access to technology and can navigate online platforms, initially in smaller groups.

September 14-15: Students with last names **A-K** will attend school for the full day. Students with last names L-Z will NOT ATTEND SCHOOL on these days.

September 16-17: Students with last names **L-Z** will attend school for the full day. Students with last names A-K will NOT ATTEND SCHOOL on these days.

September 18: *All in person learning students* will attend school.

Please read below for additional information:

Return to School

Return to school protocols will follow the guidance from Ministry of Health and/or Local Health Unit.

Masks

Students in Gr. 4-8 are required to wear masks. The TVDSB Trustees have also voted in favour of masks being worn by students in Kindergarten-Gr. 3. Students may remove masks while eating lunch but masks are to be worn again once they have finished eating. Students will have to carry their masks with them at recess and outdoor learning due to the requirement to wear them at all times while in the building.

It will be important to send extras should they become lost or damaged. Some extra will be available at the school should students forget, however these will be in limited supply. If your child is unable to wear a mask due to underlying medical conditions, please let the school know prior to the week beginning September 14, 2020.

Water Bottles: Please send in a filled water bottle daily with your son/daughter with their full name on it. As a reminder, all school water fountains have been turned off and only the water bottle filling station is available to students. The water bottle filling station is on the first floor near the office. Please ensure to clearly label the water bottles with the student's name.

Students that are late

All doors to TVDSB schools will remain locked as directed by the Ministry of Education. Students that are late will wait outside the school while maintaining physical distancing until a staff member allows them to enter. Please do your very best to have your son/daughter arrive to school every day on time. If you need to reach the office, you can call the school office at 519-452-8620.

School Safety

- Floor markings have been placed in hallways and within classrooms to support with physical distancing and directional flow
- All internal doors will be left open to minimize touch points
- Hand hygiene is very important and will be practised and done several times throughout the day (e.g., before and after eating lunch; before and after recess).
- Students will be grouped into smaller cohorts within the school at recess times

At this time, there will be no field trips, hot lunches, or fundraisers taking place until it is safe to do so and we get direction from TVDSB.

First Day Procedures

We will send another SchoolMessenger to our families later this week which outline our first day procedures. This will be the same process for students who are beginning on September 14 and those who are starting on September 16.

IPOC Information/Parent forms

Parents must complete the Individual Plan Of Care (IPOC) forms for students with underlying medical conditions. These [forms can be found in the parent portal](#) and must be reviewed each school year.

Handwashing Routines

Hand washing routines will be practised at specific times of the day, such as:

- Entering the classroom in the morning
- Entering the classroom after recess
- Before and after eating lunch
- When leaving the classroom at the end of the day

Water Bottle Filling Routines and Washroom Breaks

Students are encouraged to bring a filled water bottle from home. Opportunities to refill bottles using the water filling stations will be scheduled throughout the day.

Washroom breaks will also be scheduled to help reduce the number of students accessing the washrooms at the same time. However, students will be able to use the washrooms as needed.

Around the School

Yards locations have been set up to support physical distancing, contact tracing, and to limit the amount of students children come into contact with. Although the start and end of the day remain the same, recess and eating times have been staggered to support the reduction of students on the school yard at the same time. We ask that student toys and equipment do not come to school at this time, including basketballs and soccer balls. There will be recess equipment provided by the school for student use by individual classes.

Significant work has occurred within classrooms and the school to support sanitization. As well, students will only come into contact with a limited number of subject teachers throughout the school day. Student(s) is/are to remain in the isolation room/area until such time as parent/guardian arrives for pick up. Student(s) will be escorted directly to designated pick up area.

Lunch

We encourage all of our students to remain at the school for lunch breaks. We are also encouraging families to send litterless lunches this year. During eating times, students will need to stay in their designated desk or table spot. They will need to remain seated and cannot get up to put items in the garbage. Students will therefore be encouraged to take any packaging back home with them in their lunch bags.

Staying Home When Ill

It is important that students do not come to school when they are unwell. Parents and guardians [must complete the board's student health agreement](#) prior to students returning to school. This can be found in the [parent portal](#). This agreement indicates that students must stay home when they are ill which includes 24 hours of being symptom free, parents and guardians must have a plan in place for the immediate pick up of an ill child when contacted by the school, and if a child tests positive for COVID or has been told by the health unit to isolate, that he/she will not attend school. Students who are in immediate and direct contact with a family member who has returned from international travel must also self-isolate at home and not attend school for 14 days. Schoolwork will be provided for students who must self-isolate at home.

Illness At School

If your child becomes ill at school, and displays COVID-19 symptoms, we will call parents/guardians for an immediate pick up and encourage COVID-19 testing – [click here for info. about testing centers in our area](#). It is critical that contact information be current and up to date in the office; please review the Student Information Form in your

parent portal and confirm that the information we have on file is up to date. If there is any information that needs updating, please print, make your corrections [and email Ms. Charles](mailto:L.charles@tvdsb.ca) L.charles@tvdsb.ca ASAP.

When a student is displaying symptoms of COVID; the student will be separated from others in a supervised separate area until they can be picked up. Siblings within the same school will also be separated and supervised if there is one student in that family exhibiting symptoms.

[Student Accident Insurance](#)

This year there will not be paper copies of the student accident insurance brochures delivered to the schools. Please [use the link](#) to read more and learn about the option to purchase optional [student accident insurance](#).

Office Hours

Tweedsmuir office hours for this school year will be 8:00 a.m.-10:45 a.m. and 11:45 a.m.- 4:00 p.m. In following our COVID protocols, we cannot have student office helpers this year during break time. Our office will be closed daily from 10:45-11:45 a.m. If you need to call the office during this time, please leave a voicemail and we will return your call when we are able.

Bussing

PLEASE NOTE – there are many changes due to COVID 19, the bus stop and times may differ greatly from previous years. It is important to go to MyBigYellowBus.ca and log onto the parent portal for information. They have made some changes to their website as well; you'll need to [create a new account](#). To do so, you'll need your 9 digit TVDSB student ID # which can be found in your TVDSB parent portal or you can request this number by [emailing Ms. Charles](mailto:L.charles@tvdsb.ca) directly. L.charles@tvdsb.ca

Full Remote Learning

For our Tweedsmuir families who have selected the full remote learning option for the beginning of September, more information is coming soon from the school board. Thank you for your patience as TVDSB works to staff our seven virtual schools and connect with their new students. As information becomes available, we will be sure to post it on [our website](#).