



Hatzic Middle School Communicable Disease Prevention Plan: January 7, 2022

Dear Hatzic Middle School Families,

We hope you had a wonderful holiday and are keeping well. We are very much looking forward to welcoming your child back to school Monday, January 10, 2022.

Please see below our enhanced safety measures for returning to school. We will continue to review and address safety concerns moving forward. As we know, we will need to be flexible and adapt to sudden changes should the need arise. Please be aware that we may have interruptions to service as mentioned by the Ministry of Education which may include functional closures. We will alert you to these developments should they arise with further information to help us navigate through.

Enhanced Measures:

- Maximize space between children while reducing face-to-face interactions in the classrooms. When possible, avoid face to face seating arrangements.
- Staff and student walk on the right side of the hallways to encourage flow of movement.
- To avoid overcrowding and increase flow of movement, classes on the upper floor will be released two minutes earlier from regular dismissal time at the conclusion of each class.
- Reduced face to face contact. Where possible, desks will be moved to increase space.
- Staff and students are reminded not to share supplies.
- Sports tournaments are paused. Extracurricular sports may continue, but no more than three (3) teams are permitted. Spectators are not permitted.
- Encourage mask wearing, proper hand hygiene and use of sanitizer.
- Conduct gatherings and events virtually.

Continued Practices

- Daily Health Checks to ensure students and staff are well when they come to school. All students must complete a Daily Health Screening before coming to school.
 - Parents/caregivers and students should use the K to 12 Health Check App.
 - Refer to BCCDC's *When to get tested for COVID-19*.
 - Families can use the BCCDC online Self-Assessment Tool, contact 8-1-1, or connect with their health care provider.
 - All students and staff stay home if sick.
- Mask wearing in all indoor spaces.
- Mask mandate, hand sanitizing and increased signage for hand hygiene.
- Limiting physical contact.
- Student access to building will remain at 8:30am. During lunch hour students will remain outside.
- Lunch will continue to be eaten in the classroom setting at the conclusion of second block. Cafeteria services will continue to be limited to pre-purchased bags of lunch.



- Use of physical barriers for small group teaching when required.
- Essential visitors are welcome by appointment.
- All visitors to the building will sign in at the office and complete a health check before entering.
- Limited number of students in high frequency areas, such as cafeteria, library, wolf den, etc.
- Ventilation improvements have been made since March of 2020. Please see the Ventilation Measures attachment for current district information.
- Cleaning:
 - Frequently touched surfaces (those touched by larger numbers of people) are cleaned and disinfected at least once per day.
 - Surfaces touched by fewer people are cleaned once per day.
 - Practices are in place to clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces.
- We encourage everyone who is eligible for a vaccine to get immunized. Vaccines are a key layer of protection in reducing severe illness.

We kindly ask that all families complete daily health checks with their children. Please keep children home should they have signs of illness. Please have a plan in place to pick up students promptly should they become ill while at school. A reminder to parents/guardians, if your child is ill to please notify the school of their absence via email at hms.info@mpsd.ca . Please connect with your child's teachers directly if you would like to have work provided while they are ill or to make plans for catching up upon their return (Staff email links are on the school website). If your child has tested positive for Covid-19 or is self-isolating due to suspected Covid-19 infection, please see the attached guidance from the BCCDC about timelines/next steps.

Please remember that mask wearing is an important layer of protection. Proper and consistent wearing of a mask is extremely important. This includes wearing a three-layer mask that fits well over the mouth and nose with no gaps. Please send your child to school with a proper fitting mask with extras in their backpack. Wearing a medical mask with an additional mask overtop for protection is highly advised to ensure a proper seal is maintained. Mask must also be worn on school busses. Please review the attached document (COVID-19 Mask Use) with your child.

Thank you for your continued support throughout this school year. We look forward to welcoming back your child to HMS on Monday, January 10, 2022. Please let us know should you have any questions or concerns.

All the best,

Handwritten signature of Marcello Gabriele in black ink.

Marcello Gabriele
Principal

Handwritten signature of Sheri Montgomery in black ink.

Sheri Montgomery
Vice-Principal

Handwritten signature of Ralph Vos in black ink.

Ralph Vos
Vice-Principal