

Planning and Priorities Committee (Special Meeting) Report No. 01

PPC:001A Tuesday, November 24, 2020 Electronic Meeting

Members Present Alexander Brown (Chair), Michelle Aarts, Alexander Brown,

Rachel Chernos Lin, Stephanie Donaldson, Trixie Doyle,

Harpreet Gill, Parthi Kandavel, Shelley Laskin, James Li, Dan

MacLean, Christopher Mammoliti, Chris Moise, Patrick Nunziata, Zakir Patel, Robin Pilkey Yalini Rajakulasingam, David Smith, Anu Sriskandarajah, Jennifer Story and Manna

Wong

Regrets Regrets were received from Trustees Alexandra Lulka

Trustees participated by electronic means in accordance with

amendments to Section 7 of Ontario Regulations 463/97,

Electronic Meetings

Part A: Committee Recommendations

1. TDSB Readiness to Welcome International Students [3997]

The Committee considered a report from staff (see PPC:001A, page 1) presenting information on International Student pre-departure, arrival and support plans.

Moved by: Trustee Nunziata **Seconded by**: Trustee MacLean

The Planning and Priorities Committee RECOMMENDS that International Student Pre-Departure, Arrival and Support plan, as presented in the report, be approved.

Carried

Part B: Information Only

2. Call to Order and Acknowledgement of Traditional Lands

An electronic meeting of the Planning and Priorities Committee was convened on Tuesday, November 24, 2020 from 4:30 to 6:51 p.m., with Alexander Brown presiding.

3. Declarations of Possible Conflict of Interest

No matters to report

4. Delegations

re Virtual School

1. Ryan Watts, Parent

re COVID Impact on Youth

2. Josh Fullan, Director Maximum City

re Designated Early Childhood Educators and Quarantine Pay

3. John Weatherup, President Toronto Education Workers Local 4400

5. Report From the Director of Education

The Committee heard a presentation from the staff providing an update on the return to school (see attached, page 4). The Committee also heard a presentation from Dr. Vinita Dubey, Associate Medical Officer of Health and Vincenza Pietropaolo, Associate Director, Toronto Public Health (see attached, page 20).

6. Report From the Chair of the Board

No matters to report

7. Report From Representative on the City's Board of Health

No matters to report

8. Report From the Directors on the Ontario Public School Boards' Association

No matters to report

9. Report From the Chairs of the Governance and Policy Committee, the Program and School Services Committee, the Finance, Budget and Enrolment Committee

No matters to report

10. Report From Representatives on the Parent Involvement Advisory Committee and the Special Education Advisory Committee

Trustee Doyle provided an update from the Parent Involvement Advisory Committee. The update included:

- Information on the PIAC Annual Conference held on November 21 and 22.
 Workshops and speeches from the Conference were recorded and will be available on the TDSB website
- Information on the Parent Engagement Office and an update on delays in school council elections

11. Reports From Student Trustees

No matters to report

12. Other Questions, Insights and Advice From Trustees to Staff

No matters to report

13. Adjournment

On motion of Trustee Laskin, seconded by Trustee Moise, the meeting adjourned at 6:51 p.m.

Part C: Ongoing Matters

No matters to report

Submitted by: Alexander Brown, Chair

Update to Return to School

November 24, 2020



Agenda

- Dr. Vinita Dubey, Toronto Public Health at 4:30 p.m.
- Secondary Models Update
- Virtual School Leadership Verbal Update
- Staff, Student Parent Engagement Thought Exchange

Toronto Public Health

Dr. Vinita Dubey and Vincenza Pietropaolo

November 24, 2020

Local Secondary Virtual Models Update

Learning Centre	# of Classes in Quadmester 2	# of Cohorts in Quadmester 2	# of Cohorts in Quadmester 2 Learning In- person /Adaptive model	# of Cohorts in Quadmester 2 Learning Virtually only	# of Cohorts in Quadmester 2 in Learning Simultaneously
LC1	1467	2793	1585	344	864
LC2	1353	2579	1693	541	345
LC3	1015	1930	1081	471	307
LC4	1310	2694	2083	233	378
LCC	106	157	116	33	8
Board Total	5251	10153	6609	1642	1902

Secondary School Virtual "Hubs"

- Hubs are a group of schools that combine to form a cohort for a particular course that is virtual
- In some instances, the creation of such a cohort enables a course to be offered that would not have been offered at any of the schools involved
- In other instances, the cohort allows access to a cohort that already existed for schools where the course would not have otherwise run

Virtual Hubs - Quad 2 Update

 Approximately 31 schools are involved in some form of "hub"

Distribution of Students by Grade

- Grade 9: 5 courses
- Grade 10: 9 courses
- Grade 11: 12 courses
- Grade 12: 14 courses
- Split grades: 4

courses

Distribution by Courses Being Studied

- 2 courses in the Arts (Drama, Photography)
- 4 courses in Business Studies
- 6 courses in Canadian and World Studies (History, Geography, Civics, Law)
- 2 courses n ESL/ELD
- 5 courses in English
- 2 courses in French
- 1 course in Career Studies
- 4 courses in Social Science/Family Studies
- 2 K courses (MID or DD)
- 6 courses in Math
- 1 course in Physical and Health Education
- 9 courses in Sciences
- 3 courses in Technological Education

November 24, 2020

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Virtual Secondary School - Quad 2 Update

Enrolment Information

- 17,740 students
- Approximately 1300 courses being studied

Distribution of Students by Grade

- Grade 9: 291 classes
- Grade 10: 382 classes
- Grade 11: 310 classes
- Grade 12: 233 classes
- Split grades: 84 classes

Distribution by Courses Being Studied

- 90 classes in the Arts (Drama, Visual Arts, Music, Dance)
- 68 classes in Business Studies
- 163 classes in Canadian and World Studies (History, Geography, Civics, Law, Economics)
- 12 classes in Coop
- 22 classes in ESL/ELD
- 154 classes in English
- 52 classes in French
- 42 classes in Career Studies
- 30 classes in Learning Strategies (GLE/GLS)
- 64 classes in Social Science/Family Studies
- 90 K classes (MID or DD)
- 6 classes in Languages (Spanish, Latin, Ojibwe)
- 180 classes in Math
- 6 classes in Native Studies
- 68 classes in Physical and Health Education
- 174 classes in Sciences
- 77 classes in Technological Education

Updated Program Guides/Simultaneous Learning Resources

In Quadmester 2, we have moved towards new models of secondary delivery which includes:

- Adapted/hybrid (may include remote learning cohort, inperson cohort and mixed cohort)
- Virtual School

We continue to develop and evolve Available resources for educators:

- Secondary Program Guidelines (updated)
- Simultaneous Learning Addendum (new)
- Webinars

Secondary Program Guidelines Update

At the start of the school year, Secondary teachers received a Program Guideline. An updated version was provided last week. Highlights include:

- setting conditions for learning by centering equitable opportunities and outcomes
- well-being strategies
- digital tools for teachers
- student voice
- a toolkit to select equity and culturally relevant and responsive resources

Secondary Program Guidelines Update

- resources from the Urban Indigenous Education Centre
- resources provided by TDSB teachers
- strategies for Credit Rescue and Credit Recovery
- a Frequently asked Question document

Simultaneous Learning Supports

An addendum to the Secondary Program Guideline looks at Simultaneous Learning. Highlights include:

- an understanding of simultaneous learning
- strategies to build a learning community and offers teachers specific digital tools
- ways to establish classroom routines in an online/mixed environment
- creating engaging learning activities for students

Simultaneous Learning Supports

- resources and digital tools for course planning that include ELL and Special Education students
- assessment strategies

Assessment and Evaluation practices looks different as a result of the exceptional circumstances amidst the COVID-19 pandemic and its effects on school timetables, class formats, and hybrid and virtual learning models.

Supports for teachers include assessment and evaluation information including an ongoing FAQ.

Virtual Elementary School Leadership Update

	System Superintendents = (2) Administrative Liaisons = (2)					
	Learning Centre 1	Learning Centre 2	Learning Centre	Learning Centre 4	Total Across LCs	
Student Enrolment	12,852	17,362	20,382	11,483	62,079	
Classrooms	533	693	821	473	2,520	
Centrally Assigned Principals	3	5	5	3	16	
Principals	3	4	4	2	13	
Vice-Principals	12	15	20	10	57	
Administrator to Student Ratio	1:714	1:723	1:703	1:766	1:727	
Administrator to Classroom Ratio	1:30	1:29	1:28	1:32	1:30	

Virtual Secondary School Leadership Update

	System Superintendent = 1 Administrative Liaison = 1				
	As of September 30, 2020	As of October 31, 2020	As of November 23, 2020	As of January 4, 2021	
Student Enrolment	17,701	17,349	16,587	estimated 16,587	
Classes	1,300 courses running in Quadmester 1	1,300 courses running in Quadmester 1	1,250 courses running in Quadmester 2	1,250 courses running in Quadmester 2	
Centrally Assigned Principals	4	4	4	2	
Principals	3	3	3	3	
Vice Principals	8	9	8	18	
Current Admin to Student Ratio	1:1,180	1:1,084	1:1,106	1:721	

Staff, Student, Parent/Guardian Engagement Thought Exchange

Staff

- TDSB is exploring a broader consultation / conversation with employees
- An initial meeting has been held with employee group leaders to gather concerns / challenges / reactions that may inform the questions to be posed
- Following this meeting, it appears that each employee group will have its own set of Though Exchange questions
- Some questions will likely be common to all groups

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Staff, Student, Parent/Guardian Engagement Thought Exchange Critical Path for Staff Thought Exchange

- Finalize questions by November 27, 2020
- Design Exchanges and distribution of messaging by December 4, 2020
- Thought Exchange is open for three days [December 7 to 9, 2020]
- Preliminary draft summary of themes/information by December 18, 2020
- Discussion on next steps based on information received [January 2021]

Staff, Student, Parent/Guardian Engagement Thought Exchange

Student Engagement

 Work will begin with Student Trustees to design a Student Thought Exchange

Parent/Guardian Engagement

- Staff in the Research Department and the Parent & Community Engagement Office will begin to design a Parent/Guardian Thought Exchange
- Consultation and input from PIAC and SEAC on this process will occur in the next while

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COVID-19:Update for TDSB

Planning and Priorities (Special Meeting)

November 24th, 2020



Dr. Vinita Dubey

Toronto Public Health Associate Medical Officer of Health (AMOH)

Vincenza Pietropaolo

Toronto Public Health Associate Director, Liaison



Agenda

- COVID-19 in Toronto to date
- Grey Lockdown Control Level
- Role of Toronto Public Health and Hospital testing partners in schools
- Aerosol transmission
- Questions

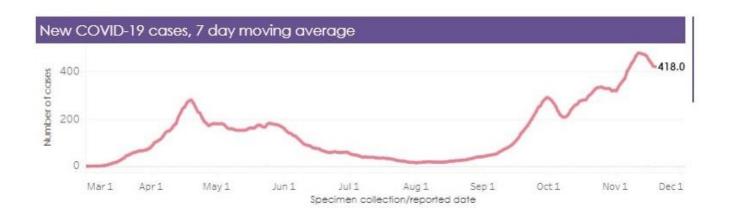


Data as of November 22nd, 2020 at 2 PM



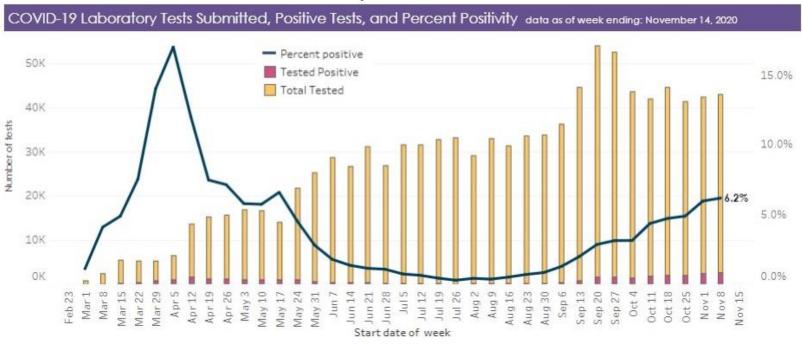


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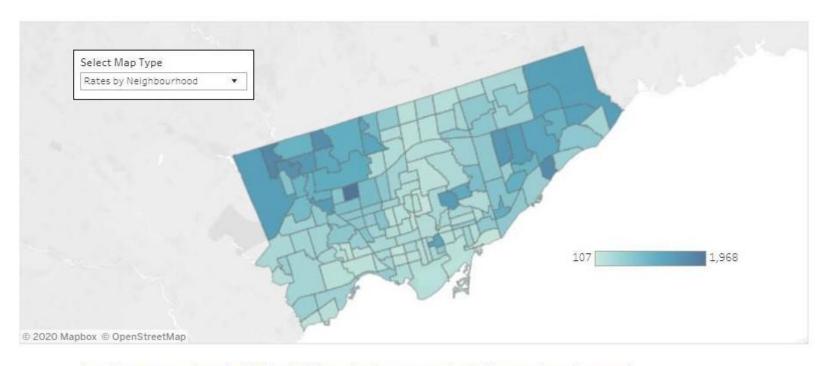


Note: As of June 15, ICES has changed their reporting from daily to weekly. Data for the most recent week may be incomplete due to reporting delays.



COVID-19 in Toronto — rates by neighbourhood

From October 1 to November 23rd, 2020





Update as of November 22nd at 2:00 PM

Active Outbreaks in Toronto

Data as of Sunday, November 22, 2020 at 2:00:00 PM
Data source: Ontario Ministry of Health, Integrated Public Health Information System and CORES



PDF

This page provides an update on COVID-19 active outbreaks in Toronto.

Healthcare Institutions*	Shelters & Congregate Settings†	Community & Workplace Settings‡	Child Care Centres	School
45	12	37	6	30



Schools and COVID-19 cases

- Cases and Outbreaks of COVID-19 are smaller compared to the community and other institutional outbreaks
- Schools are the source of about 10% of COVID-19 cases related to all outbreaks in the City.
 - Outbreaks in schools are made up of fewer cases compared to other institutions
- In Ontario, schools accounted for 7% of all cases. That figure has stayed between 7 and 9 % since the second week of school.



Schools and COVID-19 Cases

- Secondary school outbreaks do not appear to be the reason behind an increase in the percentage of teenagers whose COVID test results come back positive
- Test-positivity rate by age group (week of Nov8):
 - 14 to 17 years highest test-positivity rate of any age group in Toronto at 10.2%
 - Young adults ages of 18 to 23 years 9.5%
 - Children ages 4 to 13 years 5.4%
- Reasons beyond school to explain higher rate in teenagers



As of Monday November 23rd- Toronto is in Grey Control Lockdown Level

City of Toronto supports provincial lockdown measures to reduce COVID-19 transmission

News Release Nov 20, 2020 Hyperlinked



Schools follow advice of Ministry of Education and local public health



- Stay home except to:
 - Attend school/work
 - Pick up essentials like groceries
 - Attend health care
 - Exercise
- Commitment to keep schools open while they continue to be safer places for students to learn and grow





OPEN

- Bars & restaurants for take out, drive-through & delivery
- · Schools & child care centres
- City park amenities like playgrounds & off-leash dog parks
- All retail stores for curbside pick-up or delivery, including in malls
- · Outdoor farmers' & holiday markets
- · Drive-in cinemas & performances
- Indoor/outdoor cleaning & maintenance services
- Libraries for contactless pick-up as well as in-person computer use
- · Veterinary & other pet services

CLOSED

- Indoor/outdoor dining at bars & restaurants
- Indoor fitness activities & indoor/ outdoor team sports
- In-person retail shopping, except at essential stores that sell:
 - Groceries & alcohol
 - o Medical, hardware & safety supplies
- Personal care services (e.g. hair & nail salons)
- Meeting & event spaces (e.g. banquet halls & conference centres)
- · Movie theatres, casinos & bingo halls
- · Zoos, museums & attractions, unless drive-through is available

TORONTO.CA/COVID19



https://www.ontario.ca/page/covid-19-response-framework-keeping-ontario-safe-and-open#grev



What is the Role of Toronto Public Health in Schools During COVID-19

- Support school boards and principals with COVID-19 information needs and provide resources.
- Investigate COVID-19 cases and close contacts & facilitate testing.
- Investigate cases occurring at schools for suspect and confirmed outbreaks.
- Work with school boards/schools to maintain COVID 19 public health prevention measures.
- Provide Immunization Clinics (i.e. Flu Clinics) in the community.
- Support Student Nutrition programs.
- Respond to other school based communicable disease cases and potential outbreaks.



TPH School Response

Toronto Public Health has established:

- A team of COVID 19 School Liaison Public
 Health Nurses to provide outreach, education
 and COVID-19 prevention services
- A team of
 Communicable
 Disease
 Investigators to
 follow-up when
 there is a positive
 case(s) or outbreak



Image from: Pixabay



What is the Role of the TPH COVID-19 School Liaison Public Health Nurse (PHN)

- Conduct assessments, consultations and provide education to schools related to COVID 19 prevention measures.
 Includes onsite visit to review IPAC measures.
- Support school mental health and well-being.
- Provide COVID-19 information sessions for school staff and parents/caregivers.
- Provide the initial response when there is a laboratory confirmed COVID-19 case in a school.
- Help support the CDI and Outbreak team when there is an investigation.
- Provide testing support- communication and coordination role.
- To find your public health nurse go to the webpage: COVID
 19 School Liaison Public Health Nurses



What is the Role of the TPH Communicable Disease Investigor (CDI)

Case & Contact Communicable Disease Investigators (C&C CDI)

 Investigates and monitors cases and any high risk close contacts.

Outbreak Communicable Disease Investigators (OB CDI)

 Investigates the setting- and declares when there is an Outbreak (OB).



Outbreak Classification

Ministry of Health COVID-19 Guidance

 An outbreak in a school is defined as two or more lab-confirmed COVID-19 cases in students and/or staff (or other visitors) in a school with an epidemiological link, within a 14-day period, where at least one case could have reasonably acquired their infection in the school (including transportation and before/after school care)





School Outbreak Investigation

In response to a reported case of COVID-19 in a student/staff/visitor in a school, the following will take place once there is verification of a lab-confirmed positive case:

Initial Response

School Liaison PHN will:

- Contact the school to collect initial information.
- The PHN will support the principals in making a decision to dismiss a cohort until the Outbreak CDI begins the investigation.
- Reinforce important prevention measures.



School Outbreak (OB) Investigation

Outbreak Investigation

Once the Initial Notification and Information received, an outbreak investigator will begin an investigation:

- Contact school and verify whether there was an exposure in the school setting and complete the investigation.
- Identify who may have been exposed and ensure they are isolated.
- Determine if the exposure is limited to a single case (monitoring), 2 cases with no school transmission (suspect OB) or 2 or more cases with transmission occurring in school setting (confirmed outbreak).
- Monitor the setting until no further cases reported after 14 days from the last confirmed case.



What is the role of our Hospital Partners during COVID-19

- To provide clinical services including treatment.
- To provide Emergency services
- To provide testing and clinical assessment.
- Some provide community outreach and services.



Image from: Creazilla



Where can you go to be tested

- Assessment Centers (these are arranged by our hospital partners)
- Participating Pharmacies (need to meet requirements for testing at these sites)
- Mobile Pop Up Centers

Go to the TPH Website: COVID-19
Testing for more information

Toronto Public Health

Hospital COVID-19 Assessment Centers in Toronto

- Etobicoke General Hospital Drive Through
- Humber River Hospital Church Site
- Humber River Reactivation Center Finch Site
- Michael Garron Hospital
- Mount Sinai Hospital
- Na-Me-Res Auduzhe Mino Nesewinong (Place of Healthy Breathing)
- North York General Branson Site

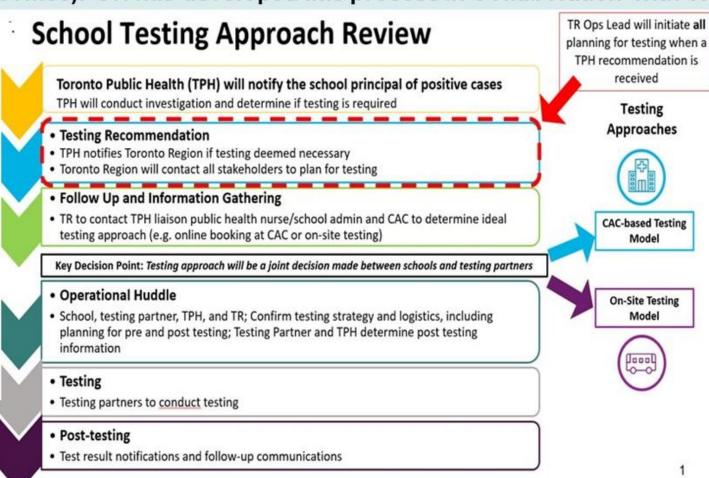
- Scarborough Health Network
 *Birchmount Hospital
 *Centenary Hospital
 *General Hospital
- Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre
- UHN Toronto Western Hospital
- Unity St. Joseph's Health Centre
- Unity St. Michael's Hospital
- Women's College Hospital

Go to the TPH Website: COVID-19 Testing for more information



School Testing Model

School testing is co ordinated centrally with Ontario Health (OH) (province). OH has developed this process in Collaboration with TPH





Testing Recommendations

- TPH makes a testing recommendation for school.
- TPH doesn't do the testing. Testing is co-ordinated through the Province.
- In Toronto –school testing is co-ordinated through the Toronto Region of Ontario Health.



Testing Recommendations

- Principal is included in the planning process and contributes important information about their school community relevant to testing.
- When details confirmed, TPH provides letters with testing information for principals to share with impacted cohorts.
- TPH will request from the principal a list of students and staff who are being recommended for testing.



Testing scenarios for Schools

Two options provided for testing:

(1) Dedicated hours at an Assessment Center

- Registration process determined by the testing facility – generally online with option for phone access
- (2) On-site testing at the school– provided to impacted cohorts or entire school
 - Hours, set up and registration process determined by school and testing partner



Aerosol transmission of COVID-19



Revised November 4, 2020

COVID-19: Transmission, Aerosols and Ventilation

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a respiratory illness caused by a new coronavirus. Scientists and researchers are continually gathering new evidence about this disease, including routes of transmission. New data suggests that it is possible for COVID-19 to spread through the air among people who are in enclosed, crowded spaces with poor ventilation for a prolonged period of time. Factors contributing to transmission may include activities that cause heavy breathing, such as singing, dancing or exercise, especially without precautions such as wearing a mask or keeping a physical distance. However, close, person-to-person contact with an infected person before they show symptoms remains the most common method of transmission.

Respiratory droplets and aerosols

The virus that causes COVID-19 is spread by respiratory droplets that are produced when we breathe, speak, sing, laugh, sneeze or cough. The larger, heavier respiratory droplets will fall more quickly due to gravity. The smaller, lighter droplets, sometimes called aerosols, may stay suspended in the air longer than larger droplets.

There are also certain medical and dental procedures such as intubation and suctioning that generate aerosols, which can remain suspended in the air for a time. Healthcare workers performing these procedures should always wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE).

The amount of virus in respiratory droplets and aerosols produced by a person may differ based on where in their respiratory tract they originate, and the stage of illness the person is in. A person is contagious two days before they begin to show symptoms. Environmental conditions such as humidity, temperature, and air flow may also affect virus survival, risk of exposure and movement of the particles carrying the virus.

https://www.toronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/8de9-COVID19-Transmission-Aerosols-Ventilation.pdf



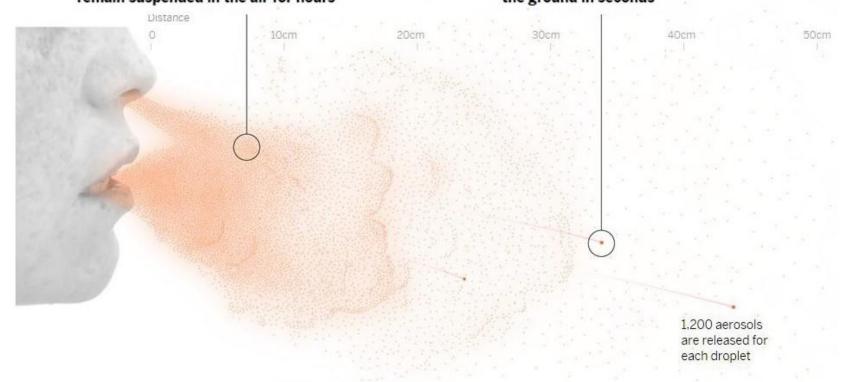
Aerosol Transmission

Aerosols

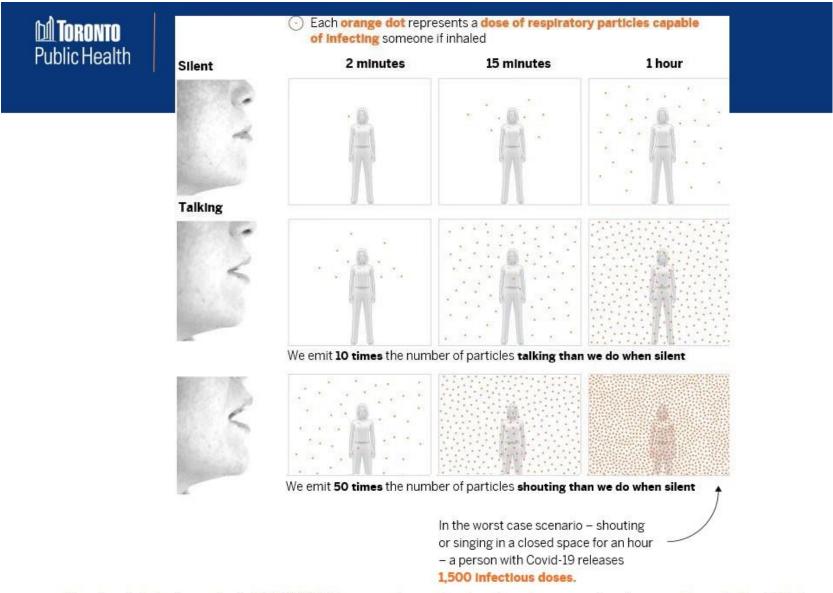
These are respiratory droplets that are less than 100 micrometers in diameter that **can remain suspended in the air for hours**

Droplets

These are particles that are larger than 300 micrometers and, due to air currents, **fall to the ground in seconds**



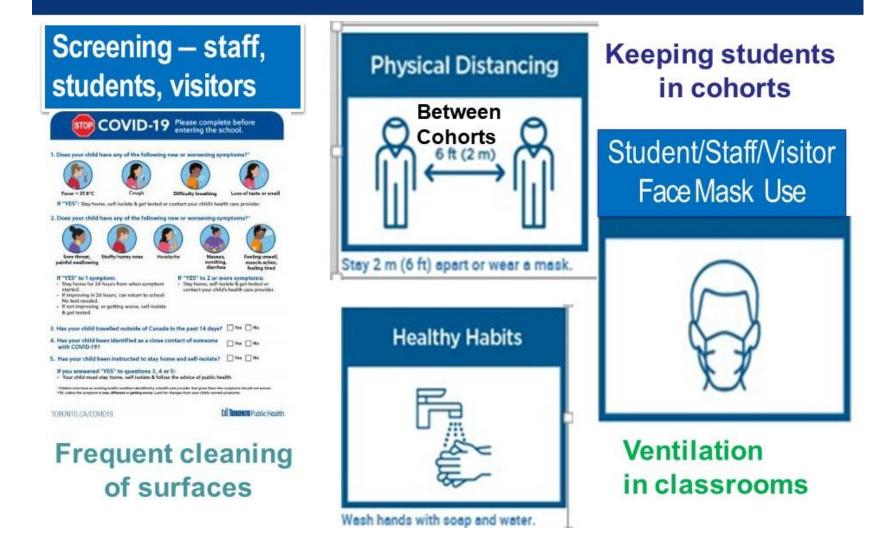
From: https://english.elpais.com/society/2020-10-28/a-room-a-bar-and-a-class-how-the-coronavirus-is-spread-through-the-air.html



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Public Health Measures in School





Prevention Measures: Face Masks





Qualities of a Good Cloth Mask—updated

- Your mask should fit your face, covering your nose, mouth and chin without gaping.
- Your mask should be comfortable, easy to breathe through, and not limit your vision.
- Masks should be made of at least two layers of tightly woven fabric (such as cotton or linen), and, if possible, a middle "filter" layer. A three layer mask can provide added protection.
- For masks with a pocket, add a disposable coffee filter, paper towel, or reusable filter cloth.
- For masks without a pocket, cut/unstitch one end and tuck a filter in between the two layers.
- https://www.toronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/97f8-COVID-19-Guidance-for-Use-of-Face-Masks-and-Coverings-bv-Public.pdf



TPH Guidance Document for Schools

- Guidance Document developed for Schools
- COVID-19 School Prevention Checklist

developed that follows guidance document



Guidance for Re-opening Schools JK to Grade 12

COVID-19 Prevention Checklist

This is a checklist of required measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in JK to Grade 12 schools. It is intended as a companion Toronto Public Health's COVID-19 Guidance for Re-opening Schools JK to Grade 12, and schools should review that document for more detailed information on how to keep schools safe.

For publically-funded schools (i.e. Toronto District School Board (TDSB), Toronto Catholic District School Board (TCDSB), CS Viamonde, and CS Mon Avenir, where there is a difference between this checklist and your school board's re-opening plan and internal policies and procedures, your school board's plan should take precedence.

Before Re-Opening

A. Review Information

- ☐ Review updated information in the Toronto Public Health (TPH) COVID-19 Fact Sheet
- Review COVID-19 Guidance for Re-opening Schools JK to Grade 12, and the Ministry of Education's Guide to Re-opening Ontario's Schools.
- For publically funded schools, review your school board's school re-opening plan and internal policies and procedures.
- Review other applicable resources (see other resources at the end of this checklist).



Thank You!



Thank you for working to keep our school communities safe

Image from: Wikimedia Commons