

Angela Marlatt

From: Caitlyn Byford
Sent: March 11, 2022 12:00 PM
To: Angela Marlatt
Subject: March 11 Update

Dear Halton Waldorf School Community,

The school is full of excitement today as we close off term two. We share gratitude with our full community.

I am writing to share that yesterday the school received a memo from the Ministry of Education confirming that several COVID-19 protocols for schools are being lifted this month. Below is a picture of what students and families at Halton Waldorf School can expect when we return from March Break on Monday, March 28th. This information is being shared with equanimity and respect. As with every stage of the pandemic, we are being intentional and thoughtful about this shift.

Lifting Student Masking & Faculty Personal Protective Equipment

Effective March 21, 2022, masks will no longer be required for students, faculty, and visitors in the school and on student transportation. Eye protection for faculty will also no longer be required.

Some students and faculty may choose to continue to wear masks at their own discretion.

Under current [federal travel requirements](#), upon return from international travel, individuals must, wear a mask when in public spaces (including schools and childcare), maintain a list of all close contacts for their first 14 days in Canada, and monitor yourself for signs and symptoms of COVID-19.

Lifting of Cohorting and Distancing

Cohorting and distancing will no longer be required at Halton Waldorf School. Students can return to learning and playing together across classes/cohorts both indoors and outdoors.

Limitations on in-person gatherings and assemblies will also be removed; therefore, the school will begin to plan and host in-person events again (e.g., graduation ceremonies, and assemblies).

We are beginning to plan and implement measures to allow students to congregate, including removing cohorting/zoning at recess and reconfiguring classrooms to allow students to sit in groupings without desk spacing.

Assigned seats and cohorting will no longer be required on student transportation.

Lifting On-site Confirmation of Screening

Daily on-site confirmation of screening for all students and faculty will no longer be required. Faculty and students should continue to self-screen every day before attending school using either the COVID-19 school and child care screening tool, or a screening tool designated by the local public health unit.

Removal of Immunization Disclosure Policy and Testing Requirements

As of March 14, private schools are no longer required to have a COVID-19 immunization disclosure policy in place. As a result, faculty, visitors, and volunteers at HWS will no longer be required to provide proof of vaccination, medical exemption or be required to undertake rapid antigen screening three times per week.

Remote Learning in Term Three

When children are sick, we ask that you let them rest and get well. Communication with the class teacher will continue during student absences. Well children who are at home as a result of screening protocols, may access remote learning. This program will continue until the end of term three. At HWS, our third term historically includes spending more time outdoors, experiential learning opportunities outside the classroom, collaborative activities with other classes, play rehearsals, and other beloved Waldorf traditions. We expect more movement through campus now that restrictions are becoming more relaxed.

- Grade One to Three: When children are healthy and not able to attend school, remote learning packages will be provided. The physical packages will include activities for the child to work through from home. Moving forward, online lessons will not be offered for grades one through three.
- Grade Four to Eight: Each classroom has been equipped with a camera and microphone for the teacher. The cameras protect the privacy of the children in the classroom as cameras are focused on the teacher and the blackboard and are not aimed at the desk area of the classroom. Live streaming will be offered at the class teacher's discretion for grades four to eight.
- High School: Each classroom has been equipped with a laptop for the teacher. Live streaming will be offered at the teacher's discretion for high school students who are screened out from attending school in-person.

Accessing Remote Learning

Families may request remote learning for their child by contacting the class teacher directly.

- Grade One to Three – Packages prepared with 48-hour turn around
- Grade Four to Twelve – Remote learning can begin the next day (24-hour turn around)

We wish everyone a wonderful March break! We look forward to seeing everyone back on campus for term three.

Warmly,

Caitlyn Byford

Human Resources & Operations Manager

