



# Conestoga Valley

## SCHOOL DISTRICT

Dr. David M. Zuilkoski, *Superintendent of Schools*

August 20, 2021

Dear CV Parents –

There has been a lot of discussion regarding our opening procedures for this school year (Monday, August 23 for our elementary students and Tuesday, August 24 for our secondary students). The Board approved a Health and Safety Plan at their July 19 school board meeting, and this past Monday, re-committed to follow that plan.

In essence, the following guidelines are in place:

- **Masks must be worn on busses.** If a student does not have a mask, one will be provided for him or her; if a student refuses to wear a mask, he or she will not be permitted on the bus. Repeated non-compliance may result in suspension of bus riding privileges.
- **Masks will be optional on all CV campuses.** We encourage those who wish to wear them to do so and will respect all family decisions to wear or not wear a mask. Either way, no child will be singled out for their or their family's decision.
- **We will continue to conduct contact tracing.** If we have a known, confirmed positive case, we will conduct contact tracing for close contacts [anyone within six (6) feet for 15 or more minutes with a positive case; or within three (3) feet while on the bus – since all are masked].
  - The positive case will be excluded from school for 10 days.
  - If a positive case has school-aged household members, those household members will need to quarantine per Department of Health guidelines.
  - Parents of non-family close contacts will be notified by the school nurse or administrator via a ParentLink call and email. **(Please ensure that your contact information in Sapphire is current!)**
    - Parents will be informed that their child has been identified as a close contact and we will have the parents monitor their child for symptoms.
    - If parents want to have their child tested, they should **contact their primary care provider** or contact a local pharmacy.
    - If the child begins to develop symptoms, the parents should **contact their primary care provider** and the child will be quarantined from school unless tested negative or completion of the ten-day timeframe.
  - The District will continue to report cases and close contacts to the Department of Health (DOH). The DOH will, in turn, contact the positive cases and close contacts with quarantine advice as needed.
    - Unlike last year when we quarantined any student within the six-foot radius, this year there are a number of factors that weigh in: who was masked – one, both, neither; how far apart – three feet or six feet; who was vaccinated – one, both, neither. As such, DOH has increased its capacity to address contact tracing and during their phone calls, will help determine quarantine recommendations for individuals and families.

- CV is not requiring quarantine for close contacts **not exhibiting symptoms**. Therefore, a parent of a child without symptoms may choose to have their child quarantine per DOH guidelines or to have their child remain in school.
- For those students who do quarantine, please notify your school's main office to report the absences and contact your teacher(s) for assignments/instruction. Teachers became very proficient last year in the use of SeeSaw and Schoology to maximize their online presence. So, while there will be no synchronous "Real Time Virtual" instruction this year, our teachers and administrators will maintain an open line of communication to ensure ongoing learning opportunities.
- **We will continue to practice proper hygiene (hand washing, etc.); be cognizant of social distancing; and employ appropriate facility cleaning techniques.**
- Additionally, we will continue to remind students, parents, faculty and staff that **if you are sick, stay home!**

We will reactivate our daily update of the number of positive cases on our website. As such, we'll be able to monitor in real time the number of cases at each building and in the District as a whole. This will allow us the opportunity to use real-time CV data to modify our practices as needed.

We acknowledge and appreciate everyone's point-of-view on how to get our children back in school this fall. We are looking forward to another successful school year for ALL of our students!

Sincerely,



Dave Zuilkoski, EdD  
Superintendent