



# Owen Sound District Secondary School

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September 2022

Dear Parents/Guardians:

We are looking forward to welcoming all our new and returning students on the first day of school next Tuesday, September 6.

As we prepare for the start of the school year, I would like to share an update on our health and safety measures in schools for those returning to in-person learning activities.

To prevent the spread of illness, we will continue to strongly recommend that students, staff, and visitors self-screen daily for symptoms before coming to school using the [School and Child Care Screening Tool](#). As always, individuals should stay home if they are feeling unwell.

Students, staff, and visitors at school and on student transportation will be able to make their own decision on whether they want to wear a mask, and they are available for those who wish to wear them. We are committed to promoting a respectful, welcoming, and inclusive environment for every individual who chooses to wear, or not to wear, a mask.

Rapid antigen tests will be available at school for those wishing to take a test kit home.

Hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette will continue to be promoted during the day with hand sanitizer available at key access points in the school. Enhanced cleaning protocols in our school and on buses will also remain in place, and ventilation best practices will be followed as guided by the province.

With the health and safety of students and staff as our priorities, our school board is working closely with local public health and following the guidance of Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health to stay informed of current data and trends. We will update you throughout the school year on any new health and safety developments as necessary.

We are committed to supporting a mentally healthy return to school for students. School Mental Health Ontario has created an excellent resource to support families. Please click on this link for further information:

[How to Support a Mentally Healthy Back to School for Your Child](#)

Thank you for your ongoing cooperation and support. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to the school.

Sincerely,

Erin Paylor  
Principal