



Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board  
*Believing, Achieving, Serving*

October 2, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We are nearing the end of the first learning block which, for some of your children, may be marked by a change in their model of learning, whether from face-to-face to virtual learning, or from virtual to face-to-face. We fully appreciate that a number of factors have gone into your decision and want to thank you for your quick response in notifying your child(ren)'s home school of your transfer request.

In other important developments, we were notified by the Ministry of Education yesterday of changes to the province's [COVID-19 School and Child Care Screening Guidance](#) and [COVID-19 Screening Tool for Children in School and Child Care](#). The guidance and school screening tool were developed to help parents make informed decisions about whether their children should attend school, consult a health care provider, or get tested for COVID-19. The main changes focus on updates to the province's symptoms list.

The revised screening tool features two sets of questions. The first asks about symptoms such as fever or cough. Students with any of these symptoms will still be advised to stay home until they are able to consult with a health care provider and receive an alternative diagnosis or a negative COVID-19 test.

The second set asks about other symptoms that are commonly associated with other illnesses, such as a runny nose or headache:

- Students with only one of these symptoms will be advised to stay home for 24 hours, after which they can return to school if their symptoms are improving;
- Students with two or more of these symptoms will be advised to stay home until they are able to consult with a health care provider and receive an alternative diagnosis or a negative COVID-19 test.

In addition, the symptom list no longer includes abdominal pain or conjunctivitis (pink eye). The changes apply to students only.

The refreshed online tool launches on Friday, October 2. The Board's COVID-19 protocols are currently being updated to align with the provincial guidance.

Please note, it's critical that you screen your child(ren) daily and follow the guidance provided in the online tool to determine whether your child(ren) should attend school.

Through the intercession of Our Lady of Hope, we pray for the well-being of our students, staff, families and the good of publicly funded Catholic Education.

Patrick J. Daly  
Chairperson of the Board

David Hansen  
Director of Education