

## **STUDENT EXCLUSION DUE TO ILLNESS POLICY**

Each child has a God-given right to education, love, and respect. In keeping with our core value of creating an atmosphere of love and respect that fosters an inclusive sense of Christian community, the steps herein will be administered with grace and love. No student will be shunned or shamed for exhibiting signs of sickness, and such behaviour will not be tolerated from staff or students. However, the health, safety and well-being of students and staff is a top priority as the School plans to reopen for the 2020/21 school year.

The School appreciates and requires cooperation and partnership in reopening. The School is commencing reopening based on the assurance that all persons entering School premises have taken proper precautions to prevent the transmission of COVID-19. Indeed, the successful return to school and remaining open will require diligence by all parents, guardians, staff, and visitors.

The best understanding of the present evidence is that COVID-19 can be transmitted by persons who do not exhibit symptoms. There is no guarantee that COVID-19 will not be contracted by persons entering School premises. However, active steps will be taken to remove students with symptoms of COVID-19 from the school in order to minimize the potential spread of the virus through the school.

### **TRAINING FOR SCREENING**

- All teachers and staff members will be provided with information on signs and symptoms of COVID-19 in children so that appropriate action can be taken if children develop symptoms during the day. Students will be monitored for atypical symptoms and signs of COVID-19 using the Ministry of Health's COVID-19 Reference Document for Symptoms.
- Children will be taught to identify symptoms of COVID-19 and will be instructed to speak to a staff member immediately if they are experiencing symptoms.

### **PROCEDURE FOR STUDENTS EXHIBITING SYMPTOMS**

- The school will have at least two COVID-19 emergency kits at school for employees to use for personal protection while caring for a child exhibiting symptoms (see COVID-19 Personal Protection Kit below)
- If a child develops symptoms of COVID-19 while at school, the employee who has made the identification will proceed with the child to the designated waiting room where the child will await parent pick-up. The employee will alert the principal and/or his/her designate who will confirm the symptoms and contact parents or emergency contact for transportation home.
  - Any employee in addition to the employee who made the identification must wear full PPE from the COVID-19 Personal Protection Kit if unable to maintain physical distance from the child.
- The child will be given tissue and reminded of hand hygiene and proper respiratory etiquette and disposal of soiled tissues.
- The child will be provided with a surgical/procedural mask if tolerable.
- The caregiver should avoid contact with the child's respiratory secretions and must perform meticulous hand hygiene.
- Siblings of the sick child will be picked up and excluded from attending school. If the guardian is an employee of the school, he/she will also be asked to return home to begin self-monitoring. The sick child, siblings and/or employee will return to school once they have completed the steps in COVID-19 Identification and Return to School below.

### **DISINFECTION OF INFECTED LOCATIONS**

- The principal and/or delegate will work with the employee and the custodial staff to identify areas that the student exhibiting symptoms was in contact with (items used by the individual and any surface within 2m of the ill person). All identified areas will be disinfected using the school's stated cleaning norms.
  - All parties who will be involved in disinfecting will wear gloves, mask, and other

- o required PPE.
- o While the identified areas are being cleaned, those using the area will be asked to proceed to an unused portion of the building, or outside temporarily until it is safe to return.
- o If possible, disposable cleaning equipment will be used.
- o All items that cannot be cleaned (paper, books, etc.) will be stored in a sealed container for 7 days).

**COVID-19 IDENTIFICATION AND RETURN TO SCHOOL**

When a child has suspected COVID-19, the school will contact the Ottawa Public Health at 100 Constellation Drive, Ottawa, ON K2G 6J8, Telephone: 613-580-6744, Toll free: 1-866-426-8885.

When a child has shown symptoms of COVID-19, he/she must either be evaluated by a health care provider, or provide a negative COVID-19 test before returning to school. ***If COVID-19 is ruled out the child may return to school after a 24 hour period or once symptoms have cleared.***

If a COVID-19 positive case is identified in a school, a COVID-19 outbreak will be declared by the Ottawa Public Health. Further direction will be provided by the Ottawa Public Health on who else in the school may need testing and/or monitoring/isolation at that time.

Staff/ children who are being managed by the Ottawa Public Health (e.g. confirmed cases of COVID-19, household contacts of cases) must follow instructions from public health to determine when to return to school.

For further questions about COVID-19 in the school please staff/families may contact the Ottawa Health Connection Line at 613-580-6744 (Monday to Sunday 8am - 6pm)

**CONTINUATION OF SCHOOL**

Ottawa Adventist School will do it’s best to provide curriculum instruction that can be maintained from a distance so that all students who are temporarily away from school for monitoring and/or recovery can continue with their studies if able. This program will include literacy, numeracy, social studies/science, and some real-time connection to the class. Please note, we are not able to provide synchronous online instruction. Video instruction will not be provided. All instruction and communication from your child’s teacher will be given through email and phone dialogue. This is the same delivery when a child is home with the flu or has a family emergency and work is prepared for the duration of the time period away. We do not have the extra support staff or the government funding to provide all day in class and online instruction.

**SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19**

A child will exhibit **any** of the following signs or symptoms:

- Fever (temperature of 37.8°C or greater)
- Chills
- New or worsening cough
- Barking cough, making whistle noise when breathing
- Shortness of breath
- Sore throat
- Difficulty swallowing
- Runny nose (not related to seasonal allergies or other known causes or conditions)
- Stuffy or congested nose (not related to seasonal allergies or other known causes or conditions)

- Lost sense of taste or smell
- Pink eye (conjunctivitis)
- Headache that is unusual or long lasting
- Digestive issues, such as nausea/vomiting, diarrhea, stomach pain
- Muscle aches that are unusual or long lasting
- Extreme tiredness that is unusual (fatigue, lack of energy)
- Falling down often
- For young children, sluggishness or lack of appetite

**COVID-19 PERSONAL PROTECTION KIT**

Prepared in advance and contain (at a minimum)

- Gloves
- Mask
- Eye protection
- A gown for staff member
- Sanitizer and wipes
- Alcohol-based hand rub
- Resealable plastic bags/containers for above if not single use

If not single use, all equipment must be sealed up until they can be sanitized with appropriate products

Instructions on proper use of PPE should be available on the outside of the kit.