

Covid Committee----- Frequently Asked Questions Version 2

TOPIC OF DISCUSSION: **COVID19 Re-Opening Procedures So Far**

MSK's Covid19 Committee Met on: **Monday Sept. 28, 2020**

“STRONGER TOGETHER”

Monday, September 28, 2020

Dear MSK Families,

We are now into the fourth week of the 2020-2021 school year. While we are proud of how well our post-pandemic re-opening procedures at MSK have gone so far, by no means is our City, nor Province, out of danger. As you are surely aware, COVID19 numbers and positive test results have steadily increased in Ontario over the last several weeks. We too are concerned. As we inch towards the cold and flu season, more and more of us are asking questions about experiencing symptoms. MSK is continuing to do all that is necessary to prevent this contagion from affecting our school community; however, what does one do if feeling ill or if your child begins to show symptoms related to Covid19?

THE MSK COVID19 COMMITTEE CONVENED YESTERDAY AND COMPILED THE FOLLOWING **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS** TO HELP EVERYONE. WE HAVE ALSO REACHED OUT TO PUBLIC HEALTH WITH MANY QUESTIONS AND WE WILL TRY OUR BEST TO PROVIDE OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY WITH THE BEST ANSWERS.

A- QUESTION: MY CHILD IS SICK. HIS/HER SYMPTOMS ARE MILD (EG. RUNNY NOSE, MILD SNEEZING, NO FEVER). WHAT DO I DO? (PLEASE SEE ATTACHMENTS-THEY ARE “DECISION TREES” THAT HAVE BEEN PROVIDED BY YORK REGION PUBLIC HEALTH)

ANSWER: MSK would like to be cautious. **Any symptom** is considered contagious and serious. If your child is sick, please keep him/her at home for **72 hours** from the onset of symptoms and monitor (as a minimum and may require more time at home). As of September 21, 2020, the Ministry of Health has minimized the list of COVID19 SYMPTOMS (MSK has attached this Ministry of Health document for your reference to this email). So what do you as a parent of MSK need to do?

- Step 1- After you have screened your child for symptoms and risk and you have answered “yes” to any of all of the symptoms email your child’s classroom, cc Principal Kooner, and Admin.
- Step 2- In the email, state your child's symptoms, when the symptoms began, and details of how your child is feeling. THIS IS IMPORTANT AND MUST BE DISCLOSED.
- Step 3- Monitor the symptoms and seek medical advice from your doctor. Keep the school well informed.
- Step 4- If you/your doctor suspect COVID19, If you choose to have a COVID19 test performed, please inform MSK that you are doing so.
- Step 5- If your COVID19 test is negative, your child may return to school after **72 hours**, if he/she is symptom free. A copy of your negative Covid19 test results will be required by the school.

Please email the test results to admin@msk2002.com and e.marzano@msk2002.com. PLEASE NOTE THAT YOU ARE NOT PERMITTED AT SCHOOL WHILE AWAITING TEST RESULTS

- Step6-if you choose not to get a COVID19 test, KINDLY PROVIDE A DOCTOR'S NOTE and speak to Principal Kooner prior to coming back to MSK. You may require to stay home for up to 14 days. Please continue to read below.

***PLEASE NOTE THAT IF YOU ARE EXPERIENCING ANY OF THE COMMON SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19 (FEVER, COUGH, SHORTNESS OF BREATH) YOU MUST GET A TEST. IF YOU CHOOSE NOT TO GET TESTED YOU MUST SELF-ISOLATE FOR 14 DAYS FROM THE DAY SYMPTOMS STARTED. IF INDIVIDUAL'S SYMPTOMS HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED BY A HEALTH CARE PROVIDER TO BE RELATED TO AN ONGOING HEALTH CONDITION, YOUR RETURN TO MSK MAY BE CONSIDERED BASED ON SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES.**

***If your child's symptoms persist beyond 72 hours, you will be required to stay at home for 14 days.**

If your test is Positive, you will need to self-isolate for a minimum of 14 days and not return to school, until 72 hours after all symptoms have disappeared. Follow your doctor's advice. MSK may require a doctor's note to confirm that your child is medically cleared to return to school.

B- QUESTION: WHAT IF I HAVE MORE THAN 1 CHILD AS A STUDENT AT MSK? IF ONE OF MY CHILDREN IS SICK, DO I NEED TO KEEP MY OTHER CHILD AT HOME AS WELL?

ANSWER: For safety, all siblings would be required to stay home.

C- QUESTION: IF SOMEONE IN OUR HOUSEHOLD HAS TRAVELLED OUTSIDE OF ONTARIO, WHAT IS THE PROTOCOL FOR MSK?

ANSWER: If any member of your family, household or social bubble has travelled outside of Ontario you must inform MSK via email. Please email the school- give details including where and when the trip took place. Your child will be required to stay at home and quarantine for 14 days.

D-QUESTION: SOMEONE IN MY HOUSEHOLD IS SICK. SHOULD MY CHILD STAY HOME?

ANSWER: Monitor for signs and symptoms of COVID19 and try to avoid/stay clear of that family member. If you feel that you cannot or have not been able to do so, please stay home.

E-QUESTION: I have answered "YES" to a question on the MSK Health Screening Form. Should my child stay home?

ANSWER: Yes.

F- QUESTION: Someone from my spouse's work tested positive for COVID19. Should my child attend school?

ANSWER:

- 1- Has your spouse been in direct contact with the person who tested positive at their workplace?
- 2- If yes, is your spouse experiencing any symptoms?
- 3- Has your spouse completed the COVID19 online assessment?
- 4- When in doubt, consult your family doctor and get tested for COVID19
- 5- As a precaution, please keep your child at home until you have a negative test result, and monitor your child for symptoms.

G- QUESTION: Why can't my child bring readers to and from school?

ANSWER: As per York Region Public Health, we are to minimize materials that are transported to and from a student's home.

H- QUESTION: There is a Positive COVID19 TEST at my other child's school. Can my child that attends MSK still come to school?

ANSWER: MSK is placing health and safety first. If your child was in direct contact with the person at the school who tested positive for COVID19, please have your child take a test. Because both of your children live in the same household, your second child will only need to stay at home.

If your child was not in direct contact with the person at the other school who tested positive for COVID19, we ask you to consult your doctor and monitor for symptoms for 72 hours. If symptom free after 72 hours (with no fever reducing medications) your child may return to MSK.

I- QUESTION: Why does MSK take my child's temperature on the forehead and not on the wrist?

ANSWER: MSK is following the manufacturer's instructions which indicates that to take an accurate temperature reading, the device is to be used on the forehead. Also, Public Health also requires tests to be conducted on the forehead for the most accurate reading.

J- QUESTION: Why can't I enter the school?

ANSWER: As per York Region Public Health, we are to limit the number of people entering the premises.

K- QUESTION: Does my child need to wear a mask or shield or both?

ANSWER: This depends on your child's age. Please see MSKs Face Mask/Face Covering Policy on the Parent Portal.

Toddler- masks and shields are not recommended

Casa- personal preference, but not required but highly recommended

Grades 1-8- Face Masks or Face Coverings required or both

L- QUESTION: Is MSK continuing to promote Social and Physical Distancing? If so how?

ANSWER:- Yes, nothing is more important than keeping a 6 ft distance between yourself and others. Parents and students are asked to refrain from mingling, chatting, hugging an/or loitering in the parking areas at pick-up and dismissal times. This social behaviour is not permitted on school grounds. You must drop-off/pick-up your child, keep distant from others and promptly enter your vehicle. We ask this of you because it is for everyone's health and safety.

Please note that we are doing what we feel is best to help keep COVID-19 out of MSK. We take great pride in keeping a clean and healthy environment for everyone that attends MSK but we need to always remember that health and safety is our number one priority. Thank you for doing your part.

We also realize that COVID19 has presented us with feeling more anxious. Please refer to these 2 websites that provide great resources on talking to children about COVID 19 or anxiety issues.

www.anxietycanada.com

This site has many PDF articles

www.camh.ca

This website has a section about anxiety and children.

Thank you and should you have any questions or concerns, please contact Principal Vincenza Kooner.