



What to Expect as Secondary Schools Reopen in September 2020

Grades 9 to 12

We are excited to welcome your teen back for another school year of learning together, despite the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic. To help you prepare for a safe return to school, here is an overview of our Reopening Plans for the 2020-21 school year.

More information is available at www.peelschools.org/reopening

Adaptive model: Blend of in-person and online learning

Secondary students will return to school on an adaptive model with a combination of learning in the classroom and distance learning at home, in cohorts (groups) of approximately 15 students in each class.

Another option: Learn at home through the *PDSB Online School*

Attending school in person is voluntary for the 2020-21 school year. If families choose not to send their children to school for in-person learning, they can instead learn from home through distance learning only. These students will be enrolled in our new *PDSB Online School*.

The *PDSB Online School* will offer the full Ontario curriculum through live, online experiences and follow-up activities that students work on from home. This instruction will be delivered by Peel board educators, but not necessarily by an educator at your teen's school.

In secondary school, there will be a limited offering of subject areas available online. The *PDSB Online School* will focus on providing core subject areas required for graduation and prerequisite courses for post-secondary education.

Switching between learning models (UPDATED)

Secondary students may switch **from distance learning to the adaptive learning model** up until the end of the first week of school. After that, if students have selected full distance learning, they will remain in the *PDSB Online School* for the duration of the quadmester (see next page to learn more about our quadmester model).

If students choose to **attend school in-person and would like to switch to the *PDSB Online School***, they may be able to do so, as long as the course is offered online. Schools will work with students to help facilitate this process.

Understanding the new adaptive model: Blend of in-person and distance learning

School schedules and cohorts

The school year will be divided into four quadmesters. In each quadmester, students will focus on two courses over approximately 10 weeks.

To help limit interactions between students, secondary students will be assigned into **Cohort A or B**, with each cohort attending class in-person on a rotating schedule. Students in Cohort A will attend school in-person on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday one week, and Monday and Tuesday the following week (see chart).

Secondary Student In-Person Attendance Schedule

This chart shows which days Cohort A and B will attend school in person, as well as which course will be taught that day.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week 1	Cohort A Period 1 Class	Cohort A Period 2 Class	Cohort A Period 1 Class	Cohort B Period 1 Class	Cohort B Period 2 Class
Week 2	Cohort A Period 1 Class	Cohort A Period 2 Class	Cohort B Period 1 Class	Cohort B Period 1 Class	Cohort B Period 2 Class
Week 3	Cohort A Period 1 Class	Cohort A Period 2 Class	Cohort A Period 2 Class	Cohort B Period 1 Class	Cohort B Period 2 Class
Week 4	Cohort A Period 1 Class	Cohort A Period 2 Class	Cohort B Period 2 Class	Cohort B Period 1 Class	Cohort B Period 2 Class

Note: Students who attend a school with a 5-period day (there are just a few in the Peel District School Board) will have a slightly different schedule than what is shown above. These schools will share their schedule with families directly.

School start times will remain the same (in most cases)

Students scheduled to be at school that day will arrive for 150 minutes of in-person learning, and will then return home to continue learning online. If the student is not scheduled to be at school, they will be required to engage in distance learning at home during the school day.

This is a sample daily timetable for a student in **Cohort A**, who is scheduled to be at school to learn in person. School start times will vary.

Sample Time		
8:30 to 11 a.m. (150 min)	Cohort A At School	Cohort B Distance Learning (At Home)
11 a.m.	Student Dismissal – Cohort A Returns Home to Continue with Distance Learning	
11 a.m. to 12 p.m.	Teacher Lunch	
12 to 1:15 p.m. (75 min)	Cohort A and B Distance Learning (At Home) Support and Independent Study	
1:15 to 2:30 p.m. (75 min)	Cohort A and B Real-Time Distance Learning (At Home) with Classroom Teacher	

Enhanced health and safety measures

Screening and when to stay at home

A safe school is always more important than a perfect attendance record.

Families must use this [checklist](#) to perform a daily screening of their teen before arriving at the bus stop and school. If your teen is experiencing any symptoms, please keep them home and seek medical attention as required. If students show COVID-19 symptoms while at school, they will return home or will move to a designated isolation room to wait to be picked up to go home.

Masks and/or face coverings are required

As mandated by the [Ministry of Education](#), students in grades 1 through 12 are required to use masks and/or face coverings while on board-provided transportation (e.g., buses) and inside the school (e.g., during class and in the hallways). Reasonable exceptions will apply. Help your teen get used to wearing a mask by reviewing these [Government of Ontario's guidelines](#) together.

If you have concerns, please speak with your school principal.

Practice hand hygiene

Hand sanitizer will be available at school entry and in every classroom. Students and staff will be directed to sanitize hands when they enter the school building and classroom, before and after

eating, after using the washroom, and at other times throughout the day. All classes will have scheduled washroom and hand-washing breaks.

Keep a safe distance from others

New school routines will be in place to encourage as much distance between students and other cohorts/classes as possible.

This includes one-direction hallways, cohorting, revised drop-off/pick-up routines, closed shared spaces (such as libraries, auditoriums, cafeterias, weight rooms and changerooms), seating assignments, coordination of class movement throughout the school and more. To limit contact with others, students will remain in their classroom for all subjects, with the exception of Health and Physical Education.

Enhanced cleaning and disinfection routines

New enhanced health and safety measures have been added to all aspects of school routines, based on guidance from public health agencies and the Ministry of Education. Custodial staff will be using hospital-grade disinfectants for daily cleaning and disinfecting throughout the school, including high-touch surfaces. Spaces shared by different cohorts will be cleaned and disinfected before and after use.

New bus routines

On the school bus, students will be assigned seats by classroom cohorts and siblings from the same household. Surface areas that are frequently touched will be cleaned by the driver between runs. Masks and/or face coverings are required for students in grades 1 to 12. Reasonable exceptions will apply.

If your child will not be using board-provided transportation, please complete this [Student Transportation of Peel Region Opt-out Form](#).

Special Education

Secondary students with a high level of special education needs, who are unable to study from home, will be permitted daily attendance and instruction. Individual Education Plans will continue to be supported for students who are learning in-person and at home. See our [plans related to students in Special Education classes](#).

Mental Health and community supports

During these challenging times, the Peel board has mental health and well-being [supports and resources](#) available for students and families, as well as a comprehensive list of community supports available for mental health, food, financial and shelter needs.

Stay up-to-date

To learn more about the board's Reopening Plans for 2020-21, visit www.peelschools.org/reopening. This webpage will be updated as new information becomes available.

Definitions:

Cohorts: Cohorting is the practice of keeping students together in a small group throughout their school day, with limited exposure to multiple Teachers or a wide variety of classmates. This practice limits the number of other students that a single student is in contact with.

Distance learning: Students enrolled in distance learning will learn at home through online instruction provided by a Peel board educator. THIS will include a blend of live, real-time learning as well as follow-up activities that they will work on at home.

Quadmester: The secondary school year will be divided into four time periods called quadmesters. Each quadmester is approximately 10 weeks long. Each student will focus on two courses over the quadmester.