

**April 9, 2021**

Dear UCDSB Parents and Guardians,

Thank you for continuing to follow the public health and safety measures that have kept our schools open and safe for students and staff. It is our collective effort that continues to ensure your children can learn in the classroom.

As you are aware, the province has implemented a province-wide shutdown for four weeks in response to worsening trends in key health indicators across the province. However, the Ministry of Education has given assurance that we will be able to welcome students back to in-person learning on April 19, after our scheduled spring break next week (April 12-April 16).

We've asked staff to have students take home personal items, such as glasses, shoes, tech devices, etc. This is not a signal of a school closure but so that should students fall ill or are in contact with someone who becomes ill and have to self-isolate or spend an extended period of time at home, they will have everything they need to continue their learning.

#### **Self-Screening Confirmation on Return to School**

Students in Kindergarten to Grade 8 will need to confirm that they have self-screened or been screened by a parent/guardian for COVID-19 symptoms when they return to in-person learning on Monday, April 19. As this is a new requirement from the Ministry of Education, more details on this will come next week.

Students in Grade 9-12 will need to continue with the daily screening confirmation process when they return to in-person learning on Tuesday, April 20 to start Quadmester 4. Monday, April 19 is a remote learning day for Grade 9-12 students.

#### **Public Health Recommendations**

In order to keep our students and communities safe, the Ministry of Education, our Public Health officials and our staff urge everyone to follow public health advice over the spring break, such as:

- Stay home and only socialize with your own household;
- Practice good hand hygiene habits, masking, and physical distancing;
- [Continue to do daily screening for COVID-19 symptoms](#). If you feel ill, get tested;
- Participate in the targeted testing offered by your school board; and
- Refrain from travelling.

#### **Asymptomatic Testing for COVID-19**

For the week of April 12-18, the UCDSB will continue to hold asymptomatic testing clinics throughout the school district. You will be contacted directly if one is scheduled for your child's school or area. Watch for more information on this next week.

**John McAllister**  
Chair

**Stephen Sliwa**  
Director

As well, pharmacies that offer asymptomatic testing will accept appointments from students during the week of April 12-18. To book an appointment, visit the [Covid-19 Testing Locations website](#), and select “assessment centre” as your location type, with the booking details requested

### **Student Mental Health Supports & Learning Resources**

The mental health and well-being of students continues to be key. The UCDSB’s monthly Mental Health Newsletter provides a variety of resources that all of our families and students can benefit from. [You can review it here](#). For more mental health and well-being resources, visit the [Student Well-Being and Mental Health Resources section of our website](#).

During the spring break, students in Grades 1-8 can continue to engage in their own learning through curriculum-linked activities available at [TVO Learn](#) and [TFO IDÉLLO, apprendre à la maison](#).

Secondary students can continue to access [TVO's Independent Learning Centre \(ILC\) Open House](#) and [Portes ouvertes pour les cours TVO ILC in French-language, Mathify](#) (English) and [Eureka!](#) (French) are also available to provide one-on-one online tutoring services for elementary and secondary students.

Have a safe and restful break.

Sincerely,  
Stephen Sliwa  
Director of Education  
Upper Canada District School Board

**John McAllister**  
Chair

**Stephen Sliwa**  
Director