



St. Clair Catholic
District School Board



Enclosure 9

COVID Readiness for International Students

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Background

To meet federal requirements, the Ministry of Education (Ministry) informed school boards that a plan is required which sets out details to meet the provincial and federal criteria for COVID readiness to accept international students, who have obtained study permits for in-person instruction.

School boards with a plan approved by the Ministry will be listed on the provincial list of schools that may accept students who hold a study permit issued under the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act* (Canada) for in-person instruction. Any Boards that do not comply may be subject to fines or other penalties under the Act.

Boards that have not yet submitted their plans to the Ministry and wish to accept international students with study permits for in-person instruction, are required to submit to the Ministry a completed and signed attestation, along with their readiness plan. The Board's attestation will be signed by the Director of Education and Associate Director – Corporate Services & Treasurer and includes a requirement to receive Board approval. *St. Clair Catholic District School Board COVID Readiness for International Students 2021-2022* is attached as Appendix A.

For 2020-2021 international students that registered with the Board were placed in the Board's remote school. For 2021-2022 the Board intends to accept international students for in-person instruction. Board staff have been working with Ministry staff to create the Board's plan. The plan in draft was reviewed by the Ministry staff to assist with an expedited approval before this September school start-up.

Recommendations

That the St. Clair Catholic District School Board receive the report: *COVID Readiness for International Students* for information.

That the St. Clair Catholic District School Board approve the COVID Readiness for International Students for 2021-2022.



St. Clair Catholic
District School Board



Appendix A

St. Clair Catholic District School Board COVID READINESS FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

2021-2022



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Welcome

We look forward to welcoming you to the St. Clair Catholic District School Board (SCCDSB).

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, SCCDSB is mindful of travel and arrival protocols for all international students. It is important you understand and follow the protocols to ensure your entry into Canada is smooth and problem free. As a newcomer to Canada, you will need to:

1. Follow and complete all SCCDSB registration requirements as an international student.
2. Follow the expectations contained within this COVID Readiness for International Students document.
3. Comply with all Government of Canada, Province of Ontario and Ministry of Health guidelines.

Please reference all underlined resources to assist you in understanding your commitment.

Consequences of not following protocols could include:

- Denied entry by Canadian immigration
- Fines for non-compliance of COVID-19 safety protocols
- Delay or withdrawal of the admission to school

International Student Admissions

All international student registrations must be coordinated by the SCCDSB Admissions Officer. All registration requirements must be met prior to an approval for you to be admitted to school, including a *Self-Isolation Attestation for Students Arriving in Canada* form that will be provided by the SCCDSB Admissions Officer for you to complete.

The SCCDSB Admissions Officer will confirm with the local health unit that you are permitted to attend school. If you require an extended quarantine you may be considered for remote learning.

St. Clair Catholic District School Board
420 Creek Street, Wallaceburg, ON N8A 4C4 Canada
Telephone: 519 667-6762 ext. 10100
Fax: 519-627-8230
Email: admissions@st-clair.net

Please ensure that you are familiar with the information shared with our families on the Board's website at: <https://www.st-clair.net/>

Please ensure that you are familiar with the current and updated information specific to COVID-19 on the Board's website at: <https://newsdesk.st-clair.net/category/covid-info/>



The Quarantine Act

The Government of Canada has put in place emergency measures to slow the spread of COVID -19. Travelers to Canada, including international students, must quarantine for the defined number of days, provide contact information and complete self-monitoring for symptoms.

Use ArriveCAN Website or Application

The governments of Canada and Ontario want to ensure all new arrivals to Canada are safe and healthy; therefore, officials may call you, your custodian or your host family to confirm you are self-isolating and following the law. Once you have arrived, please connect with the local health unit and the SCCDSB Admissions Officer to confirm your arrival and make certain that you are following the guidelines and protocols in place.

Please use the ArriveCAN website to be familiar with all of the travel information for the student and accompanying family to Canada at the following [link](#).

You must comply with the Government of Canada guidelines for quarantine and testing. You may be required to stay at a government identified hotel or location with a potential cost that you must agree to.

Use the checklist that applies to you.

Know the Protocols

All students must be familiar with the current and up-to-date protocols and guidelines in place with SCCDSB as provided by Public Health Ontario and the local health units.

The Board's Admissions Officer will confirm which local health unit will support you.

SCCDSB North Family of Schools:

Lambton Public Health

160 Exmouth Street

Sarnia, ON N7T 7Z6

Telephone: 519-383-8331

Toll free: 1-800-667-1839

www.lambtonpublichealth.ca



SCCDSB South Family of Schools:
Chatham-Kent Public Health
435 Grand Avenue West P.O. Box 1136
Chatham ON N7M 5L8
Telephone: 519 352-7270
Fax: 519-352-2166
For Covid-19 questions or concerns only:
Telephone: 529 355-1071 ext. 1900
Email: covid19@chatham-kent.ca

Public Health Ontario has developed resources for the prevention and management of COVID-19. The content is updated as new information becomes available at the following [link](#).

Find a Suitable Place to Quarantine

You should pre-arrange a private separate suitable space to quarantine that has access to the necessities of life and is a space not shared with those at risk of more severe disease. You must be able to go directly to the place of quarantine using private transportation and be able to avoid contact with others while in transit. Plan with your parent/guardian for your physical and emotional wellness during quarantine. Consider things that you could bring to keep you entertained during quarantine.

[How to Self-Isolate Fact Sheet](#)

Plan for Arrival to Canada

Please ensure you are familiar with the up-to-date travel restrictions to and within Canada. It is essential that you understand and comply with these mandatory and legal requirements. Download the ArriveCAN App and register (Android or iPhone).

[Canada Travel Restrictions](#)

Medical Check / COVID Testing

If you are able to obtain a medical clearance letter/certificate, COVID-19 or antibody test, bring this documentation with you when you travel to Canada.

In Ontario, a COVID-19 test with a negative result is also a requirement following the quarantine period. Your parent/guardian or host family will need to arrange an appointment with a COVID Assessment Centre. Testing is a free service if you have an Ontario Health Card.



Daily Self-Assessment Screening

Complete the daily self-assessment screening during the quarantine period. In addition, after having had a COVID-19 test with a negative outcome you will also be required to complete the self-assessment daily before leaving for school,.

[Daily Self- Assessment Screening Test](#)

IMPORTANT NOTE: Given the changing nature of COVID screening, it is recommended that the parent/guardian/host family or adult student use the most current COVID Screen Tool for Ontario students when conducting daily monitoring for COVID symptoms.

COVID Fees

You and your family need to be aware and agree that there may be additional costs and fees related to COVID-19 in advance of departure for Canada (i.e. services during the quarantine period as well as any additional quarantine periods).

SCCDSB does not charge any additional fees related specifically to COVID-19. If you choose not to proceed with studying in Canada because of additional costs, a refund of tuition paid in advance will occur; however, the registration application fee is non-refundable.

Travel Communications

- Maintain communication with SCCDSB and host family (if applicable) about your arrival, quarantine plan and any other expectations.
- Coordinate and confirm the time you will be arriving, and who will be meeting you when you arrive in Canada.
- Use of a cell phone will be necessary and it is recommended that you have saved your contact phone numbers.

What to Bring

In your carry-on, pack the following:

- Passport
- Study Permit
- Letter of Acceptance
- Custodianship Documents (if under age 18)



- Confirmation of health insurance coverage (confirmed in Letter of Acceptance)
- Host Family Profile and Contact Information
- Copy of the Quarantine/Self-Isolation Plan signed by you and your parents/guardians
- Prescription medication & hygiene products
- Change of clothes in case your luggage is delayed
- 2 masks; travel-sized (100 ml) hand-sanitizer, and disinfecting wipes.

Please bring in your luggage:

- 30 disposable and 2 or more cloth face masks,
- One large bottle of hand sanitizer, one box of nitrile gloves, and, if possible, a thermometer
- Clothing for quarantine period

Arrival Requirements

IMPORTANT: As new travel requirements and entry into and within Canada may change over time, it is essential that you refer to any updates posted on the Government of Canada website and that you understand and comply with these mandatory and legal requirements.

Travel Restriction to and within Canada:

- After arrival, if a mandatory quarantine period is required, officials from the Government of Canada will call you to monitor your compliance with the mandatory quarantine.
- Have your documents ready for Immigration that were recommended under What to Bring.
- If you are a new student who has a study permit approval letter, you will need to pick up your Study Permit and get it stamped before picking up your luggage.
- All travelers will be required to undergo COVID screening by Immigration to assess symptoms.
- Contact (call or text) your host family and confirm your pick-up point.
- Your transportation should take you directly to the quarantine site with no stops. If urgent medical care is needed before your quarantine site, health care providers need to be informed of the mandatory quarantine.
- Maintain physical distancing guidelines.
- Handle your own luggage when picking it up.
- Wear a mask per guidelines while being transported from the airport to your quarantine location.

Parent/Guardian/Host Family Responsibilities

- Ensure student self-monitors and uses the ArriveCAN App for daily symptom reporting
- Monitor development of new symptoms.
- Enforce compliance with the quarantine period.



- Ensure the essential needs of the student are met.
- Be accessible by phone, text message, FaceTime and other forms of safe communication.
- If required, transport / arrange to provide access to a medical professional / emergency health services, if the student exhibits serious health complications

Student Responsibilities

- Quarantine for the full period.
- Stay at your quarantine location and away from other people, except if urgent medical care is needed.
- Monitor symptoms or signs of COVID-19 daily.
- Take and record your temperature to monitor for a fever.
- Separate yourself from other people in your home.
- Maintain hand hygiene frequently.
- Cover your cough and sneezes.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces.
- Upon or after arrival to Canada, notify the local public health unit if you develop symptoms or require medical care; and/or a COVID-19 test.

Assessment Centre Locations for SCCDSB Students and Families

For a current list of COVID 19 testing locations please visit the local health unit websites noted on page 4 and 5 of this document.

Support for Students

Should you need to access mental health supports while you are in quarantine contact the Chatham-Kent or Sarnia Lambton Chapter of the [Canadian Mental Health Association](#).

The SCCDSB is dedicated to providing culturally responsive services and programs for English Language Learners to improve the school experience and success for all students.

All students attending the SCCDSB have access to supports and services to address social-emotional and mental health concerns. To promote a sense of safety, wellness and belonging in the classroom, our educators received training in School Mental Health Ontario Educator Resources and have been encouraged to utilize these resources regularly in classrooms.

In addition, our Social Workers offer mental health support to students. School Social Workers are also



delivering services virtually to support student mental health needs. Virtual and phone-based service options will continue to ensure Social Workers are accessible for students and families.

If you have a concern you are encouraged to connect with a teacher or Principal so that they can assist you with SCCDSB or community-based services.

Please visit: [SCCDSB Mental Health Resources](#)

Post-Quarantine Requirements

- Complete and submit the Daily Self-Monitoring Form upon completion of the quarantine period.
- Once the quarantine period is complete and a COVID-19 test with a negative outcome is obtained, please contact SCCDSB Student Admissions at admissions@st-clair.net or phone 1-866-336-6139 and press 2.
- SCCDSB Student Admissions will ensure your final admissions documents, including those from Immigration Canada, and any COVID requirements including confirmation from the local health unit, are approved. Once all requirements are met, the Student Admissions Officer will communicate to the school the approval for the learning method and timelines to attend school.

Post-Admission Requirements

- Monitor the SCCDSB website for the latest communication and Board protocols at the link: [Covid-19 Info](#)
- Follow and adhere to all Government of Canada health directives.
- Follow and adhere to all Local Public Health Unit directives.
- Continue to use the Self-Assessment tool daily.
- If you become ill, notify the local health unit and your school.
- Continue to practice hand hygiene: proper washing of hands and/or use of hand sanitizer.
- In places where physical distancing is difficult, follow the provincial and local health unit guidelines.

Outbreak Management Plan

The SCCDSB follows the Ministry of Education's Operational Guidance for COVID-19 Management in Schools available at:

[Operational Guidance for COVID-19 Management in Schools](#)



SCCDSB's outbreak protocols, which align with the provincial guidance, will focus on the following foundational components of an effective outbreak management plan:

- Ensuring public health guidance is direction is followed.
- Ensuring strong communication channels exist with public health.
- Encouraging daily self-assessments.
- Symptom awareness.
- PPE compliance.
- Cleaning and disinfecting.
- Contact tracing and record keeping.
- Communication with communities; including an outbreak FAQ on the SCCDSB website at the link [Covid-19 FAQ](#)
- Management of the closure of a classroom, a section of the school, or the entire school.

General Communication Plan

The SCCDSB will continue to share and post general information on the Board's website. In addition, schools will communicate directly with adult students, or the parents/guardians of students with all relevant information.

Outbreak Communication Plan

- An outbreak is defined as two or more lab-confirmed COVID-19 cases within 14 days of each other.
- The local Medical Officer of Health will provide public health guidance and direction when an outbreak is declared, and the SCCDSB Director of Education, Senior Administration, School Administrators, Health and Safety, staff and students will follow this direction.
- An outbreak may result in the closure of a school, if a majority of students and staff members are directed to self-isolate by the local health unit for a set period of time.
- If a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19, you will be informed through contact tracing if the student is affected and for next steps.
- For privacy reasons, if you test positive for COVID-19, your information will not be disclosed.
- The local health unit will provide public health guidance and direction if you are affected and will be in direct contact if you have been deemed a close contact to a positive COVID-19 case.
- Individuals classified as a close contact to a COVID-19 case, may be told to self-isolate for a period of time. Any siblings or family members who reside in the same household will also be directed to self-isolate by the local health unit.



Summary of Resource Links

[ArriveCan](#)

[Government of Canada – COVID-19 Guide for International Students Arriving in Canada](#)

[Government of Canada – COVID-19 Travel Restrictions](#)

[Government of Ontario - COVID-19 Information](#)

[Ontario Ministry of Education](#)

[Public Health Ontario](#)

[Social Stigma Associated with COVID-19](#)

[SCCDSB COVID-19 Info](#)

[SCCDSB Website](#)