

**From:** [IEO \(EDU\)](#)  
**Subject:** 2022-23 Health and Safety Measures in Schools  
**Date:** August 16, 2022 10:36:12 AM  
**Attachments:** [Appendix B - HEPA Order Request Form.xlsx](#)  
[Pre Order Form \(blank\).xlsx](#)

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First Nation Education Partners,

As the new school year approaches, we would like to share some updates to the memo sent on January 14, 2022, regarding the process for First Nation education partners to request Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), HEPA units and COVID-19 testing options. For the 2022-23 school year, the Indigenous Education Office will continue to collaborate with our ministry partners to provide guidance on how to access PPE. Please note that First Nation Schools and partners can continue to request non-fit-tested N95 masks for school staff through the ongoing PPE process.

### **HEPA Units and Filters**

For First Nation/federally-operated schools that are interested in ordering standalone HEPA filter units, these can continue to be requested through the government's supply chain. We are asking partners to assess their facility's current ventilation system to determine whether standalone HEPA filter units are required. Either in-house staff or third parties may support these assessments.

At this time, standalone HEPA filter units must be prioritized for the following settings:

- Classrooms/spaces without mechanical ventilation, including gyms, libraries, lunchrooms, childcare spaces, administrative spaces, as well as portables with no or poor mechanical ventilation; and
  - Every occupied Full-Day Kindergarten (FDK) classroom.

To initiate the ordering process, First Nation/federally-operated schools are being asked to identify a lead contact who can support the ordering process. This may be someone from the school who can answer technical questions regarding shipping and delivery and/or someone who is responsible for school deliveries in the community.

Please complete the order form (**Appendix B attached**) and send to [IEO@Ontario.ca](mailto:IEO@Ontario.ca). Requests will continue to be processed in order of receipt as long as the order form is submitted with completed information. A ministry representative will follow up via email to confirm the order and discuss logistics involved in shipping the standalone HEPA filter units.

### **Rapid Antigen Tests**

Requests to access rapid antigen tests can be submitted by following these steps:

1. Confirm your eligibility for the Provincial Antigen Screening Program at <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/provincial-antigen-screening-program>.
  - Provide your organization/community's contact information and submit an application.
2. Once your application is approved, you will be provided with instructions about how to place an order for rapid antigen tests.

Individuals who are from a First Nation, Inuit, Métis community, and/or who self-identify as First Nation, Inuit, and Métis, and their household members are eligible for PCR testing, which can be accessed through the local First Nation Health Authority as well as a number of other testing sites across the province that can be located using this [online locator tool](#).

**Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) including N95 Masks**

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) including surgical masks, sanitizers, gloves, protective eyeglasses, and non-fit-tested N95s etc. can be requested using the Pre-Order Request form attached. The completed form can be sent to [SCO.Supplies@ontario.ca](mailto:SCO.Supplies@ontario.ca), with a copy to [ieo@ontario.ca](mailto:ieo@ontario.ca).

Below is the complete updated list of regular PPE for your reference:

<b>Regular PPE Item Description</b>
Surgical/Procedure masks - Adult Level 2
Surgical/Procedure masks - Pediatric Level 2 (for small faces)
Surgical/Procedure masks - Pediatric Level 1 (for students in sick/isolation rooms)
Surgical/Procedure masks – Adult Level 2 – with clear panel
<b>3-Layer-Mask-Youth-Cloth Mask</b>
<b>3-Layer-Mask-Adult-Cloth Mask</b>
<b>3-Layer-Mask-Child-Cloth mask with clear panel</b>
Reusable Face Shield
Hand Sanitizer
Hand Sanitizer - Alcohol - 236/281ml
Hand Sanitizer - Alcohol - 1L
Hand Sanitizer - Alcohol - 4L
Cleaning Supplies (Disinfectant Products)
Disinfectant Sanitizing Spray - 1L
Disinfectant Sanitizing Spray - 4L
Alcohol wipes (used to clean technology)
Antiseptic wipes (used to clean skin)
Disinfectant wipes (used to clean surfaces)
Total Gloves
Nitrile Gloves - S
Nitrile Gloves - M
Nitrile Gloves - L
Nitrile Gloves - XL
Isolation Gown - Disposable Level 1 - one size
Non-Contact Digital Infrared Thermometers
Protective Eye Glasses
<b>Non-fit-tested N95s</b>

As always, please don't hesitate to get in touch through [IEO@Ontario.ca](mailto:IEO@Ontario.ca) with any

questions.

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*If you have any accommodation needs or require communication supports or alternate formats, please let me know.*

**Please find an important memo below from the Ministry of Education to all private schools outlining COVID-19 health and safety measures for the 2022-23 school year.**

Please note that while First Nation and federally operated schools may consider adopting the guidance outlined below, they are not required to do so. The Ministry of Education recognizes that First Nation communities may determine locally-identified measures to protect their communities, in addition to any other required measures. Further, we understand that COVID-19 controls within First Nation and federally operated schools are currently in place.

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**Memorandum to:** Principals of Private Schools

**From:** Julia Danos  
Executive Lead  
Education Reopening Secretariat

**Subject:** **2022-23 Health and Safety Measures in Schools**

For the past two school years, Ontario's students and their families, educators and school staff have demonstrated resiliency and flexibility in responding to changes to public health and workplace safety measures during the course of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Ministry of Education remains committed to providing students with a normal return to school and to supporting an enriching school experience that enables academic success and lets students take advantage of the activities and programs that enhance classroom learning and build social and life skills.

On the advice of the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health, for the 2022-23 school year most health and safety requirements remain unchanged from the previous direction provided to school board partners at the end of the 2021-22 school year.

Continuing with this direction and based on the advice of the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health, masks will not be required for students, staff and visitors in schools, school offices, or on student transportation. We strongly encourage private

schools to actively promote respectful, welcoming and inclusive environments for individuals who choose to wear, or not to wear a mask within their school communities.

It is recommended that staff, students and visitors continue to self-screen every day before attending school using either the [COVID-19 school and child care screening tool](#), or a screening tool designated by the local public health unit, in alignment with current provincial guidance. Following public health guidance, individuals should stay home if they are feeling ill to prevent the spread of illness.

Appropriate hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette should continue to be promoted and integrated throughout the school day.

Schools and school vehicles are expected to continue with enhanced cleaning protocols requiring cleaning/disinfecting high-touch surfaces at least once daily.

Private Schools are to continue to monitor their own absence rates and collaborate closely with their local public health unit to support student well-being and health and safety in schools. Should the absence rate in a school increase above what a school would typically experience, and absences are not perceived to be linked to other factors (e.g., holidays), it is recommended that a school principal notify their local public health unit.

Increased absenteeism may indicate increased cases of COVID-19 or other respiratory or gastrointestinal infections in the school. Local public health units are encouraged to have a process in place to review absence data and may provide private schools with additional guidance and support, including suggested resources for communication to students, staff and families.

For the 2022-23 school year, the ministry is working with the Office of the Fire Marshal on a return to pre-pandemic total evacuation fire drill procedures in schools. These procedures are specific to individual schools and are documented in fire safety plans that are approved by local Chief Fire Officials. Information from the Office of the Fire Marshal about fire drill procedures in schools will be shared at a later date. Any updates to a school's Emergency and Crisis Response plan should be aligned with the most current public health guidance and should be fully communicated to members of the school community, the local police service and the local fire department.

As always thank you for continued collaboration and partnership to support students and staff.

Sincerely,

Julia Danos  
Executive Lead  
Education Reopening Secretariat

