



September 2021 Opening Plans for Parents - August 31st, 2021

The safety and well-being of students and staff at Little Mountain is our top priority. Please read the following information about the steps we are taking to open safely for full-time, in person learning.

Health Measures

- We are so excited to be having students back at school for full-time learning using the [Provincial COVID-19 Communicable Disease Guidelines for K-12 Settings](#).
- All staff and students must stay home if they experience any symptoms of common cold, influenza, or COVID-19.
- Parents or caregivers must assess themselves and their children daily for symptoms. See the following links to help you assess yourself and your child daily.
 - o Parents/caregivers and students can use the [K to 12 Health Check App](#)
 - o Staff and other adults can refer to BCCDC's [When to get tested for COVID-19](#)
 - o Staff, students and parents/caregivers can also use the BCCDC online [Self-Assessment Tool](#), call 8-1-1 or their health care provider.
- If a student presents symptoms while at school, they will be caringly escorted by a staff member to a First Aid Room, then sent home as soon as possible; please make sure that LME has updated contact information.
- Hand Hygiene
 - o Teachers will teach students about proper hand washing etiquette.
 - o Hand washing and sanitizing will become part of daily class routines.
 - o Students are expected to wash or sanitize hands upon arrival at school, when entering a new space, transitioning between activities, and at the end of day.
- Respiratory Etiquette
 - o Teachers will teach students about proper respiratory etiquette such as coughing into one's elbow



Extra Cleaning

- Student desks will be sanitized at least every 24 hours.
- Frequently touched surfaces will be cleaned at least twice every 24 hours.
 - o These include doorknobs, light switches, toilet handles, tables, desks and chairs used by multiple students, keyboards and equipment.
- Any surface that is visibly dirty will be cleaned.
- PHE equipment will be sanitized after class use.
- Equipment such as computer keyboards, science equipment, art brushes and laminated learning resources will be cleaned by students after each use using appropriate cleaning materials for each specific equipment type.
- Spray bottles of appropriate cleaner will be in each classroom.
- There is no evidence that COVID-19 virus is transmitted via textbooks, books, and paper-based products so no additional cleaning requirements are called for.

Masks

- Students in Gr. 4 & 5 and staff are to wear a non-medical mask, a face covering, or a face shield with mask in school at all times.
- Students in Gr. K-3 are strongly encouraged to wear a mask.
- There are some exceptions to the mask mandate:
 - o to a person who cannot tolerate wearing a mask for health or behavioural reasons.
 - o to a person who is unable to put on or remove a mask without the assistance of another person;
 - o the mask is removed temporarily for the purposes of identifying the person wearing it;
 - o the mask is removed temporarily to engage in an educational activity that cannot be performed while wearing a mask (e.g., playing a wind instrument, engaging in high-intensity physical activity)
 - o if a person is eating or drinking;
 - o while outside;
 - o while alone in a personal office
 - o if a person is behind a barrier;
 - o while providing a service to a person with a disability or diverse ability (including but not limited to a hearing impairment) where visual cues, facial expressions and/or lip-reading movements are important.



Cohorts

- Students are no longer required to be organized into cohorts. However, at elementary schools, students are naturally groups into classes.
- Teachers are encouraged to take students outside for learning as much as possible - students must dress for any weather.
- Students and staff will have designated washrooms for their classroom.

Outdoor Spaces

- All outdoor spaces are open and free to use during Break or Lunch (we may divide classes into Zones to spread our student population out during break time).
- Masks are not required outside.

Cell Phones and Valuables/Personal Items

- We strongly encourage cell phones are not brought to school. If you feel it is important for your child to have their cell phone for before/after school, we ask that it stay in their bag for the school day or be handed into their teacher.
- Student cell phones are not to be used at school. If you need to get a hold of your child during the school day, please contact the office.
- Please refrain from bringing personal items and valuables to school.

Hallways

- To aid with traffic volume and lessening contact points, students will be asked to enter and exit the school using their classroom designated door.
- Upon entering, staff and students will use the appropriate hand washing stations to wash their hands.
- Teachers will teach students about always walking on right hand side of hallway.
- To limit large gatherings, students will not be allowed to congregate in hallways.

Break Time

- Unless severe inclement weather, recess and lunch break will be outside.
- In severe inclement weather, students will remain in their classrooms.
- Students must be taught to dress appropriately for any weather.

School Gatherings

- To ensure adequate spacing we will not be holding full school assemblies at this time. Instead, we will hold assemblies with smaller groups of students and staff.



Consistent Teaching – Help from Home Needed

- LME will teach students some common expectations around COVID. Please support us by also consistently reminding your children of these expectations:
 - Please do the Health Check before coming to school and remain home if showing any signs of illness.
 - Please enter through designated class door only
 - Everyone goes directly to their hand washing station and washes their hands for at least 20 seconds when they enter the building.
 - Students in Gr. 4-5 must wear masks indoors and on busses.
 - Avoid close greetings (e.g. high fives, hugs).
 - **Dress for outdoor breaks/lunches, outdoor learning, and physical activity every day. Dress for any weather conditions.**

Thank you for being on this journey with us.

We are confident that with our combined efforts, we will have an amazing year.

Be Kind and Be Safe LME Cougars!