

Message to Secondary Families RE COVID-19 Health and Safety Reminder, Human Rights Policy Consultations, Bus Cancellations and Immunizations for Grade 9 Students

November 26, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

On behalf of the entire team at Eastdale C.V.I, we hope you are having a great week. There are a few matters that the DDSB wanted to share with you that we hope will interest you:

1. COVID-19 Health and Safety Reminder
2. Human Rights Policy Consultations
3. School Bus Cancellations
4. Immunizations for Grade 9 Students

We thank you in advance for your engagement and hope that you find this information useful as we navigate this new environment together.

COVID-19 Health and Safety Reminder

Eastdale C.V.I and the DDSB are committed to ensuring that learning and working environments are safe for staff and students. The school has implemented a variety of health and safety measures, requiring all secondary students to wear a mask, encouraging frequent handwashing, requiring students and staff to stay home if sick, employing physical distancing strategies, and undertaking enhanced cleaning and disinfection of frequently touched surfaces to name a few. You can always review the [Secondary Daily Checklist](#) for students as a reminder on what to do every day before coming to school.

The DDSB is encouraging families to continue to follow the advice of public health officials, including taking appropriate precautions in their day to day lives such as: wearing a mask in indoor public spaces, frequent handwashing, staying at home if sick and avoiding social gatherings. **Remember - limiting your close contacts to those in your household (i.e., the people you live with) will help to limit the spread of COVID-19.**

Now more than ever, we must take care of ourselves and each other. We can do this by following the advice of public health agencies and government officials to minimize the risk of COVID-19 in our communities. For more information, please download the [Red Zone Requirements](#) or visit: <https://www.durham.ca/COVID19>

Human Rights Policy Consultations

At the Durham District School Board (DDSB), human rights are part of everything we do. Protecting these rights is very important for everyone's safety, well-being, mattering and belonging. The DDSB is writing a new policy on human rights.

The policy will help us:

- Share information so everyone knows their rights and understands their roles and responsibilities
- Address racism (including anti-Indigenous racism, anti-Black racism, Islamophobia and antisemitism), ableism, sexism, homophobia, transphobia and other forms of discrimination and harassment in DDSB learning and working spaces.

You can have your say on the policy. Your voice matters and is very important to us. **Please share your thoughts with us by December 8, 2020.**

Here are some ways you can have your voice heard:

1. Fill out a short, anonymous survey <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HRPconsult2020-12> and/or Thoughtexchange <https://my.thoughtexchange.com/464641328>
2. Share your thoughts by email: humanrightspolicy@ddsb.ca or phone (905) 666-6396
3. Join a virtual meeting. Further details coming soon.

Note: We cannot have in-person meetings right now because of COVID-19 restrictions.

Want to know more?

- **Watch** this video https://youtu.be/Xy9VPQ_OUGM
- **Read** the [plan](#) for the policy and who will be involved
- **Learn more** about human rights <https://www.ddsb.ca/en/about-ddsb/equity-inclusive-education.aspx>

If you need this information in an alternative format, or need Human Rights Code related accommodation or communication supports to take part, please contact humanrightspolicy@ddsb.ca or (905) 666-6396.

School Bus Cancellations

With colder temperatures approaching, we are sharing information on how the DDSB is approaching the cancellation of buses due to winter weather in order to ensure everyone remains safe. There will be some changes for this school year.

In the event that transportation services are cancelled due to inclement weather, secondary schools within the affected cancellation zones will switch to a virtual learning day for all students. **All secondary students will be required to stay at home.** We are taking this approach as students are already learning virtually in their classes. In this situation, **both cohorts** will be taught virtually in RealTime by their teacher in the morning. If any students arrive at school, we will ensure that they can return home safely.

For small class placement classrooms, you will be consulted directly in order to determine if the class preference is to switch to virtual or remain in-person due to extreme weather.

How will I be notified if transportation services are cancelled and/or schools are closed?

Families will be notified as soon as possible (no later than 7:00am) through a posting on the DDSB website, social media and where possible, through local radio stations.

What zone am I in?

Students at Eastdale C.V.I are in Zone 4 (Southern Area).

Immunizations for Grade 9 Students

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the Durham Region Health Department will not be conducting immunization programs in schools. Grade 9 students will receive a call from a Public Health Nurse this fall to discuss options to complete vaccines missed at the end of Grade 8. For more information on immunizations, please visit: www.durham.ca/immunizationclinics

If you have any questions or concerns please call into the Immunization Program at 905-668-6242, or Durham Health Connection Line at 905-668-2020 for assistance.

Sincerely,

Michelle Monk

Principal
Eastdale C.V.I