

MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release

August 27, 2020

NWHU Supporting Return to School

Northwestern Health Unit (NWHU) is working with partners in education on return to school plans so that children, youth and school staff stay healthy this year. NWHU is assisting school boards to implement infection prevention measures and will work quickly to identify and manage any COVID-19 cases that may arise throughout the school year.

Measures in place to protect children and educators in schools will include:

- screening to ensure children and staff who show signs of illness do not enter the school
- prompt isolation of ill children and staff
- physical distancing to the extent possible
- enhanced cleaning
- cohorting (keeping groups together) as much as possible
- use of face coverings for most students (grades 4 and up) and staff.

NWHU will continue to provide essential school health programs in schools for the 2020/21 school year, modifying if necessary to ensure students have access either in the school or in their community. Services that will be offered in a modified way include routine immunizations, oral health screening and preventive treatment, sexual health clinics, and nutrition programs.

Keeping community transmission low is key to keeping schools open and safe for everyone. All community members can support this by practising prevention measures including physical distancing, frequent hand-washing, limiting social contacts, and wearing a mask in enclosed public spaces. If there are indicators of increased COVID-19 cases circulating in the local community or in Ontario, there will be provincial and/or local discussions to change course as needed. School boards and NWHU will do our best to keep you informed as these changes are considered.

For more information, visit www.nwhu.on.ca or call our COVID-19 hotline at 1-866-468-2240.

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Northwestern
Health Unit

www.nwhu.on.ca

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Visit Ontario's [website](#) to learn more about how the province continues to protect Ontarians from COVID-19.

A reminder to the media that Dr. Kit Young-Hoon hosts online COVID-19 media briefings every Tuesday, 10:00 am - 11:00 am CT as well as Q&A sessions for the public every Thursday, 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm CT. If you do not have a link to the media briefings, please email jbegg@nwhu.on.ca.