



# Guidelines for in school instruction 2021-2022



**GLEN BRIAR**  
ACADEMY

This document describes the health and safety practices GBA will adopt to optimize the safety of our families and staff during the 2021-2022 academic year. These practices may be adjusted and/or altered as more information becomes available, or as provincial mandates, policies, and procedures change.

## INFORMED PROTOCOLS

In preparation for the 2021-22 school year, GBA has consulted resources and memos from: 1. The Ontario Ministry of Education 2. Toronto Public Health 3. Sick Kids Hospital 4. Ontario Federation of Independent Schools



## BUILDING ON EXPERIENCE

Protocols and procedures for this academic year are firmly based on the success of those in place during the 2020/2021 school year, and on the feedback provided by our local health authorities.



## LEARNING RECOVERY AND RENEWAL

GBA will support student mental health and well-being, as well as the reengagement with hands on learning strategies. Educators will continue to assess student strengths and areas of need throughout the school year in order to support the building of foundational knowledge prior to the introduction of new content.





## Summary:

Glen Briar Academy students in Kindergarten through Grade 8 will attend school five days per week, with 300 minutes of instruction per day, remaining in their cohorts when indoors (this includes indoor recesses, meals, and learning times). Cohorted classes will stay together and with their teacher within their homerooms. Specialized teachers, such as French teachers, will continue to work with assigned cohorts in order to supply the full breadth of the curriculum.

As of August 2021, Glen Briar Academy intends to include extra curricular activities in its programming, as long as these can meet social distancing and mask wearing guidelines. Given these measures, current guidelines allow for cohorts to safely mix within shared indoor spaces.

Students at Glen Briar Academy will continue to have access to extended care before and after school. Before school care will take place indoors, while afterschool care will be facilitated outside, weather permitting. In both instances, parents are encouraged to drop off and pick up students as close to the scheduled academic day as possible in order to support the safe supervision of students from different cohorts.

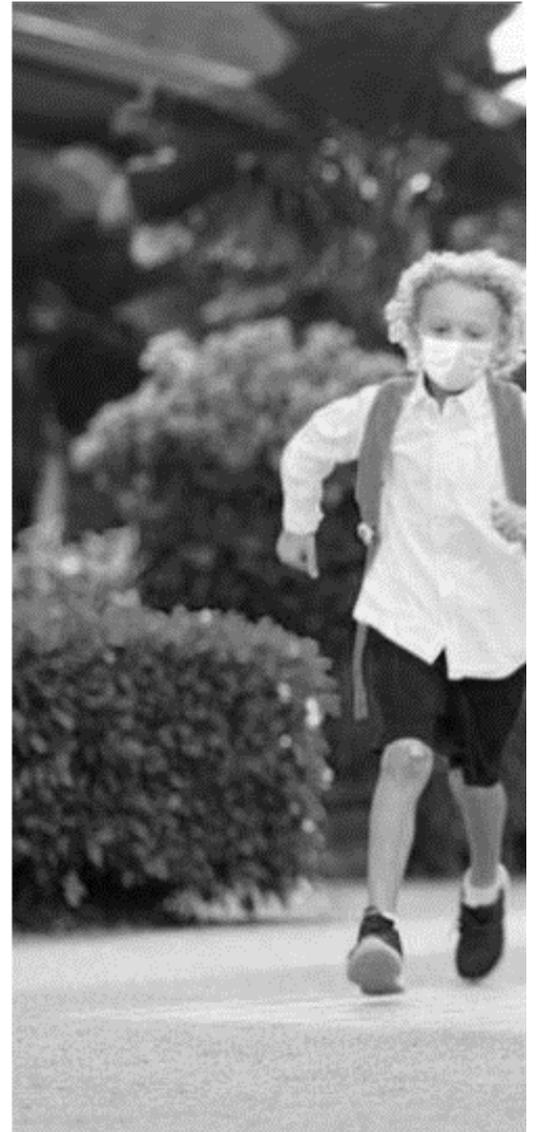
All students in Kindergarten to Grade 8 will be required to wear masks in all indoor spaces, allowing for mask breaks only when behind personal plexiglass screens. All students will also be required to wear masks indoors when in common areas, or when mixing with other cohorts. Students will not need to wear masks outside as long as they can maintain social distancing from all individuals around them.

## What is cohorting?

Cohorting is the practice of keeping students together in a small group throughout their school day, providing controlled exposure to teachers and peers.

Cohorting is crucial in facilitating safe and reliable contact tracing.

Glen Briar Academy continues to adjust timetables, class sizes, and student groupings in order to support the safe cohorting of students across all divisions.



# Guiding Practices

## 1. Social Distancing

Social distancing plans assess the space and resources that are available in classrooms and shared spaces, and are tailored by teachers in order to meet the needs of the students in their care.

Social distancing includes:

- plexiglass shields for every student
- adherence to cohorts of 15 individuals during instructional times
- room set ups that minimize exposure by creating one way traffic
- directive arrows on the floor of high transit areas

## 2. Face Masks/Face Coverings

Students in Kindergarten to Grade 8 are expected to wear masks throughout the school day when indoors, and less than six feet apart, as well as in common areas. Mask breaks are allowed only when behind protective screens. Teachers and staff will wear masks when walking around the classroom, when interacting with other staff or students, or when it is not possible to maintain a distance of six feet.

**Masks should:**

- Fit snugly but comfortably against the side of the face
- Be secured with ties or ear loops
- Be replaced at least once daily
- Cover the nose and mouth, allowing for unobstructed breathing.

## 3. Hand Cleanliness

All classrooms and key access points are equipped with sanitation stations. These include the use of products made up of 60% alcohol content or higher, and are to be used when entering and exiting a space. In addition, teachers and staff will promote effective handwashing practices prior to eating, after using restrooms, and when contact has been made with any bodily fluid (eg. saliva from a sneeze). Handwashing will also be enforced in any instance when hands have become visibly soiled (for example, after play).

## 4. Sanitation and Cleaning

Glen Briar Academy is equipped with signage related to hand sanitation and respiratory hygiene practices.

In addition, a continuous sanitation plan is in effect throughout the day, with special attention paid to high touch areas. Cleaning solutions and supplies are available in all classrooms, the office, and resource rooms for shared use. All classroom surfaces, floors, and high touch areas are cleaned intensively at the end of each day and through the weekend by a professional cleaning company.

## 5. Health Screenings

Staff and students will be required to complete an online health screening prior to attending school. This includes updated guidelines for in school attendance. Screening verification and a temperature check will be conducted prior to entrance being granted to the building.

Students and/or staff who do not meet health screening criteria will not be permitted to enter school premises. Return to school will be dependent on the guidelines provided by the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education.

Although inconvenient, this practice is very important, as our school community relies on our honesty and integrity to keep all of its members and spaces safe.



## 6. Contact Tracing

In the event that a positive case of Covid-19 is identified in our community, the local health department will be notified. School administration will provide information allowing for timely identification of individuals at a high risk of infection. In the event that a teacher, staff, or student is infected, Glen Briar Academy will follow Toronto Public Health directives regarding length of quarantine, as well additional cohorts that require dismissal.

## 7. School Attendance

Families are kindly reminded to keep their children home when they are sick or not feeling well. We ask that parents indicate symptoms on their daily screening, and if instructed to stay home, contact school administration via phone or email to confirm absence. If absence is related to a Covid-19 symptom, parents will be asked to report their child's activities to aid in contact tracing. Glen Briar Academy will follow directives from the local health officials prior to granting reentry into school spaces.

## 8. Synchronous (online) learning

Synchronous learning will be available to students who are required to stay home due to a Covid-19 related symptom, or due to exposure to a positive case of Covid-19. Synchronous learning will coincide with the student's regularly scheduled school day, and will be provided live via Google Meets. Learning materials, time tables, and meeting links will be supplied via Google Classroom. Live instruction will not be provided for Physical Education classes, or any class activities scheduled to take place outdoors.



Should a student not be able to participate in synchronous instruction, the option to complete work asynchronously will be made available. Regardless of format, students are expected to submit completed tasks as specified by their teacher and in accordance with agreed upon timelines.

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## 9. Management of Cases, Outbreaks, and Suspected Outbreaks

As per current Toronto Public Health guidelines, those that are fully immunized and asymptomatic are not be required to isolate after contact with a confirmed or probable case is made. Immunized individuals are also not be required to isolate if they are in the same household as a symptomatic individual. Nonetheless, testing is strongly recommended for these individuals.

High risk contacts of a positive case are to isolate for 10 days, unless they are fully immunized or if they have tested positive within the past 90 days and have since been cleared.

For high risk contacts who are not fully immunized, testing is recommended on or after day 7 of their isolation period. If a test is collected before day 7, a repeat test on or after day 7 is recommended.

## 10. Visitors and offsite professionals



Glen Briar Academy will closely monitor and restrict visitors to our school premises.

While offsite professionals who supply whole school and/or extra curricular programming are welcome, parents, volunteers, and offsite professionals will continue to be able to join our learning spaces virtually as appropriate.

Visits that ensure school and building safety, such as inspections by the Fire Marshall's office, or by Toronto Public Health professionals, will continue to take place in adherence with GBA's safe school practices and guidelines.

All visitors are required to self-screen and to wear a face mask while on school premises. They are also expected to participate in a screening at the school entrance upon arrival.

## 11. Immunization Policy

In line with Ontario's Ministry of Education mandate, Glen Briar Academy will implement a Covid-19 immunization disclosure policy as an additional tool to advance safety and to support local public health units.

This policy requires that all employees of Glen Briar Academy undertake one of the following:

1. Provide proof of full vaccination against Covid-19;
2. Provide a formal/official documented medical reason for not being vaccinated against Covid-19;
3. Participate in an educational program approved by the Ministry of Education.

Individuals who are not immunized against Covid-19, including those with medical reasons, will be required to undergo regular rapid antigen testing, in accordance with provincial guidelines.

This approach will also apply to frequent visitors to the school or program providers that facilitate extra curricular activities or services at Glen Briar Academy.

Glen Briar Academy is committed to implementing and upholding disclosure policies that ensure that this information is accessible to Public Health Units.

