



Zoom Meeting Chat FAQ August 26, 2020

Thank you for attending our Zoom information meeting on August 26, 2020. We appreciate all the questions that were submitted in the chat. Please see the responses to those questions below. Some questions that were more or less the same but asked by different individuals are shown only once. These answers based on what we know right now and our plans can change depending on the experience we face when we implement our teaching plans. If you have other questions, please do not hesitate to ask a teacher during Home Visits or email our Vice Principals.

1.) I am wondering what the learning cohorts are, what that means and what that will look like?

Learning cohorts (learning groups, learning bubbles) refer to the a subgroup of students/staff that will remain relatively self contained during the year. Schedules and classes will be organized as much as possible to minimize the amount of contact this cohort will have with other cohorts. MoE has set a 60 person limit for elementary and middle school cohorts for the current Stage 2. In the elementary for example, one cohort would consist of the two classes of a grade which would be a total of approximately 40. With some families opting to stay home, cohort sizes for various grades may vary and may be lower than 40. Limiting contact with other cohorts may be done through adjusting schedules, staggering, rotations, and restricting certain activities (eg. buddies, lunch monitors).

2.) What is the Ministry criteria that is used to evaluate and determine the various stages?

This has not been made transparent to schools. The reasoning behind decisions to move into a certain stage are those that have been communicated by the MoE in the media which are largely based on the information and advice of the Ministry of Health.

3.) Can I get a copy of the document please?

We have attached a school plan to this email.

4.) What happens when students eat lunch ?

Students will be eating in their own classrooms. Students will be made to wash hands before eating. Students will remove their masks or face shields when eating.

5.) Is there any specific traffic flow implemented at school?

Yes. Some areas will have floor markers for directions. The main entrance doors will be designated one for entry/exit. Emergency exits will be used throughout the school to provide one way routes for different cohorts to go in and out of the school building.

6.) Based on the MOE guidelines, will children from K-5 have the CHOICE to wear their masks in their classroom? I may be wrong on that but read it recently.

Our school has taken this measure to make it a requirement for K-5 to maximize the health and safety of the school environment. All students will be provided with a set of 3 masks (this will be arranged once the shipment arrives). Students have a choice of wearing a mask or face shield. Students will be taught the proper way to put on, take off and store their masks and these routines will be reinforced. Students will have breaks from masks at several points in the day when they are outside or during P.E.

7.) How will the school run Chapel on Wednesdays?

The plan is to have a live chapel with 1 cohort attending with distanced seating in the sanctuary on a Tuesday morning. The cohorts will take turns on a rotating schedule to attend this live chapel. This chapel will be recorded and it will be viewed by each class in their classrooms and those at home on Wednesday morning. The Pitt Meadows campus may run a different format.

8.) Would the school consider having the kids remove their masks when they are learning at their own desk?

We would consider this after we have seen the spacing of desks in a classroom with the number of actual number of returning students. It would also depend on how well the storage of masks are handled by students when not being used. We will be implementing a safe way for students to store their personal masks/shields individually.

9.) Was there any thought about plexiglass around the desk instead of masking?

There were technical and practical concerns with installing plexiglass around each individual desks. We have invested in other health equipment such an electrostatic sprayer for sanitizing

and HEPA air purifiers in the classrooms. Some areas such as the resource room and the library may have plexiglass partitions.

10.) During Lunch Break will the teachers remain in the classroom with the students In the same Cohort?

We are not able to confirm this yet as some of our schedules have not been finalized. Our goal would be to have 1 consistent supervisor in the classroom for lunch. We may need to draw on our parent volunteers to support this.

11.) Can we get an updated school supply list?

This is available on the school website. <https://hopelcs.ca/school/school-supplies-2/>

12.) When can we find out if there are online learning options?

The MoE have given flexibility to schools to provide another option in their August 26 announcement. Our school will be providing a home-based learning format for those who are not returning to the classroom. Some of this information has been shared in our information meeting. It will be different from Hope@Home. Teachers are still working on some of these details and it may be necessary for the home-based learners to start a few days later than those returning to the classroom. It will take a few days for in-class students to learn the new health and safety rules and routines. This instruction does not yet apply to those who are staying at home.

13.) How will the school tackle the staggering of cohort during platoon class and playground time @ McLean Park?

We will not be able to group our Math platoons like we normally would as it would create too much mixing of cohorts. Each cohort may simply be divided into 2 groups/platoons. We are still finalizing our daily schedule. Our goal would be to stagger the lunch time McLean recess break into two periods. One for cohorts K-2, and the other for cohorts 3-5. At the PM campus, the staggering will depend on the final number of students returning and the cohort sizes.

14.) Will the classrooms being used for before and after school care be sanitized on a daily basis before class starts?

Those classrooms will be sanitized when before school care ends in the morning before the students in the class enters. All classrooms will be sanitized at the end of the day.

15.) How do you avoid students to have physical contact within their cohort? Would students just be allowed to sit at their desk the whole time when they are in class?

Desk spacing, line up procedures/dots/floor markings. Designated carpet spot. There will be more seat time. More outdoor options

16.) If there is online learning option and we decide to with this option, can we change our mind and go back to classrooms when situations get better?

We would welcome a transition back into the classroom at anytime during the school year. We are not able to support a hybrid option (part school, part home). Unless there are further changes from the MoE we would not want to see students moving back and forth between the two options.

17.) What will be the procedures if a student's sibling (involved in a different cohort) develops any symptoms?

Any student, staff or other person within the school who has symptoms of COVID-19 **OR** travelled outside Canada in the last 14 days **OR** was identified as a close contact of a confirmed case or outbreak must stay home and self-isolate, including children of essential service workers.

If a student's sibling has SYMPTOMS only and they are seeking or have sought medical assessment from a health provider to rule out COVID-19, that student is allowed to attend school and will be monitored by teachers and should be self-monitoring.

18.) Another concern is how to avoid the students to mix up their masks, cuz we know that students might bring same masks to school. Especially for the young children, they don't have good habit to keep their masks in place all the time.

We understand this concern and we are working to have the best way for them to handle and store their personal PPE at school in individual holders. Students will be taught to place mask and retrieve masks from their designated holder. Masks and face shields should be clearly labelled with your child's names if possible. (Iron on label, sharpie)

19.) Will the home-learning students get the same learning materials as the ones in the class? The materials can be sent to the parents through email.

Students learning at home may not receive or be expected to complete the same material as those in the classroom. Certain content and activities can not be done at home. Students at home may be asked to work on something different that aligns with curricular goals. As much as possible learning materials will be sent digitally. For parents convenience, it may be a good idea to have a printer at home.

20.) Really likes the Window idea. Much better than what we expected. Will it be possible for home based students have any any interaction with the teacher? like weekly zoom meeting with other home-based students in the same class?

The Zoom window into the classroom is something that we may need to still test and refine. There are limitations as shared in the meeting. We ask for patience as teachers become accustomed to using that in the classroom. There will be opportunities for students at home to check-in with their teacher on a regular basis.

21.) Or even with the whole class?

We hope that the Zoom window into the classroom will provide a sense of connection with the class. Teachers will try to find ways to foster and maintain this connection together as one group.

22.) Can you please send the answers to the parents' questions asked in this meeting to all parents?

Yes the recording and FAQ sheet will be sent to our whole school community

23.) Will the home learning option be available to in person students who are home sick?

Students who are sick at home can join the instruction provided for those at home.

24.) This may not be able to be answered because it could be dependent upon how the situation progresses. Will there be a relaxation on some of the protocols (ie-masks) through the year, if the COVID situation improves? Or are these things set for the year

The current health and safety protocols are not permanent for this year. We are holding these plans loosely as we know the pandemic situation can change very quickly. The school will continue to assess the risks and areas for relaxation in consultation with our stakeholders if the wider community trend improves. All schools are unique and our school will be considering our measures in our own context.

25.) What will transition from classroom to after school care look like?

This will require further discussion and planning with Rita from Schola Bohemia. We will update soon before school starts.

26.) What will be the frequency for changing the hepa filters for air purifier?

We will be following the manufacturers recommendation to replace every 12 months.

27.) Which the home based student have a chance to view the chapel, if there will be chapel every Wed?

Yes, please see answer #7 about chapel.

28.) Will the tuitions be adjusted for online learning students?

Unfortunately, the school is unable to implement a different tuition level for students learning at home. The school has fully committed to its financial obligations for the year. The school is also impacted by the pandemic financially due to unstable enrolment this year. The school has made exemptions from some fees this year to alleviate the financial burdens to families. The school is still committed to ensuring that all our students continue to receive education at Hope despite the financial impact on some of our families. We encourage families who are requiring tuition relief to contact our accountant Neil Johanson at njohanson@hopelcs.ca for options that can help you.

29) Thanks Mr. Lok. What is the plan if the ministry declares an extreme Stage 5? will there be Hope@Home then or that's not been planned yet?

That is what we expect the MoE would require schools to do - to return to the way implemented in the spring of 2020.

30.) math platoons?

Math platoons apply to grades 2-8 only and under the cohort arrangements it will not be possible to implement the normal math platoons because there would be too much mixing of cohorts. We may simply arrange each cohort into 2 platoons.

31.) How the home based learning looks like? When will the parents have the detailed information and planning?

We are still working out the details for the home-based learning. It will be a combination of following instruction in the classroom by Zoom and independent or parent supported work at home and regular check-ins with the teacher. We may need a few additional days to start home-based learning.

32.) Can children bring their own hand sanitizer with them for their own use during the day?

Yes, this is fine. We would suggest to label the bottle with the child's name.

33.) How will the transition be like for music class and gym? and also changing into gym clothes?

When moving to different locations, students will be walking single file and distanced through routes that will not have oncoming foot traffic.

Students can wear gym clothes underneath their uniform when they come to school. They can still change into PE clothes during their recess breaks (limits of people in washrooms/change rooms at any time). Students may stay in their gym clothes after P.E. Gym clothes requirement will be relaxed this year so students can participate in P.E. without their gym clothes. However they will still require gym shoes.

34.) When will the school bus start the service?

The shuttle bus service starts on the first day of school (half day). Departure times are the same as last year. Leaving Port Coquitlam campus at 8:00am sharp. We may need to switch to a smaller vehicle and make two trips. We will inform parents registered for the bus if this is needed.

35.) Could there please be some more detail about how student's would change for gym, and also how higher risk activities like singing and recorder will be managed.

Please see answer #33 regarding gym.

36.) pls confirm masks are mandatory. We want masks

Yes, masks are required. See answer #6 for more information about masks.

37.) Are masks required in afterschool care? do we need to sign up with rita?

We are sharing our health and safety protocol with Schola Bohemia however after school care has different requirements and guidelines than schools. Rita will decide what the protocol is for before and after school care. If your child needs before or after school care, please contact Rita directly.

38.) What is the plan for PE and Music?

Given the COVID situation, students in recorder (and band classes) will be expected to have their own instruments. It will not be possible to share instruments, or for Ms. Allen to 'lend' a recorder if a student has forgotten theirs.

While playing any wind instrument, students may remove their masks (only while playing) or place the instrument 'under' the mask, if there is room. It is possible to cut a hole or slit near the mouth area and play the instrument. Brass instruments will use a water pad to drain water while in class, then throw out the pad at the end of the class.

During choir class, students will be required to wear masks while singing. If the students can't be spaced out properly, we will move choir classes into the chapel, as there will be more space. As will be with all music classes, students will wash hands or sanitize before and after class.

PE will be outdoors as much as possible. Some sports and games taught may be different from previous and we may spend more time with individual fitness and skill development as well as more time in sports and fitness activities that are less team based (eg. climbing, badminton)

39.) Will children be required to wear the full uniform, or will there be relaxed uniform requirements to accommodate increased hygiene?

We have tried to find more information to know whether this is an effective measure and we have yet to find anything about this from the ministry or our association schools. At this time we will not change the uniform policy.

40.) Cohorts will be diff when kids move from school to after school care?

The requirements for after school care and schools are different. We have shared our plans with Rita but it will be Rita who will decide and communicate what the her plans our.

41.) When the kids are in the classroom, would the teacher open the windows often?

Yes, teachers will maintain ventilation with the windows in the classroom.

42.) For students who are going to opt for home based learning how are the assignments going to be marked?

This will be different depending on grade. Seesaw and Google classroom will be the major ways for teachers to see and assess the evidence of the work.

43.) For home-based/online learning, how many hours of class are we approximately looking at per day?

There will be details to be shared later by teachers. It will be different for different grades but students will not be watching the classroom on Zoom the whole day. Teachers will prioritize literacy and numeracy lessons.

44) Are there sinks in each classroom to promote frequent hand washing?

There are sinks in most of our classrooms. For those that do not have one, they will be using the washroom sinks. We are looking into getting portable hand washing stations for the classrooms.

45) will school consider half day of school?

Unfortunately we are not able to offer a hybrid option to be at school half the day.

46.) All students in the same grade belong to one cohort but they are still separated into two classes, correct? So basically it's almost the same like previous years but the students just won't be mingling with students in other grades.

This will depend on the number of students returning to the classroom. Class composition and structure may change if there are extreme situations. We may need to rebalance numbers for many reasons. Teachers may be working as co-teachers to teach the classes. The two classes in the cohort can be together but contact with other cohorts will be limited.

47.) will hand sanitizer be available where handwashing is not near???

Yes, hand sanitizer, disinfecting spray bottles and spare masks will be available in every classroom.

48.) Will the ventilation system be running or shut-off during schooling day in the building ?

Our heating and cooling systems will be running as normal. Our air purifiers will be operating and windows will be used for added ventilation.

49.) so no big buddy program?

Unfortunately, with cohort arrangements in place we will not be having this program for now.

50.) So does that mean home based learning won't start till the second week?

This is very likely and we will confirm.

51.) Will teachers spend some time educating students on proper hand-washing, mask-wearing, etc at the start of school year, to make sure everyone is well informed?

Yes, the first week and be spent teaching this and practicing this and it will be reinforced thereafter as much as needed.

52.) What will be the schedule for the first week of school?

Teachers will be the ones communicate their weekly schedules. Much of the first week will be teaching and practicing health and safety protocols.

53.) If there is the DL option, would it be priced the same as the in school learning?

We are not authorized/licensed to operate a DL program. We are only given the flexibility to provide a remote learning option.

54.) Will the home learning students be able to attend any of the school outdoor activities, i.e. km club?

All activities will be assessed to see if they can take place safely. Some activities may be modified. Students who opt for remote learning will not be permitted to join extra-curricular activities.

55.) Would the school allow a ball-cap style face shield with the school uniform guidelines?

The basic mask style and field shields are the most appropriate for practical reasons in the school setting.

56.) Will students in grade 4 or 5 still have access to the microwave in classrooms during lunch time?

Grade 4 and 5 teachers have decided to not have microwave access at this point.

57.) How can teachers enforce hand washing strictly?

Teachers will be enforcing hand washing at certain parts of the day like before and after going for recess.

58.) Can home learning students get the Learning material on weekly basis like in June?

We will aim to get the schedule and material to students in advance as much as possible.

58.) So masks won't be necessary for recess? How will students be protected while eating lunch?

Masks will not be required during recess outside. Students may choose to keep masks on if they wish. Students will be sitting in individual desks when eating in the classroom distanced.

59.) Can the kids bring their own face masks from home? will the school be providing only one mask per child or multiple masks, in order to maintain proper hygiene/washing of masks at home, so the kids aren't reusing the same mask each day.

Yes, parents are welcoming to provide other kinds of face masks that suitable needs of students. The school will be providing 3 cotton masks to students when they arrive.

60.) If a student does DL this year, will a spot be held for the following year?

For more information about this, please contact our Registrar, Clare Wood at cwood@hopelcs.ca

61.) Can things like lunch be done outdoors for the safety of students?

This may be possible for a limited number of students, weather permitting but can not be done for the whole school.

62.) Can the shuttle bus fees be prorated for the months that we don't take the bus?

This is possible. We will be communicating with parents about the bus.

63.) What will the spacing of desks be like in the classroom?

Teachers have decluttered to make more space in the classroom. Spacing of desks will depend on how many students are in the classroom.

64.) Can we just pop up to this Saturday cleaning if we are not sign up

Please contact Lisa Klym at lklym@hopelcs.ca

65.) Do masks need to be in solid colour if kids are wearing their own masks or can they have patterns?

There are no specific requirements for design or patterns of masks as long as they do not have patterns or images that are visually distracting or in bad taste.

66.) Can the PTL membership cheque be sent by mail if the "home visit" will be done online and the student is seeking online school option in Sept, if available?

Yes, cheques can be sent by mail or dropped in our mail drop box.

67.) Theoretically, how bad would the pandemic be to force students to learn at home again?

This is a call to be made by the Ministry of Health.

68.) Would social distancing be kept all the time, for example what classes would be cancelled and what are the penalties for not keeping social distancing?

Social distancing will be maintained when students are not within their own cohort. Some activities may not be possible due to our health and safety protocol but all classes will continue as much as possible. If a student is having difficulty following the health and safety routines, teachers will be contacting parents for support. If the behaviour continues without improvement and is a risk for others, we would suggest to the family to opt for other learning options.

69.) If a student falls ill and tests positive for CoVid-19. Does that class Cohort group then all stay at home to self isolate and watch for symptoms for 14 days? Also, does that then also affect the sibling that is in another grade to self isolate too?

Self-isolation for a cohort will depend on the findings of the health authorities findings. It is possible that a cohort will need to self-isolate. The sibling of a confirmed student case will be required to self-isolate.

70.) If a student tests positive for CoVid-19 Will the entire school be informed that there is a case within our school?

Schools have been mandated by the Ministry to work under the direction of local health authorities to release notifications about staff and students becoming ill at home or at school. We will act to ensure transparency to protect our community.