



SLA COVID-19 School Operational Management Plan

This plan was developed in consultation with our Regional Education Officer and the Department of Labour and Advanced Education (Occupational Health and Safety Division), and was informed by the following documents/sites:

Nova Scotia Back to School Plan

<https://backtoschool.ednet.ns.ca/>

Public Health Guidance for Schools

<https://backtoschool.ednet.ns.ca/public-health-guidance>

Returning to Class

<https://backtoschool.ednet.ns.ca/returning-to-class>

Limiting the Spread of COVID-19 In Schools

https://backtoschool.ednet.ns.ca/sites/default/files/docs/Fact%20Sheet-Slowing%20the%20Spread%20of%20COVID-19_EN.pdf

Health Protection Act Order

<https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/docs/health-protection-act-order-by-the-medical-officer-of-health.pdf>

Dear SLA Families,

This plan has been developed in response to the continually evolving standards set by the province for safe school operation. You will be informed as updates are made to the plan. The plan has been alphabetized into key headings for your convenience. I am only too happy to answer your questions or address your concerns; please email them to principal@sandylakeacademy.ca God's richest blessings on each of your families as you enjoy the final days of summer together.

Sincerely,

Steve Kibbee, SLA Principal 2021-2022

Table of Contents

Absences	4
After School Care	4
Alternative Scenarios	4
Assemblies	4
Assessment.....	4
Birthdays	4
Classrooms	5
Cleaning	5
Clubs	5
Cohorts.....	5
Contact Tracing.....	5
Daily Checklist and Other Notices.....	5
Events	5
Field Trips	6
Food and Hot Lunches	6
Healthy Living.....	6
Lockers.....	6
Masks.....	6
Meetings	6
Music.....	6
Physical Education	7
Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).....	7
Rapid Testing.....	7
Recess	7
Sanitization Stations	7
Screening	7
Sharing.....	7
Signage	7
Staff.....	8

Student Drop-Off/Pick-Up	8
Technology/Computer Lab	8
Vaccination	8
Visitors	8
Volunteers	9
Waiting Area	9
Water	9

Absences

The usual absence policy as delineated in the 2021-2022 SLA Parent-Student Handbook, while applicable in the event of unexcused absences and tardies unrelated to illness, will be superseded by a policy that is sensitive to the precautions being taken with regard to (potential) illness. There will be times that students, for no fault of their own, will not be permitted to attend classes in person while: awaiting test results; displaying symptoms of illness, or; recovering from illness. In this case, the teachers will make every effort - through regular communication and virtual posting of assignments and assessments - to ensure the student has the opportunity to remain up to date in their learning while not being penalized with an absence. Such absences will be excused.

After School Care

SLA is continues to operate its After School Care program in accordance with the safety measures delineated in this document. One key exception is the mixing of cohorts within the program given (1) the small number of participants, and (2) the enrollment into the program of sibling groups.

Alternative Scenarios

As per precedent, the SLA school board will determine alternative learning arrangements due to prescribed or suggested closures on a case-by-case basis. The SLA principal will consult with

the Regional Education Officer as part of the process. Potential alternative learning and instructional scenarios include (1) at-home learning in which students are supplied with work by their teachers and provided with teacher support during the school day, (2) online learning in which classes are scheduled on zoom and instruction/support is provided by the teacher/EA, and (3) no learning plan (short-term closure, for instance)

Assemblies

Assemblies will take place among cohorts. This would typically be during chapel time. Should cohorts be eliminated, assemblies will be structured in such a way that there is adequate physical separation between classes and appropriate ventilation of the space.

Assessment

Quarterly Report Cards will be issued for all classes. All grades will be entered and kept up-to-date in Renweb regardless of whether learning is happening on-site or online. SLA remains in touch with the coordinators of the cat5 standardized testing online pilot program being planned for 2022-2023.

Birthdays

SLA students can still celebrate birthdays together. These celebrations will take place within class cohorts only, and guests will be limited to the parents of the birthday boy/girl. Parents will need to communicate with teachers well in

advance when planning birthday celebrations. The food provided must be handled only by the teacher and/or parents.

Classrooms

Classrooms will be arranged so as to maximize physical separation between students, though 2m physical distancing cannot always be practiced. Furniture may be rearranged in classrooms or removed entirely to accomplish this goal. Teachers are being encouraged to maximize the amount of outdoor class time, and to keep a constant supply of fresh air in the class through the opening of windows when practical. All classes are equipped with at least one true-HEPA filter air purifiers.

Cleaning

General environmental cleaning and disinfection throughout the facility will occur daily. High-touch surfaces such as doorknobs, railings, bathrooms, desks, tables, and light switches will be cleaned at least once per day. Shared devices will be cleaned after each use. The SLA ventilation system was cleaned at the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year.

Clubs

Clubs will operate at SLA in accordance with established public health protocols. Clubs in which cohorts are mixed are temporarily suspended. Parent volunteers can continue to coordinate/supervise any club activity except for those requiring a prolonged presence within the school.

Cohorts

SLA students will be grouped into “cohorts” so as to minimize potential transmission of illness throughout the student body. Cohort will include JPP-2, 3-6, and 7-12. For events or activities in which cohorts have to necessarily be present together, appropriate physical distancing will occur between the cohorts.

Contact Tracing

Contact tracing is no longer taking place in NS schools. Parents may choose to disclose their child’s illness to their teacher or school administrator. Parents may choose to share their COVID-19 status with colleagues or parents if they wish. The SLA Board may decide to close the school should a larger outbreak of COVID-19 among staff and/or students occur.

Daily Checklist and Other Notices

SLA will share the Covid Daily Checklist and other notices (e.g. close contact, positive cases, etc.) with students and parents, and will resend them when updates are made. It is the responsibility of staff, students, and parents to self-screen before coming to school.

Events

Many school events that involve parents and/or community members (e.g. Christmas Market and Concert, Meet and Greet, etc.) are on temporary hold due to the proof of vaccine (POV) requirement. We will still aim to find many creative ways

to keep you connected to our students and our program (e.g. virtual Christmas Concert)

Field Trips

Field trips will be conducted based upon the rules of the facility/business being visited. Specific rules will apply for transportation, which includes travelling within cohorts. Shared vehicles should be wiped down and disinfected before and after group shared use.

Food and Hot Lunches

SLA will continue to offer its hot lunch program this year. All food will be served by staff/volunteers, and no potluck or buffet style meals will be permitted. Children may cook food intended for others, but this will be under the supervision and distribution of an adult. Hot Lunch food will be delivered to limit the interaction of cohorts and social gathering.

Healthy Living

SLA encourages all students, parents, and staff to seek physical, social, and spiritual wholeness through the counsels laid out in God's word. We encourage you all to rest well, stay hydrated, choose (mostly) whole unprocessed foods, exercise regularly, get outside, and put your trust in your loving Creator. And remember, "God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind." ~ 2 Timothy 1:7.

Lockers

SLA has adopted a cohort-based locker system by isolating or moving the lockers to new and separate locations for use by the 5/6 and 7-12 cohorts of students.

Masks

Masks are required to be worn by all present within the building unless the individual has an exemption in accordance with the Health Protection Act Order. Numerous mask breaks will be conducted both inside and outside the school in adherence with public health guidance.

Meetings

Parents may schedule meetings with the Principal, Treasurer, and Teachers. We are also encouraging virtual meetings (Zoom, Hangouts, Messenger, Meet, etc.) or email exchanges so that home and school can remain in regular contact. Meetings must be scheduled in advance. Parent-Teacher Conferences were conducted in person after quarter 1. We are currently in the works of determining the manner of meeting for after quarter 3.

Music

The current approach sees a focus on individual and small group vocalists and instrumentalists, an emphasis on physical distancing, an increase in outdoor learning, cleaning of common surfaces in between classes, emphasis of instrumental over vocal content, and minimization of shared equipment. Equipment that is shared will be sanitized and cleaned between each use. The Music

class divisions are as follows: JPP, 1/2, 3/4, 5/6, and 7-12. Masks are required when singing in groups. Students and staff must maintain a minimum physical distance of 2 metres when singing unmasked or playing wind instruments.

Physical Education

SLA is emphasizing outdoor activity, regular sanitization and washing, and limiting the amount of close physical contact in its choice of activities. The Phys. Ed. class divisions are as follows: JPP-2, 3-6, and 7-9. Masks are not required for individuals engaged in rigorous indoor physical activity. Masks are not required outdoors.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

SLA keeps a supply of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) on hand for use by staff and students (e.g. masks), though individuals who choose to don such equipment are encouraged to keep a ready personal supply available.

Rapid Testing

SLA supplies its students and staff with a limited number of rapid test kits. There are times when SLA will require that each student complete a rapid test with negative result before entering the school. Regular testing for all students who have not contracted and healed from COVID-19 within 90 days is strongly encouraged. Rapid testing is not recommended within 90 days after COVID-19 recovery.

Recess

Elementary recess and lunch will be separated by cohorts. Students do not need to wear masks outside, while eating, or engaged in vigorous physical exercise and recreation.

Sanitization Stations

Sanitization stations are placed throughout the school in conspicuous places for student, staff, and visitor use. Hand sanitization is encouraged before entering the school and classrooms.

Screening

Anyone feeling ill during the day will be sent home as quickly as possible with a rapid test kit. SLA has set up an isolation space where students can wait until their parents arrive. Parents are encouraged to call 811 with any specific questions about or related to COVID-19. SLA will continue to communicate with parents and staff about the appropriate protocols for close contacts and positive cases.

Sharing

The sharing of any personal items including handheld devices and food will be minimized. You may be sharing more than you intend to! Shared devices like instruments or electronics will be sanitized after each use.

Signage

Laminated signage pertaining to proper handwashing technique, physical distancing, sanitization, and information

about COVID-19 has been placed conspicuously throughout the school.

Staff

Each SLA teacher will be responsible for the day-to-day sanitation of high touch areas in their classrooms. They may depend on help from their students in this regard. Staff will wear masks when unable to physically distance from their students and when speaking in the classroom. We will communicate regularly with parents to ensure that they are satisfied and at ease with the arrangements and protocols practiced in the classroom.

Student Drop-Off/Pick-Up

Parents must ensure that all pick-ups and drop-offs occur outside the building so as to minimize crowds in the building. Supervision staff will assist in this. SLA opens at 8 am, so students are not permitted to be dropped off before that time. Students will be dropped off in the parking lot or at the front of the school. Please be mindful of playing children; we will be taking every opportunity to get them playing outside. Supervision will occur between 8:00-8:15 am and 3:35-4:00 pm. Students will either between the double doors or outdoors during these supervised times; we will no longer be using the gym during supervision time. There will be two supervising teachers; one near the parking lot and one with the students. Parents of JP-6 students must either (a) pick up their child(ren) by 4 pm (M-Th)/12:30 pm (F), or (b) enroll them in

After School Care. Students will not be permitted to wait in the building after 4 pm. Grade 7-12 students must wait outside after 4 pm (M-Th)/12:30 pm (F). Currently, parents may accompany their JP-2 child(ren) to the classroom at the beginning of the school day.

Technology/Computer Lab

Cleaning supplies will be made available to ensure that all devices are cleaned between use.

Vaccination

Neither students nor staff are required to be vaccinated against COVID-19 to participate fully in the school program. Please note that some organizations/business/sites for field trips may require vaccination in order for participants to access their service(s).

Visitors

SLA has adopted usage guidelines for after-hours group use. Essential visitors (this includes parents and guardians who enter the school) are permitted to enter the school, though they are discouraged to do so for ordinary business during pick-up/drop-off time. Visitors are expected to wear a mask in the building unless they have an exemption in place. Every long-term (more than a few minutes) visitor must sign-in with the office (arrival and departure). Please note that parents are not permitted to visit the classrooms without first making arrangements with the teacher. We wish to make parents a

part of daily SLA life while at the same time adhering to what has been recommended for the safe and healthy operation of schools; thank you for your patience and understanding as we seek to meet both of these important objectives.

Volunteers

Volunteers are an essential part of the SLA story. Without them, so many of our amazing events - big and small - simply could not happen. Being a smaller school, SLA is positioned to accommodate a limited number of regular volunteers on our campus. Note that volunteers can help in many ways remotely; this can be through their prayers, sharing resources, and preparing things at home (food, crafts, etc.) for school use. Currently, volunteer participation is limited to events that largely take place outside of the

building. We will be addressing this topic regularly with the hopes of getting our full volunteer program up and running again.

Waiting Area

Students are permitted to wait between the double doors during morning and afternoon supervision. Masks are required between the double doors, and students should be mindful to allow for parents and other students to move freely in and out of the school.

Water

SLA has purchased a water bottle filling station. This allows for students to access water in the school in a contactless manner. Cups are available for JP-6 students in the office. Grade 7-12 must bring their own water bottle to school.