

Shared Spaces Guidelines

For Elementary and Secondary Schools



Schools will look very different as we reopen for September of 2020, and there are many questions concerning the use of shared spaces, like gymnasiums, libraries and cafeterias. Schools must refer to these guidelines when developing operational protocols for students and staff.

As we all know, COVID-19 information and protocols are constantly changing. Please be advised that this is a working document and may change depending on new guidance the Thunder Bay District Health Unit.

Libraries

- Both elementary and secondary libraries will be closed to classes for book exchange at this time.
- Secondary libraries will be open to students requiring space for spares or independent study – distancing measures must be put in place and students should properly clean their area before and after use.
- ISTs are encouraged to put together bins of books for elementary classrooms to have for short periods of time. Bins returned should be left for 72 hours before the books are put back into circulation.
- Any student who enters a library must enter or have their name entered on the tracking sheet, including sign-in and sign-out times.

Elementary and Secondary Science Labs

Science Labs may be used provided the following conditions are met:

- Chairs and desks/tables must be cleaned between cohorts.
- It is recommended that classes be scheduled so only one class uses the lab per day. If this occurs, desks and chairs should be cleaned daily by custodians and students do not need to.
- Where this is not possible, students can clean desks and tables before and after use.
- Shared materials require the same care as chairs and desks and must be cleaned between student and cohort use (e.g. microscopes, glassware, etc.).
- Students should be spaced 2m apart if possible, 1m minimum while using the lab.
- Group work is strongly discouraged.
- Classes are to be recorded on the tracking sheet, including sign-in and sign-out times. Classes in secondary labs do not need to sign in as the class is scheduled in that room daily.

Gymnasiums

Please see the Physical Education Protocols in addition to the following:

- Gymnasiums can be used in the normal manner in both elementary and secondary schools.
- Activities that promote distancing and limit student contact with each other are to be the focus for instruction.
- Equipment that can be cleaned between cohort use (e.g. basketballs, floor hockey sticks, hula hoops) can be wiped by students using appropriate cleaning supplies.

- Classes are to be recorded on the tracking sheet, including sign-in and sign-out times.

Cafeterias/Lunchrooms:

- Cafeterias and lunchrooms are closed to students for eating.
- These spaces may be used for spares and independent work during the day.
- If using cafeteria tables, signage must indicate where students may or may not sit in order to maintain distancing of 2m.
- Furniture should not be arranged such that students face each other.
- Any student who enters a cafeteria or lunch must enter or have their name entered on the tracking sheet, including sign-in and sign-out times.