



Questions and Answers to Support Child Care and Before- and After-School Programs During the 2021-22 School Year in TDSB Schools

(Last Revision Date: August 27, 2021)

1. How will room set up take place in shared spaces?

It is important for school and before and after school programs (BASP) staff to work together and coordinate the set up and use of shared spaces. This will require flexibility and planning at the local level.

Setting up shared space classrooms should be done jointly with returning educators whenever possible so these spaces can meet the requirements of both school and BASP and minimize reorganization and/or additional set up during transitions. The physical environment should be set up to maintain a welcoming learning environment for students, while still encouraging physical distancing.

School and BASP staff should work together to develop joint working norms which may include establishing shared goals and expectations, protocols for communication, and an approach to resolving any issues that may arise.

2. How can cohort cohesion be supported between school and BASP?

BASPs may continue to serve students of different schools (including Virtual School), as long as all TPH health and safety protocols are in place.

BASP supervisors should try to prioritize groupings based on their core-school program and try to implement scheduling to prevent mixing between before and after school groups/cohorts and full day groups/cohorts whose child attendees do not attend a core-school program. During PA days and holiday programs, BASPs must maintain all TPH requirements, including those regarding cohorting.

3. Are BASPs able to provide a lunch time program for students during the COVID-19 pandemic?

No. During COVID-19, all elementary students are required to remain with their assigned cohorts throughout the core instructional day, including the lunch period. Therefore, BASP's will not be permitted to operate a program during the lunch period. All students will remain with their school cohort during lunch.

4. How is enhanced cleaning being completed in shared space?

Enhanced cleaning will occur between cohorts as required when the before school program ends and the core instructional day begins, and again after the core instructional day ends and the after-school program begins. Caretaking staff will need support for coordination of space with Principals and BASP operators to allow this to happen. Caretakers will record enhanced cleaning in the caretaking log, which is available to BASPs upon request

As a general guideline, caretakers will require an average of 10-15 minutes for each classroom to provide enhanced cleaning in between cohorts. This enhanced cleaning will focus on high touch surfaces and will not include disinfecting learning materials, sweeping of the floors etc. During the required enhanced cleaning between BASP and instructional day transitions, BASPs will be required to use alternate spaces. This may include the playground, gym, library, etc. More than one BASP group can be in the same space, so long as cohorts can maintain physical distancing.

5. What are TDSB's mask requirements for school staff and students?

TDSB staff are required to wear a medical mask, as well as face shields and other PPE as appropriate. TDSB students, Junior Kindergarten to Grade 12, are required to wear a mask at school.

6. What are TDSB's mask requirements for child care and BASP?

All child care and BASPs must ensure that their respective Ministry and TPH requirements for mask use are met throughout program operations. The TDSB continues to require that all children over the age of two wear a mask while in common areas of TDSB schools.

7. How is TDSB improving ventilation in schools?

Detailed information about [ventilation](#) can be found on the TDSB website.

8. Can BASPs access additional space?

BASPs who wish to expand their programs to increase capacity and serve additional students may do so by working with principals and the Child Care Services team. However, additional space to serve the current licenced capacity of students cannot be granted at this time.

9. What is TDSB's vaccination policy?

TDSB staff are in the process of developing a mandatory COVID-19 vaccination procedure which would require all TDSB staff, Trustees, and visitors to disclose and provide proof of vaccination status and to be fully vaccinated to help protect the health and safety of both staff and students.

For more information, please see the [August 25, 2021 TDSB news release](#).

10. What screening is required as students transition between BASP and school?

Schools and BASPs are each required to ensure that their respective screening protocols are completed for every child prior to arrival using the most current TPH Screening Questionnaires and Decision Tools.

Students who begin their day in the BASP will be required to follow school screening (verification) protocols as well. To support smooth transitions for students, schools and BASPs are encouraged to remind families that separate screening is required for both programs.

11. Is an isolation/wellness room available for child care and/or BASP use?

Yes. Determination of isolation space for child care and/or BASPs should be discussed locally at the school level with the Principal. Isolation space may be the same designated space for school and child care/ BASP children.

12. How will shared learning materials be cleaned between school and BASP?

If learning materials are shared, schools and BASPs should locally develop a strategy in partnership to ensure these are cleaned between cohorts.

Both school and BASP staff are responsible for cleaning shared learning materials. Both must ensure that learning materials are cleaned at the end of each program, or materials that have not been cleaned are removed.

13. Will BASP staff be permitted to continue working as school lunchroom supervisors (if applicable)?

BASPs and schools are required to follow the advice of TPH. As per the [City of Toronto's Before and After School Programs Tips and Considerations training module](#), "a staff member who works in a before- and after-school program can have another job somewhere else. For example, they could work as a lunch-time supervisor for a school and return to your program afterwards".

14. Will staff rooms continue to be available for child care and BASP staff?

Staff rooms will continue to be available for child care and BASP staff use for lunches and breaks, however TPH guidelines and requirements (e.g., the use of PPE, distancing) will continue to be expected from any individual accessing space in a school. In some cases, an alternate space for staff lunches and breaks may be designated to ensure TPH requirements can be met.

15. How should information about laboratory-confirmed positive cases of COVID-19 and contact-tracing be shared between school and child care?

Schools and child cares are each responsible for following the direction of TPH for their respective programs. Both must keep their respective records to support contact-tracing and share as required by TPH.

Schools and BASPs should develop a communications strategy in partnership to ensure a collaborative response to laboratory-confirmed cases of COVID-19 in children who are both child care attendees and students. Schools will notify the onsite BASP of positive cases in the school and BASPs are expected to do the same.

16. If an entire school is dismissed due to cases of COVID-19, can the child care and BASP remain open?

If TPH declares an outbreak, they will determine what happens next. This could include closing school and/or BASP cohorts or entire settings.

If an entire school is dismissed, the BASP may be required to close to support the isolation of school students. On a case by case basis, TPH will determine whether an onsite 0-4 child care can remain open. It is important for child cares to connect directly with TPH for advice and direction when they become aware of a school dismissal that may impact their child care operations.

17. Will TDSB issue permits for child care board of directors' meetings?

TDSB community-use permits are not being issued until further notice, therefore permits for child care board of directors meetings are not available at this time.