Lester B. Pearson School Board
Commission scolaire Lester-B.-Pearson
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COVID-19 Risk Reduction Strategies

To reduce the risk of the COVID-19 virus transmission, the Lester B. Pearson School Board has been following the INSPQ and Santé Publique's recommendations to reduce COVID-19 transmission in schools and centres.

Risk prevention strategies in order of importance are:

1. **Stay at home if you are sick**
2. **Wear a mask**
3. **Physically distance**
4. **Wash your hands**
5. **Ventilate – increase the flow of fresh air into schools to dilute the concentration of infectious particles**
6. **Filter to remove infectious particles**

As the temperature continues to drop, we would like to share some information regarding the 5th and 6th strategies in the fight against COVID-19 transmission.

Ventilation
Buildings are naturally ventilated (fresh air enters through windows and doors), mechanically ventilated or a combination of both. Mechanically ventilated buildings draw fresh air through "intake" vents and distribute the fresh air throughout the building. Hospitals and skyscrapers are mechanically ventilated which can permit a better control of indoor air quality and the ability to control the amount of fresh air entering a building. If your building has windows, we encourage you to continue to open at least one of them throughout the day, weather permitting. It is recommended to leave classroom doors open to encourage air exchange.

If your building is naturally ventilated, you are required to periodically open windows at least three times a day for at least 15 to 20 minutes each time to encourage an air exchange, weather permitting. Classroom doors must be kept open.

Filtration
During the winter months it could be more difficult to maintain fresh air in naturally ventilated classrooms. HEPA air purifiers are NOT a substitute for the other risk transmission strategies recommended by the INSPQ and Santé Publique. The HEPA air purifiers are an additional layer of prevention to the ones already in place in our buildings. The air purifiers will remain ON at all times. They must run on NORMAL mode. The HEPA air purifiers will remove particles, small virus droplets and aerosols from the air. The air purifiers will not remove carbon dioxide from the air, which is why it is important to open the windows as much as possible during the winter season.

Buildings with mechanical ventilation can continue to draw fresh air throughout the winter season. Dampers drawing fresh air into the building will be kept open to draw the maximum amount of fresh air possible without damaging the system. The ventilation system will run throughout the day and at least two hours prior to the building opening and two hours after the building closure despite the increase in energy costs to warm the fresh air entering the building. We have upgraded the filters throughout the school board where possible.

The school board's recent purchase of over 400 new air purifiers and filters was an important gesture designed to prevent the spread of COVID 19. However, the new air purifiers and filters are not a cure-all for schools and other buildings. It is vital to continue practicing other prevention strategies to reduce transmission risks.

Once again, these four strategies are:

1. **Stay at home if you are sick**
2. **Wear a mask**
3. **Physically distance**
4. **Wash your hands**

Thank you for your collaboration.