

ENDS #1

Provide a safe, healthy, and welcoming educational environment for learners, staff, families, and partners.



Goal #1

- Ensure all learners benefit from a positive learning and working environment that promotes health and safety.



Strategy 1.1

- Support schools to ensure that current health and safety practices limit the potential spread of COVID-19.



August 2021...

- EECD Healthy & Safe Schools Document updated and introduced to Principals, students/families and staff.
- Masking on busses and common areas, limited visitors, youth oriented rentals, no bubbles, extra curricular permitted.
- Staggered entry for students.



Early September...

- Proof of vaccination collected for 3200 permanent staff and casuals.
- Rapid tests provided for staff not fully vaccinated testing three times weekly; overseen by Principals/supervisors or designates and numbers reported to District and to EECD.





Mid-September...

- Masks to be worn in class/common areas. Exception for eating/drinking, outside and physical education class.
- High school pop-up vaccination clinics.
- Students over 12 required proof of vaccination to participate in sports and extra-curricular.



End of September...

- Outbreaks began in ASD-S; at that point over 50 NB schools had been impacted. (AES, SES, KVHS, HMS and LLES).
- Close contacts identified and notified (staff/students) in the school and on buses. Process outlined, communicated to Principals and refined several times until Christmas.

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- Records kept of school visitors, accurate attendance records of students and staff.
 - With each positive case, a general letter was sent to all families and staff from the Superintendent and a specific Public Health letter via Messenger to close contacts (students/staff). The names formed a data base shared with EECD and Public Health.
 - Vaccinated close contacts were not required to isolate



Operational days...

- Operational days by school necessary if more time was needed to reach close contacts. This meant students were at home and staff at school. Learning from home when possible.
- If an outbreak involved a bus, contact tracing was more complex, one bus can carry students from multiple schools, especially morning runs.



Custodians...

- No additional staff, however, with each outbreak facilities staff were contacted and they ensured the rooms impacted were sprayed with a disinfectant. This was often on the weekends, before school or late evening.



Early October...

- More cases (HMS, SES, CICS, CSM, SHS, Forest Hills, SSHS, SSMS).
- Rapid tests were introduced for unvaccinated students/staff identified as close contacts.
- Two negative tests had to be obtained to return to school; initially the cartridge showing a negative result had to be shared on arrival at school.
- Office staff volunteered to distribute kits and check test results. At times deliveries and distribution was on the weekend.



Late October...

- Healthy and Safe Schools documents updated to permit fully vaccinated spectators at school events.
- More outbreaks – SHS, NES, SJBKE, LLES, Bayside, Champlain Heights, HRVES.
- Discussions with Dr. Barker due to growing numbers at Simonds and Loch Lomond and a recommendation to have all students learn from home for two weeks.



Oct 31 – Nov 15...

- ▶ CUPE job actions; on-line/learn from home K-12. Staff permitted to obtain teaching materials from school.



November 19...

- Date for all GNB staff to show proof of being fully vaccinated was announced.
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Late November...

- Outbreaks at GBP, Inglewood, MNS, RVMS, Seaside, IVES, Beaconsfield, BES, SSHS, Forest Hills, Centennial, Bayview, Westfield and HRVES.
- The ASD-S outbreak management response continued to be refined and shared with Principals.
- Outbreaks were often identified in the evening and continued through the weekend. On-going support from Public Health Nurses.



December...

- Schools agree to host immunization clinics organized by local pharmacies or Public Health. Advertised by the District.
- Jason Steeves of Pharmasave in east Saint John offered clinics at

Prince Charles

St. John the Baptist/King Edward

Kennebecasis Park

Loch Lomond

Bayview

Lakewood Heights

Forest Hills

Princess Elizabeth

for initial immunizations and returned winter 2022 for the second vaccine.



December...

- ▶ A sharp increase in cases which made timely contact tracing and the delivery of test kits for unvaccinated students challenging.
- ▶ December 4/5 weekend 11 schools (STM, Forest Hills, HWSF, PES, Bayside, RES, Rothesay Park, HHS, QMS, KVHS, SJDA). All schools opened on Monday which showed our team and schools responded very quickly.
- ▶ It was obvious most high schools had high rates of vaccination and many families had test kits at home.

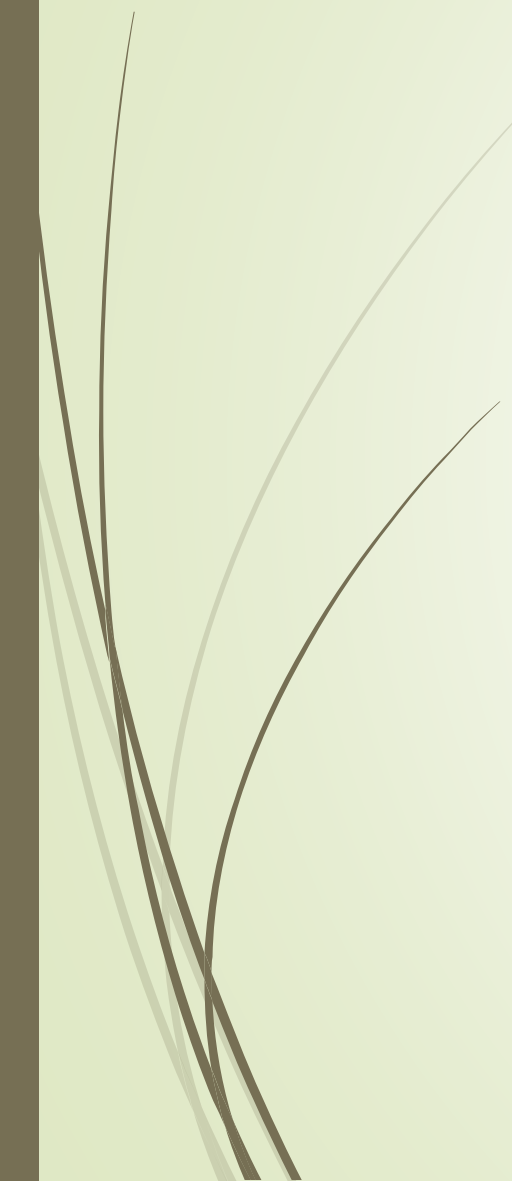


December 15...

- EECD announced classes ending one week early (Dec. 17) for K-5, and two days early (Dec. 21) for grades 6-8.
- Community and school sports and activities ended for students under 12 years and for over 12 only skill and drill sport activities.
- Change in provincial response and all students in the schools were considered close contacts in the event of an outbreak. This greatly increased the number of kits to be delivered/distributed.
- In total 62,000 test kits were distributed.



December 18–19/December 20–22...

- Between Dec. 18-19 (10 schools) and Dec. 20-22 (9 schools) had outbreaks.
 - Prior to the holidays test kits were distributed to all students/staff.
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Winter Plan 2022...

- Winter plan 2022 introduced to Principals just prior to holidays.
- Holiday communication was led by EECD, notifying families of schools with positive cases.



January 10...

- Students K-12 on-line/learning from home.
- Schools introduced to having identified students coming in person (PLP, behavior plans, EAL, etc.). Approximately 10% of students participated.
- 3 layer masks sent to schools for staff.



Boosters...

- Booster shots available – staff strongly encouraged to participate.
- Provincial voluntary survey sent to all staff to determine an estimate of those who had a booster and how many had an appointment.



January 31 & February 2...

- Students returned January 31 (K-8) and February 2 (9-12).
- Families asked to notify the school if a student tested positive (POCT/PCR). Data shared with District and to EECD.
- An ASD-S dashboard was created on our website and updated Mon-Fri at 5:00pm. NB was in Level 2 of the Winter Plan with masks required.



February 19...


- Winter Plan Level 1 – masks still required – isolation period for vaccinated staff/students was 5 days and 10 days for unvaccinated.

Ventilation Systems...

- Schools with no central ventilation systems were given a portable hepa-filter unit for each room.
- In ASD-S a total of 16 schools and 5 additional schools requiring units in parts of the school.

School Name (5)	Number of units required
Loch Lomond School	12
St. George Elementary	14
St. Rose	26
Black's Harbour	18
Champlain Heights	35
Total	105

School Name (16)	Number of units required
Back Bay Elementary School	14
Barnhill Memorial School	36
Bayview School	36
Beaconsfield Middle School	18
Centennial School	33
Grand Bay Primary School	12
Hazen-White-St. Francis School	20
Inglewood School	12
Lawrence Station Elementary	8
Norton Elementary School	14
Prince Charles School	37
Princess Elizabeth School	50
Sir James Dunn Academy	32
St. John the Baptist/King Edward	25
St. Stephen Elementary School	54
White Head Elementary School	4
ASD-S	405



February/March...

- Casual staff challenges February/March – higher rate of staff sick leave. A response plan developed, tweaked several times with the goal of fulling school positions.

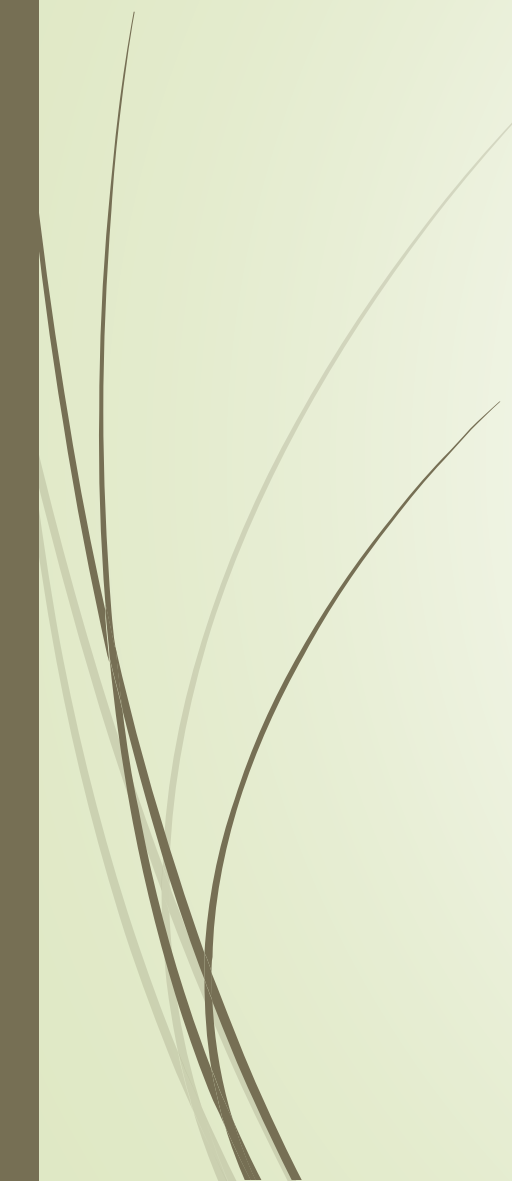


March 14...

- Restrictions lifted with masking a personal choice.
- Sanitizing, hand washing, cough/sneeze etiquette continues.
- Age appropriate student messaging provided to students about masking, extra-curriculars and clubs permitted, full rentals.
- Testers distributed to all staff (approximately 3000).
- Staff / Students asked to stay home when sick.



Protective Equipment...

- RAPID TEST KITS
 - MASKS/SHIELDS
 - SANITIZER
 - SIGNAGE
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Thank You...

- Public Health Nurses (Ann Hogan, Dr. Barker)
- Clare Tooley – Occupational Health and Safety Coordinator
- Principals/Vice Principals
- District Covid Response Team members – Jessica Hanlon, Marc Godin, Nick Munn, retiree Paul Smith (late fall) and Ann Hogan.



Thank You...

- Facilities & Transportation – Managers and Assistants
- School Custodians
- HR in tracking vaccination information
- Director of Schools, Curriculum and ESS in working with Principals early morning to fill teacher vacancies
- Subject Coordinators and Coaches for covering unfilled absences in February to now
- District staff for covering Administrative Assistant vacancies



Development of a District Communicable Disease Prevention Plan – April 2022





Goal #2

- Maximize the engagement of families and community through effective communication and outreach.



Strategy 2.1

- Provide families, learners, and staff relevant, timely information regarding the Healthy and Safe Schools Guidelines, COVID-19, and Outbreak Management.



Communications...

- Responded to approximately 100 Covid related media requests. Regular updates with live CBC Information Morning interviews when requested.
- Daily Covid Dashboard – updates January 17 – March 4.
- 100+ Covid notifications updates, family letters, guidelines (posted for DEC).
- Responses to countless emails to the ASD-S website and calls from families.



Strategy 2.2

- Explore new ways to re-engage families and partners.
 - Parent Teacher Conferences – in-person with a virtual option.
 - Planning in-person Kindergarten orientation.
 - Year-end activities.
 - Guest speakers/presenters.