

Huron Perth Public Health Instructions for the operation and administration of a private school

Questions and Answers

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1. Why are these instructions being issued?

The instructions are being issued to ensure that private schools in Huron and Perth Counties are following the same requirements as publicly-funded schools for safe reopening for the 2020-2021 school year.

The instructions, in addition to fundamental public health measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19, will help to provide a safe and healthy school environment for staff, students and visitors, and safeguard the broader communities in which they live.

2. Which schools are included in the instructions?

The instructions are issued to all persons and groups responsible for the operation and/or administration of private schools in Huron and Perth Counties.

Private schools operate as businesses or non-profit organizations, independently of the Ministry of Education. Under subsection 1(1) of the Education Act, a private school is defined as:

“an institution at which instruction is provided at any time between the hours of 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. on any school day for five or more pupils who are of or over compulsory school age in any of the subjects of the elementary or secondary school courses of study...”

3. Under what authority are the instructions being issued?

The instructions are being issued by Huron Perth Public Health’s Medical Officer of Health pursuant to O. Reg 364/20 s.2(2) made under the Reopening Ontario (A Flexible Response to COVID-19) Act (ROA), 2020.

4. When do the instructions come into effect, and for how long?

The instructions come into effect at 12:01am, Tuesday, September 8, 2020, or five days after receipt, whichever is later. The instructions remain in effect until further notice from Huron Perth Public Health.

Any decision on an end date will depend on whether legislation still calls for adherence to public health advice, recommendations and instructions, and whether there is still evidence of virus transmission.

5. How are the instructions being enforced?

Huron Perth Public Health will take a progressive enforcement approach to ensure compliance with the instructions, with enforcement measures focusing on education. However, pursuant to the ROA, where significant non-compliance with the above-noted requirements occurs, fines may be issued.

Huron Perth Public Health will follow up with a school if it receives a complaint related to the instructions.

6. More information

If you have questions about these instructions, please call Huron Perth Public Health's Health Line at 1-888-221-2133 ext 3267.

The instructions and this question and answer document can be found on our website at www.hpph.ca/school and will be updated as needed. Please check back regularly. For schools that don't have internet access, Huron Perth Public Health will provide copies.