

Guidance on the Storage of Student Winter Clothing and Personal Belongings

With the winter season quickly approaching, Peel Public Health recommends the following infection prevention and control (IPAC) measures with respect to the storage of student winter clothing and personal belongings in order to reduce the risk of COVID-19:

- As much as possible, student winter clothing and personal belongings should be kept at students' desks and taken home at the end of every day.
- Student winter clothing and personal belongings should not be shared. Students must handle and store only their own personal belongings.
- Lockers should continue to be closed for the storage of student items.
- If hooks and cubbies are to be used, these are to be labelled and designated to specific, individual students.
- If hooks and cubbies are to be used, students should store/pick-up their personal belongings in a staggered fashion during assigned times in order to promote physical distancing (i.e., only the students whose hooks/cubbies are a minimum of 1-metre apart should be storing/picking-up their winter clothing and personal belongings at any given time). Students should continue to wear their masks throughout this process and until such time as they exist the school.
- Physical distance markers/indicators and signage should be placed on the floor and on the walls to indicate appropriate physical distancing and to regularly remind students of this practice.
- Students should be encouraged to sanitize their hands using alcohol-based hand sanitizer (ABHR) before and after touching the hooks and cubbies. Signage demonstrating appropriate use of ABHR should be available near hooks and cubbies reminding students of this practice.
- High-touch surfaces such as hooks and cubbies should be regularly cleaned and disinfected (i.e., a minimum of two times per day). More frequent cleaning and disinfection may be necessary, depending on the frequency of use and extent of soilage.
- Student winter clothing and personal belongings should be stored in a manner that provides safe access for all students and staff throughout the classroom. The storage of these items should not pose any slip or trip hazards. Hallways must be kept clear at the end of each day to allow for effective cleaning and disinfecting of the school by custodial staff.