

September 10, 2020

For Immediate Release

## **Elgin County's Students Return to School**

Families, teachers, and childcare workers have adjusted, and continue to adapt, to the new realities of the 2020-2021 school year, and the County of Elgin is committed to supporting the back to school plans developed by Thames Valley District School Board, London District Catholic School Board, and other local schools in consultation with Southwestern Public Health, to ensure both the community and its schools remain as safe as possible.

“This next phase of reopening for our community is likely to be a challenging time for many people,” said Warden Dave Mennill. “We, as a community, have an important role to play in showing support for those returning to the classroom or learning virtually this September, by strictly adhering to public health guidelines and showing empathy to one another. Just as we’ve done together over the past 6 months of the pandemic, we will remain #ElginStrong if we do this together and support each other.”

Elgin County has diligently maintained its efforts in preventing the spread of the virus, thanks to community members who have continued to adhere to the proper precautions while our businesses and operations reopen in stages. To support our community’s next phase of reopening, it is imperative that Elgin County residents continue following all public health recommendations, including:

- Stay home if you are feeling unwell;
- Practice physical distancing;
- Wear a mask or face covering in indoor public spaces and/or when physical distancing is not possible;
- Practice hand hygiene; and
- Be kind and understanding as we navigate upcoming changes.

“Our local youth, parents, and teachers deserve a lot of credit for their flexibility and support of each other during these difficult times,” continued Warden Mennill. “So many individuals across the County have made many sacrifices to keep each other and our community as a whole safe. I wish all students and teachers success in your return to school in the coming weeks.”

The County of Elgin supports the guidance and direction provided by Southwestern Public Health (SWPH). Residents are encouraged to visit the [SWPH \(www.swpublichealth.ca\)](http://www.swpublichealth.ca) website to access resources and information on COVID-19 in Elgin County.

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