

Mike Pot – Planning for Return to School – 9 July 2020

1) I think any option will provide students a sufficient level of improvements to their mental health, so hopefully we can look forward to that in any case.

2) My senses tell me that a hybrid option is the wiser choice.

It makes us more resilient to change, and it reduces our exposure.

On the other hand....

CHEO's Alex Munter had made the point that with so many parents seeking day care, it increases contact points, and that because of that it would be better to keep the students in one single classroom.

I partially agree with this.

But what was not considered, is that not everyone in those half sized classes will have additional contact points.

They are not all in day care.

Plus many students are in after school care regardless either way.

So I think CHEO's statement was not entirely thought out.

3) I understand the pressure to open to full capacity.

Plus studies, namely from the Netherlands, which are very thorough, side with the full capacity option.

Their data is pretty compelling.

It even laid some of my concern to rest.

That data however, might not be taking into account the unique Canadian seasons we are heading into.

So end of day, depending on what I look at, I feel myself torn in multiple directions.

With having had months to brew on things, we all feel that we're experts now, including myself.

I think what we need is to hear from qualified virology scientists openly discuss this and present their cases, and base the decisions on that, and not base it on our own gut feelings.

Why are we not seeing more of them?

4) End of day, I'm afraid that our senses during these quiet summer months might be making us complacent.

Let's not forget that we will be heading back into the same conditions as the winter conditions when the pandemic began.

There is talk about this virus being airborne, with quite a bit of evidence to support that.

We will have to be ready to react to changes, and still be able to continue to function.

So parents need to accept that the situation could change on a whim.

This is a major challenge.

5) Travel.

Travel has been one of the main factors in its introduction and spread.

People will be travelling again.

So long as travellers have to isolate for 14 days, make the students in those households isolate with them also.

This would provide a barrier which helps to prevent the introduction of the virus into the school.

I think this is the least we should do.