

COVID Considerations

We realize that the COVID-19 pandemic is resulting in some changes to the way schools operate and your own teaching practices.

In preparation for the 2021 local government elections, CIVIX has put together some considerations for implementing the program activities. Due to some uncertainty around what safety protocols will be in place, and when, we have consulted with teachers on some of the expected limitations and how best to overcome them.

Be sure to also check with your school administration to ensure that all activities are being conducted in accordance with the most up-to-date health and safety requirements.

Classroom Activities

Below is a list of reminders and possible accommodations for you to keep in mind when delivering the learning activities.

- Full-class discussions can be held in place of work in pairs or small groups.
- Google Docs, Google Jamboard and other messaging apps can be used for collaborative work and discussions.
- Take advantage of video resources to facilitate distance learning, if needed. Activity sheets to accompany each video can be found on the project website (studentvote.ca/nblocal2021).
- Digital templates are available for all of the student activity sheets found in this resource, including Google Docs and Google Forms versions (studentvote.ca/nblocal2021).
- Ensure enough materials are available to reduce the need for sharing between students.
- All outputs can be produced digitally. This reduces the need for paper and allows the finished products to be shared online with the rest of the class.

Specific considerations can also be found in the *Accessibility & Accommodations* section at the end of each lesson.

Campaign Events

Instead of in-person meetings or debates with candidates, consider holding a virtual event or asking candidates to submit written or video answers to student questions.

Rather than holding a school wide assembly, consider using videos or morning announcements to increase awareness about the program and the upcoming local government elections.

The Voting Process

Below are some considerations for holding your vote. An online voting option will be provided if you are uncomfortable or unable to vote with paper ballots.

- Hold the vote within classrooms to minimize contact with other students in the school.
- Be sure to practice physical distancing if using a stationary polling station.
- Have students use their own pencils or pens to mark their ballot.
- Consider having students vote at their own desks to limit movement or contact.
- Teachers can count the ballots, or election officers can be limited to a small group of students.
- Use gloves when counting ballots and/or wait several hours before handling them.

If you have any questions or concerns about how any materials or activities could be adapted to meet the specific requirements at your school, please contact our team.