



**NEBULA**  
A C A D E M Y

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**2021-2022**  
**Re-Entry Plan**

## INTRODUCTION

We are so thrilled to be welcoming students back to our school this year, a year that we hope will be a little more “normal” than last year! While there are many pandemic factors that must still be considered, we are hopeful that our students and families will experience an exciting and engaging return to learning. The safety measures we are implementing are outlined in this document. They are based on recommendations by the Chief Medical Officer of Health and the [Government of Alberta’s 2021-2022 School Re-Entry Plan](#). Over the course of the last school year, we have put many layers of protection in place to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and we believe that continuing to utilize this approach is the most effective way to keep everyone safe. The basis of our plan rests on ensuring students and staff who are feeling unwell, and/or exhibiting COVID symptoms remain at home. All of our safety measures in this document and in our school will be reviewed regularly and have been designed to be adjusted at any time in response to the ever changing and evolving status of COVID-19 within our province. We will continue to keep you informed about new developments that may impact our school as they happen. We ask for your continued support to practice good health habits at home and at school. Talk with your children about the Return to School plan, how school will be slightly different, and why it’s important to follow these safety measures again this year. Practice hand washing, respiratory etiquette, and physical distancing that will keep your child and others in the school safe and healthy. Coming to school healthy is key to the success of our plan, and we encourage you to review the [COVID-19 Information Screening Checklist](#). We’re in this together - and with your help, we’ll have a successful return to learning. Let’s look after each other and create the best possible learning environments for our children and staff this year.

The following documents are used to guide 2021-2022 year plans:

Alberta 2021–2022 School Year Plan

<https://open.alberta.ca/dataset/13d2242a-d310-419e-960c-6fe273d0f7b3/resource/e5305366-17e9-4507-9487-8aa5afcd72f2/download/edc-school-year-plan-2021-2022.pdf>

COVID-19 Alberta Health Daily Checklist

<https://open.alberta.ca/dataset/56c020ed-1782-4c6c-bfdd-5af36754471f/resource/58957831-a4ab-45ff-9a8e-3c6af7c1622e/download/covid-19-information-alberta-health-daily-checklist-2021-08.pdf>

COVID-19 Parents’ Guide 2021-22 School Year

<https://open.alberta.ca/dataset/181fd1bd-44c0-45ec-b3a5-5cbc92a34df0/resource/8ae876a6-a36c-496e-8fbc-c34c299dbcb8/download/edc-parents-guide-2021-22-school-year.pdf>

## PLANNING THE RETURN TO SCHOOL

On August 13, 2021, the minister of education and Alberta's chief medical officer of health announced the provincial [2021-2022 School Year Plan](#). The provincial plan is designed around two operational scenarios:

SCENARIO 1: In-school classes resume (near normal with health measures)

SCENARIO 2: At-home learning continues (in-school classes are suspended/cancelled)

The province has decided that students will return to school in September under Scenario 1 of the provincial re-entry strategy. Alberta's chief medical officer of health and the minister of education will continue to monitor information around the COVID-19 pandemic as they decide how to best keep students, staff and the broader community as safe as possible during a pandemic. This means that, at any point during the school year, the province could decide whether schools across Alberta, schools in a particular region, or individual schools and classrooms need to move from one scenario to another. This decision will always be made by a medical officer of health in collaboration with education officials.

## SAFETY AND WELL-BEING

The safety and well-being of students, staff and families are the foundation of our return to school. Protecting each other is a responsibility all members of the school community share. We all have a critical role to play in following the safety protocols set out by Dr. Deena Hinshaw, Alberta's chief medical officer of health. These protocols are intended to mitigate or reduce the risk of COVID-19, but do not eliminate all risk. The provincial re-entry plan's focus on safety does not depend on one single strategy, but many strategies that work together to support the safest environment possible within the complex dynamics of a school community.

These strategies include:

- screening for illness
- strict illness protocols
- personal protective equipment (PPE) and masks are **STRONGLY** encouraged and mandated in some instances
- handwashing and sanitizing
- cohorts possible in elementary settings
- 2 METRES physical distancing where possible
- cleaning standards
- high standards and frequent monitoring of ventilation

# Government requirements – symptoms or testing positive for COVID-19

## I have symptoms and

### - a positive test result

#### **Isolate:**

- for at least 10 days or until symptoms have improved, and
- until you have no fever for 24 hours, without using fever-reducing medications whichever is longer.

### - a negative test result

Stay home until your symptoms are gone.

## I am a student who has not been tested

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- **If you are a student** and your symptoms include fever, cough, shortness of breath or loss of sense of taste/smell, **isolate:**
    - for at least 10 days or until symptoms have improved, **and**
    - until you have no fever for 24 hours, without using fever-reducing medications whichever is longer.
  - A student may have other symptoms (such as chills, sore throat/painful swallowing, runny nose/congestion, feeling unwell/fatigued, nausea/vomiting/diarrhea, unexplained loss of appetite, muscle/joint aches, headache or conjunctivitis).
  - If you have **one** of these other symptoms:
    - stay home and monitor for 24 hours. If your symptom improves, return to school when you feel well enough. (Testing is not necessary).
  - If you have **two symptoms** or **one symptom** that persists or worsens:
    - stay home until symptom(s) are gone. (Testing is recommended but not required).
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## I am an adult who has not been tested

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- **If you are an adult** and symptoms include fever, cough, shortness of breath, sore throat or runny nose, **isolate:**
    - for at least 10 days or until symptoms have improved, **and**
    - until you have no fever for 24 hours, without using fever-reducing medications whichever is longer.
  - **Adults** who have other symptoms should:
    - stay home until symptoms are gone.
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## **I do not have symptoms and**

### **- a positive test result**

**Isolate** for at least 10 days from the date that you were tested (when the sample was collected).

### **- a negative test result:** You do not need to isolate.

## **Screening for illness**

We expect that only healthy students and staff will come to school each day. Before coming to school each day, all staff and students must complete the Government of Alberta's COVID-19 Information Screening Checklist to determine whether they can attend or must stay home. The self-screening questionnaire is available in multiple languages. They will be expected to complete the questionnaire daily and follow all Government of Alberta health instructions on the questionnaire. Students who have any symptoms noted on the questionnaire cannot attend school. Families are not required to submit the form to the school. It is a tool to assess their child's wellness before sending them to school. Anyone else permitted in a school will also need to complete the daily COVID-19 Information Screening Checklist before entering the building. People with symptoms of COVID-19 or experiencing illness will not be allowed in the school. All schools will have signs on their entrance doors reminding people not to enter the building if they feel sick, or if they have had close contact with someone who is ill or suspected of having COVID-19.

## **Students with pre-existing conditions**

Families should tell their child's school about any pre-existing conditions their child has and the related symptoms. This will help school staff determine whether the symptoms are related to the pre-existing condition and other illness.

## **Showing signs of illness while at school**

If a student or staff member shows symptoms during the school day, they will need to leave the school. When a student is showing symptoms, the student will be required to wear a mask if they can do so safely. School staff who supervise the student will also wear a mask and will:

- bring the student to a private area away from others, if possible, or keep them at least two metres away from others
- contact parents or guardians to pick up their child immediately
- follow health protocols around personal protective equipment (PPE) and cleaning and disinfecting the area If there is a case of COVID

## **If there is a case of COVID-19 at school**

As the school year starts, the province has indicated that schools will not be informed about individual cases of COVID-19. Staff and students may choose to notify a school about a positive COVID-19 test, but it is not required. If we receive notification of a positive case from Alberta Health Services, we will communicate with families in the affected class. Quarantine is not required for close contacts under current provincial direction. This means classes will not be required to quarantine if there is a case at school. However, individuals who test positive will be expected to quarantine based on the provincial requirements in place at that time. We recommend that all students within the affected classroom have a COVID-19 test to ensure their own safety.

## Masking

Wearing masks is one of many strategies to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. There is a complement of measures to reduce the risk of COVID-19. These include: daily symptom screening, attending school only when healthy (stay home when ill), hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette, physical distancing, cohorting, use of PPE, including non-medical masks, increased cleaning and disinfection and monitoring of ventilation standards and systems. As per Alberta Health guidance, it is important that schools implement a multi-layered approach that includes each of these measures, as full implementation of specific measures may not be achievable. Our school is taking the following approach to masking:

- we strongly encourage and recommend the use of masks for all Pre-Kindergarten to Grade 12 students,
- all staff are strongly encouraged to wear a mask in all school settings. All staff are required to wear a mask when working in close proximity for an extended period of time and when working with students who are medically fragile or require personal care.
- visitors and volunteers are required to wear masks in all school settings. Due to our limited ability to physically distance in all settings, we are strongly encouraging the use of masks in classrooms and common areas.

## SNACK & LUNCH RULES

Students may bring their own meals. Seating will be arranged so that students are not too close to each other during lunch time.

- Snacks and lunch are to be eaten in classes.
- No food/snacks taken outside for recess.
- No sharing food.
- No microwave usage.
- No drinking directly from the water fountains. Students bring their water bottles from home.
- Water fountains are only used for refilling water bottles.

## SOCIAL DISTANCING

Physical distancing (2 metre spacing) is a useful public health measure to help prevent the spread of disease. Increasing the space between persons decreases the risk of transmission. Staff members, students, parents and visitors should practice staying approximately 2 meters (6 feet) away from others.

# Useful Parenting Tips

-To help prevent the spread of the virus and reduce the risk of exposure to our staff and students, parents and visitors will be asked to:

- Arrival time is 8:50 am and dismissal time is 3:30 pm. Please do not drop students before 8:50 am in the morning as our staff supervision time starts at 8:50 am. Parents will drop their children at the parking lot entrance and the supervisor will welcome the students. The supervisor will use a thermometer gun to check the temperature of all students before they enter the building everyday. Thursday is early dismissal and picking up at 3:00 pm. Parents must maintain a 2-metre distance when waiting at the door.
- Please drop and pick up your children on time which is indicated above everyday. **After three warnings, parents will be charged \$5 for every 5 minutes late.**
- Please book an appointment if you are required to attend the school. The visitor should not enter the school if they are ill. When a visitor enters the school they should be asked to use the self screening tool (see *AHS COVID-19 Daily Checklist*) before they enter the school. If a visitor answers YES to any of the questions, the individual must not be admitted into the school. Parents will be asked to wear a face covering (mask/face shield covering the mouth and nose) while in the school.
- Students should have indoor shoes which will change when they enter the school. Outdoor shoes will be kept in a bag in their locker.
- Students can not use the microwave to heat their food to help prevent the spread of the virus. If parents would like to send hot lunch, they should use a thermos food jar to keep the food warm.
- Students should bring their water bottles from home everyday. Water fountains are only used for refilling water bottles. Students can not drink directly from the water fountains.
- If a student develops symptoms while at the school, the student will be isolated in a separate room. The parent/guardian will be notified to come and pick up the student immediately. If a separate room is not available, the student should be kept at least 2 metres away from other students.

**I read and understand the protocol to help prevent the spread of the virus and sign this protocol to accept each procedure.**

Date:.....

Parent Name:.....

Signature:.....

Student Name:.....

Grade:.....

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