



**Sturgeon  
Public Schools**  
Dare to reimagine learning

## 2021-2022 School Year Plan

*This document will be updated based on orders from the Chief Medical Officer of Health and Alberta Education.*

*[GoA Staying Safe and Healthy this School Year Website link](#)*

Last Updated March 2, 2022

## Table of Contents

Context - NEW .....	3
Health Measures .....	3
Vaccinations.....	3
Illness/Self-Screening Practices .....	4
Illness While at School.....	4
Confirmed Cases of COVID-19 .....	4
Reporting and responding to high rates of absenteeism .....	4
Isolation Requirements .....	4
Rapid Tests.....	5
Physical Distancing - NEW .....	6
Masks - NEW.....	6
Environmental Measures.....	6
School Operations.....	6
Student Arrival and Entry – NEW .....	6
Hand Hygiene .....	6
Respiratory Etiquette.....	7
Student Groups/Cohorts – NEW.....	7
Water Fountains/Water Bottles.....	7
Visitors/Parents/Guardians/Volunteers .....	7
Extra-Curricular Activities - .....	7
Performance Activities - NEW.....	8
Off Site Activities .....	8
School Councils .....	8
Breakfast/Lunch/Snack Programs .....	8
Before and After School Programs.....	8
Shared School Technology .....	8
Learning .....	8
Grade 12 Diploma Exams.....	8
Provincial Achievement Tests (PATs).....	9
Supporting At-Home Learning While Sick .....	9
Mental Health Supports – NEW .....	9
Transportation .....	10
Masks on Buses – NEW .....	10
Transportation of Students .....	10
Cleaning.....	10
Buildings .....	10
Cleaning.....	10
Community Use of SPS Spaces .....	10
Government of Alberta CMOH Orders & Contingency Plans .....	11
Appendix: Guidance for Schools (K-12) and School Buses .....	11
Appendix: 2021-2022 School Year Plan.....	11
Appendix: 2021-2022 Parent Guide .....	11
Appendix: Health Daily Checklist.....	11

### Context - NEW

Throughout this pandemic we have followed Government of Alberta and Chief Medical Officer of Health guidelines to ensure the safety of all staff and students. The success of navigating these challenging times is attributed to the support from our Sturgeon Public staff, students, and families as well as the flexibility and understanding from our communities. Throughout COVID-19 we have been able to maintain a dedicated focus on providing quality education for all our students. Continued diligence in daily screening for symptoms and open communication between home and school will help keep our schools safe and healthy.

During the February 8<sup>th</sup> press conference, the Premier along with the Minister of Health announced their steps to begin relaxing COVID-19 protocols throughout the province including in our schools. On February 26<sup>th</sup> the Government of Alberta announced the plan to move ahead with step 2 of their 3-step plan for relaxing public health measures. Please review the changes listed throughout the School Year Plan, written in red, to ensure understanding of these most recent changes.

Due to the dynamic nature of COVID-19, the two (2) contingency plans created by the Government of Alberta remain in place in the event that there is a resurgence of the COVID-19 pandemic that impacts Alberta and its education system:

- Contingency Scenario 1: in-school classes (near normal with enhanced health measures)
- Contingency Scenario 2: at-home learning (in-school classes are suspended/cancelled)

During the 2021-2022 school year, Sturgeon Public Schools may request short-term operational shifts to at-home/online learning due to operational reasons.

Implementation of the 2021-2022 School Year Plan is subject to change with the direction from the Alberta Chief Medical Officer of Health.

The Government of Alberta will continue monitoring and take whatever actions are needed to manage any high-risk outbreaks of communicable diseases in schools.

The Zone Medical Officer of Health (MOH) may recommend additional measures if a school experiences a respiratory illness outbreak including screening for symptoms, masking, and cohorting.

Zone Medical Officers of Health and their designates are available to support school authorities throughout the province.

### Health Measures

#### Vaccinations

All staff and students 5 years and older can get the COVID-19 vaccine.

COVID-19 vaccines help prevent infection and severe illness.

### Illness/Self-Screening Practices

To reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19 and other respiratory illnesses, it is **encouraged** that parents or guardians assess their children daily prior to sending them to school. On February 9, 2022, the Government of Alberta released an updated screening checklist. [Alberta Health Daily Checklist](#)

If a student or staff member has any of the following core COVID-19 symptoms (new or worsening and not related to other known causes), they are required to isolate from onset of symptoms as per provincial guidelines:

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Loss of sense of smell or taste
- Sore throat (adults only)
- Runny nose (adults only)

### Illness While at School

Students exhibiting signs of illness will be moved to the school's infirmity room. Parents/guardians will be notified and advised to pick-up their child. If the parent/guardian is unable to pick up their child, they must designate an emergency contact for student pick-up. It is the expectation that students are picked up by the family or emergency contact.

- Students who are exhibiting symptoms will be given a mask to wear while they wait to be picked up.
- A staff member caring for an ill student must wear a mask.
- Proof of a negative COVID-19 test result is not necessary for a student or staff member to return to school.
- Individuals should not return to school until they are feeling well.

### Confirmed Cases of COVID-19

You are not required to report rapid antigen test results to your child's school, however, we do ask that you please continue to inform your school if your child will be staying home for any reason and follow the COVID-19 Alberta health Daily Checklist to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19.

### Reporting and responding to high rates of absenteeism

The 10% absenteeism rate will be monitored closely. Schools report to Alberta Health Services when there is a school-wide absence rate of 10% or greater due to illness OR there are an unusual number of individuals with similar symptoms.

### Isolation Requirements

**Isolation** helps prevent the spread of COVID-19 by reducing the number of people you could infect if you are sick. This means staying home when sick and avoiding situations where the virus could spread. **Isolation is still legally required for individuals who have COVID-19 symptoms or who test positive.**



As outlined in CMOH Order 02-2022, a person is required to be in isolation if the person is:

- a) symptomatic; or
- b) asymptomatic and have taken one rapid antigen test with a positive result; or
- c) a confirmed case of COVID-19.

### For symptomatic persons:

- A symptomatic person who is fully vaccinated is required to isolate for 5 days from the start of symptoms or until symptoms resolve (whichever is longer). For 5 days following their isolation, a fully vaccinated individual must wear a mask whenever they are in a public place or in the company of another person (no exceptions permitted).
- A symptomatic person who is NOT fully vaccinated is required to isolate for 10 days from the start of symptoms or until symptoms resolve (whichever is longer).

A symptomatic individual, fully vaccinated or not fully vaccinated, is NOT required to isolate if TWO rapid antigen tests, taken at least 24 hours apart, both indicate the person is negative for COVID-19 AND the COVID-19 symptoms have resolved.

### For asymptomatic persons:

An asymptomatic person, fully vaccinated or not fully vaccinated, who has taken one rapid antigen test indicating the person is positive for COVID-19, is required to isolate as outlined in the previous paragraphs. If the person continues to remain asymptomatic, they are directed to take a second rapid antigen test, at least 24 hours after the initial rapid test. If the second rapid antigen test comes back **negative** for COVID-19, and the person remains asymptomatic, the person is **no longer required to isolate**.

**Sturgeon Public Schools will continue to implement the 10-day isolation requirement for a confirmed case of COVID-19 for all students.** The recent removal of masking requirements does not supersede the requirement for masking if returning from a required 5-day isolation. Requiring a student to wear a mask for 5 days following isolation, not being allowed to remove it to eat or drink, is not operational in the school setting. The Division feels that the segregation required to support a return to school after a 5-day isolation does not support the mental health and wellbeing of our students or respect their health privacy. This isolation requirement may differ for staff and will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Individuals who have symptoms may use a Rapid Antigen Test and/or visit the AHS website to [manage COVID-19 Symptoms from home](#).

### Rapid Tests

Rapid Antigen Tests have arrived at all schools and have been distributed to families who have requested them. You are not obligated to use the Rapid Antigen Tests on your child(ren), and the kits will not be sent home without parent permission.

A [how-to video](#) for parents and a [Rapid Test program fact sheet](#) offers tips on how to

use the kits.

#### Physical Distancing - NEW

As announced during the press conference on February 26<sup>th</sup>, physical distancing measures are no longer required in schools effective March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022.

#### Masks - NEW

Effective March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022 there are no provincial masking requirements. This applies to all students, staff, administrators, caretakers, visitors and bus drivers.

The Division recognizes that not all individuals wish to stop wearing masks. We will continue to embrace and support all individuals no matter their personal choice regarding wearing masks.

#### Environmental Measures

HVAC systems will be maintained in accordance with manufacturer operational guidelines.

Based on updated ASHRAE recommendations, the Division will be implementing the following additional measures;

- Adapt existing systems to fit MERV-13 filters
- Install in-room air cleaners with MERV-13 filters in systems where installation of MERV-13 filters is not possible

Windows and doors will be opened where possible to increase air circulation and outdoor activities will be encouraged when weather permits.

### School Operations

#### Student Arrival and Entry – NEW

Routines established at the beginning of the school year may continue, however, cohorting and social distancing are no longer required.

All staff and students will continue to have access to hand sanitizer upon entering the building.

#### Hand Hygiene

Hand sanitizer stations will be set up at all entrances. Schools will promote good hand hygiene (washing with soap and water or using hand sanitizer) before and after activities such as:

- entering/leaving the school or classroom.
- before and after using shared equipment.
- before and after eating.
- after using the washroom.

### Respiratory Etiquette

Students, staff, and visitors are encouraged to use proper respiratory etiquette:

- sneezing into the elbow or tissue.
- discarding tissues immediately after use.
- performing hand hygiene.

### Student Groups/Cohorts – NEW

Cohorting is no longer required in Step 2 of the *3 Step Plan*. While cohorting is no longer required, this shift does not mean schools need to re-design current timetabling or classroom structures. Schools may choose to retain their current timetabling and classroom structure for the remainder of the school year to avoid learning disruption.

Cohorting may be recommended temporarily by the Zone Medical Officer of Health to prevent the spread of infection if there is a respiratory illness outbreak at school.

### Water Fountains/Water Bottles

Students and staff are encouraged to bring their own filled water bottle each day. Water refilling stations may be used to refill personal water bottles.

### Visitors/Parents/Guardians/Volunteers

We ask that parents and guardians, delivery personnel, SPS staff, RCMP and AHS review the [Alberta Health Daily Checklist](#) to determine if they may enter a school.

### Extra-Curricular Activities -

Sturgeon Public Schools works with Alberta Education, Alberta Health and Education partners, including the Alberta School Athletics Association, to support athletic activities and events within the context of health measures that may be in place.

Spectator attendance for athletics:

High School Sports

- SCHS and Redwater High School follow Alberta Schools' Athletic Association guidelines and their respective league guidelines.

Junior High School Sports - NEW

- The following guidelines are in effect:
  - Indoor sports, fitness, recreation, and performance activities are permitted in schools.

Effective March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022 spectator attendance is permitted with no remaining public health measures in place.

## STURGEON PUBLIC SCHOOLS – 2021-2022 School Year Plan

### Performance Activities - NEW

Students may participate in a group performance activity (i.e., singing, dancing, playing instruments, theatre) as part of their education program curriculum.

Effective March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022 spectator attendance is permitted with no remaining public health measures in place.

### Off Site Activities

Effective March 1<sup>st</sup> all off Site Activities resume to standard practice. The City of Edmonton Mask bylaw, however, remains in effect in all public buildings and should be considered when organizing field trips.

Schools should have procedures in place to address students or staff who develop symptoms during the trip.

In-school field trips may also occur. All visitors to the school are expected to follow the public health measures that are in place.

### School Councils

School Council members and the school Principal may choose to meet via an online environment, in a hybrid setting or face-to-face.

### Breakfast/Lunch/Snack Programs

Programs resume and vending machines will be operational.

### Before and After School Programs

Before and After School Programs operated in Sturgeon Public sites continue to operate under the Government of Alberta Daycare Guidelines.

### Shared School Technology

Schools work to limit multiple students accessing the same device in a day. Students are encouraged to bring their own devices to school to minimize shared usage of devices. Families may purchase a device through SPS's Technology Store by placing an order through the PowerSchool portal. Schools are encouraged to limit the number of people that contact the device.

## Learning

### Grade 12 Diploma Exams

The administration of diploma exams will resume and be mandatory for the 2021-2022 school year. Diploma exam weighting will change to 10% from 30% of a student's final diploma course mark for the 2021-22 school year.

### Provincial Achievement Tests (PATs)

Grades 6 and 9 Provincial Achievement Tests (PATs) will resume as normal practice for the 2021-2022 school year.

### Supporting At-Home Learning While Sick

Should a child need to stay home for a period due to illness, classroom teachers will provide key work for the student to be able to work on while at-home. Homework bundles or tasks will be provided to the student by the regular teacher.

### Mental Health Supports -NEW

Sturgeon Public Schools supports the mental health of students through a strategic whole division approach to wellness planning that is welcoming, safe, caring and respectful. Our schools make a positive impact in supporting our students so that they thrive, learn, integrate and apply skills that contribute to and enhance their overall well-being.

#### Supports for Mental Health and Well-Being

- Our schools have counselling services to best serve the needs of our students and school communities. They provide direct and indirect support to students (addressing educational, personal, social, emotional and career needs), staff and parents/guardians.
- Mental Health and Wellness coaches lead positive mental health initiatives in the schools that are strength based, encompass building resilience and enhancing Social Emotional Learning competencies (SEL).
- Counsellors and Mental Health and Wellness coaches develop Counselling and Wellness Plans for all students and focus on the six dimensions of wellness: social, emotional, spiritual, mental, physical and environmental. These plans balance developmental preventative activities, promotion of mental health as well as appropriate and timely interventions for individual students that require higher levels of support.
- Sturgeon Public Schools has 2 Social Workers that create open communication and consistency between home and school. They support families by collaborating, providing support, guidance and problem solving strategies.
- A Disability Services (DS) Team works in partnership with FSCD and provides specialized support for families of and children with disabilities. They compliment the learning and functioning of the child(ren) in the home and school community.
- Mental Health Capacity Building team in Redwater - HYPE which is focused primarily on educating our students in the areas of social emotional growth, resilience and reducing isolation within our community.
- Divisional strategies and resources through our comprehensive approach to wellness for all schools as led by the Coordinator of Mental Health and Wellness. For more information, please contact our Division office at 780-939-4341.

**Emergency Support Phone Numbers:**

Mental Health Helpline: 1-877-303-2642

Support Network/Suicide Distress Line: 780-482-4357

Kids Helpline: 1-800-668-6868 Text: 686868

Indigenous Helpline: 1-855-242-3310

Children's Mental Health Crisis (MRT): 780-407-1000

Youth Empowerment & Support Services: 780-468-7070

**Transportation**

**Masks on Buses – NEW**

The Provincial Government mask mandates have been removed. Individuals who wish to continue masking on the bus will be supported in this choice.

**Transportation of Students**

Regular transportation service levels resume.

Students registered for service are assigned a route and are expected to utilize their electronic bus pass each time they enter and exit a bus. Regular fees will apply to all riders. All fees must be paid in full for students to receive an electronic bus pass to board the bus. Families can withdraw their student from the bus at any time. Refunds will not be processed for a partial month of service.

**Cleaning**

Bus Contractors continue to follow enhanced COVID-19 routine cleaning standards, including regular cleaning, and disinfecting of high touch surfaces.

**Buildings**

**Cleaning**

Schools continue to follow enhanced COVID-19 routine cleaning requirements, including regular cleaning and disinfecting of high touch surfaces. Sanitizer stations will be available at the various entrances during school days and outside each room within the school. Caretaking staff will maintain schools within SPS's pandemic cleaning protocol.

**Community Use of SPS Spaces**

All joint use agreements that had been suspended have been reinstated.

Government of Alberta CMOH Orders & Contingency Plans

Appendix: [Guidance for Schools \(K-12\) and School Buses](#)

Appendix: [2021-2022 School Year Plan](#)

Appendix: [2021-2022 Parent Guide](#)

Appendix: [Health Daily Checklist](#)

Appendix: [CMOH Order 09-2022](#) and [CMOH Order 02-2022](#)

# GUIDANCE FOR SCHOOLS (K-12) AND SCHOOL BUSES

## Overview

Routine public health practices can minimize transmission of respiratory infections, including COVID-19, influenza and common colds. These practices include: getting vaccinated, staying home when sick, proper hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette, enhanced cleaning and disinfecting, and maintaining ventilation systems.

The guidance provided in this document is intended to support school and school authority leaders in reducing opportunities for transmission of COVID-19, including the more transmissible Omicron variant, in schools under the 2021-22 School Year Plan. This includes:

- a) practices to minimize the risk of transmission of infection among attendees;
- b) procedures for rapid response if an attendee develops symptoms of illness, and
- c) maintenance of high levels of sanitation and personal hygiene.

Schools refers to public, separate, francophone, charter schools, independent (private) school authorities, independent (private) Early Childhood Services (ECS), online/distance education programs, home education programs and First Nations education authorities, from kindergarten through grade twelve. School-based and curriculum-based activities that may be impacted by this guidance include sports, music and field trips into the community or to other schools, and professional development/activity days.

This information is relevant to all schools in Alberta including those on reserve, recognizing that First Nation schools on reserve are a federal responsibility. For public health information, COVID-19 questions or for reporting purposes, First Nation schools should contact their local Health Centre or Indigenous Services Canada-First Nations and Inuit Health Branch Environmental Public Health Services (ISC-FNIHB) office (see Appendix A), in accordance with normal practice.

Schools and school authorities must also follow the requirements set out in the [General Operational Guidance](#) and [CMOH orders in effect](#) to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19, which includes requirements for isolation when sick. Recommended measures for schools include daily screening for symptoms, proper hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette, enhanced cleaning and disinfecting, records management and building maintenance.

Zone Medical Officers of Health (MOHs) and their designates are available to provide guidance on communicable disease risk and risk management. If you have concerns, need specific guidance, or have questions about how to apply the measures in this document, please contact Environmental Public Health in your Zone for assistance (see Appendix A).



# GUIDANCE FOR SCHOOLS (K-12) AND SCHOOL BUSES

## COVID-19 Risk Mitigation

<b>Vaccination</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All Albertans aged 5 and older are eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine.</li> <li>• Vaccines provide a significant level of protection against severe outcomes from COVID-19. Two doses of the COVID-19 vaccine plus a booster, when appropriate, have been shown to be highly protective against infection, and most importantly against severe disease.</li> <li>• While vaccine uptake in children aged 5 to 11 years old continues to grow, the subsequent protective effects of the vaccine may take time for this age group. It is important that those around them, including parents/guardians, older students and school staff, receive the vaccine in order to reduce community transmission and protect this age group.</li> <li>• For more information, please visit <a href="https://alberta.ca/covid19-vaccine">alberta.ca/covid19-vaccine</a>.</li> </ul>
<b>General Building Safety</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HVAC systems should be maintained in accordance with manufacturer operational guidelines. For more information on building ventilation, please refer to the <a href="#">General Operational Guidance</a> and <a href="#">School Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) - Mechanical Ventilation in Schools (albertahealthservices.ca)</a>.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ If the use of portable air purifiers with HEPA filters is being considered, they should be used in combination with established public health measures, considering the impact they may have on overall indoor air quality and ventilation, and only in situations where enhancing natural or mechanical ventilation is not possible. If used, air purifiers should be large enough for the size of the room or area where they are being used.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Schools should have procedures that outline hand hygiene requirements:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Hand hygiene frequency should be based on activity (e.g., entering/leaving school or classroom, boarding/exiting the bus, changing activities, before and after using shared equipment, before and after eating, putting on/removing a mask, after using washrooms, etc.)</li> <li>○ Handwashing with soap and water where possible is very effective.</li> <li>○ Hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol should be placed in convenient locations throughout the school where soap and water may not be available, such as in entrances, exits and near high touch surfaces. If parents have questions about their child using alcohol-based hand sanitizer they should contact their school administration to discuss potential alternatives.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

# GUIDANCE FOR SCHOOLS (K-12) AND SCHOOL BUSES

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Hand sanitizer can cause serious harm if ingested. Keep out of reach of younger children/students, supervise them during use and place hand sanitizer in monitored areas.</li> <li>• Schools should have procedures that outline cleaning requirements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Increase frequency of cleaning (removing visible dirt) and disinfection (killing germs) of high-touch areas and equipment (e.g., desks, doorknobs, handrails, microwave ovens, vending machines, etc.) inside and outside classrooms.</li> <li>○ Common area surfaces should be cleaned and disinfected frequently throughout the day.</li> <li>○ Student contact surfaces (e.g., desks and equipment) should be cleaned and disinfected between each student/user. Minimize the sharing of supplies as much as possible.</li> <li>○ Disinfectants used must have a Drug Information Number (DIN) and a broad-spectrum virucidal claim OR a virucidal claim against non-enveloped viruses or coronaviruses. Alternatively, 1000 ppm bleach solution can be used.</li> <li>○ Follow the instructions on the product label to disinfect effectively.</li> <li>○ More information on cleaning and disinfection can be accessed in the <a href="#">General Operational Guidance</a>. Further recommendations are available in the <a href="#">AHS COVID-19 public health recommendations for environmental cleaning of public facilities</a>.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Water fountains can remain open. Mouthpieces of drinking fountains are not a major source of virus transmission and require regular cleaning according to manufacturer recommendations.</li> <li>• Use hand hygiene before and after handling items, including paper tests and assignments.</li> <li>• Items that cannot be cleaned or disinfected between routine use (e.g., paper books, shared electronics, blocks, crayons, etc.) should be stored for 24 hours between uses.</li> <li>• Additional Alberta Health Services resources: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ AHS Infection Prevention &amp; Control <a href="#">posters</a></li> <li>○ Hand Washing Posters (AHS) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <a href="#">Poster 1</a></li> <li>▪ <a href="#">Poster 2</a></li> </ul> </li> <li>○ How to Hand Wash (AHS) <a href="#">poster</a></li> <li>○ How to use alcohol-based hand rub/sanitizer (AHS) <a href="#">poster</a></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Screening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Before leaving home, staff (including substitute teachers), children/students, visitors, and volunteers who will access the school for work or education, are encouraged to self-screen for symptoms</li> </ul>

# GUIDANCE FOR SCHOOLS (K-12) AND SCHOOL BUSES

	<p>each day that they enter the school using the applicable checklist for their age group (<a href="#">Child Alberta Health Daily Checklist</a> or <a href="#">Adult Alberta Health Daily Checklist</a>).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parents and children/students should be provided a copy of the screening checklist. This can be a hard copy or a link to the digital copy of the screening checklist.</li> <li>• Schools should have copies of the daily checklists available for visitors to the school.</li> <li>• Schools should keep records of children's known pre-existing medical conditions. If a child develops symptoms that could be caused by either COVID-19 or by a known pre-existing condition (e.g., allergies), the child should be tested at least once for COVID-19 to confirm that it is not the source of their symptoms before entering or returning to school.</li> <li>• Written confirmation by a physician that a student or staff member's symptoms are due to a chronic illness is not necessary.</li> <li>• Anyone who reports symptoms should be directed to stay home and use an at-home rapid antigen test if available. For more information refer to the <a href="#">rapid testing at home</a> website.</li> <li>• If anyone requires urgent medical attention, they should call 911 for emergency response.</li> <li>• <a href="#">Signs</a> must be posted reminding persons not to enter if they have COVID-19 symptoms, even if symptoms resemble a mild cold.</li> </ul>
<b>Strategies for reducing crowding</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Schools can consider implementing strategies to reduce crowding between all students/staff in areas inside and outside of the classroom, including hallways, washrooms and common areas. This could include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Staggering start and end times for classes to avoid crowded entrances or exits and hallways.</li> <li>○ Removing and restaging seating in public areas to reduce crowding.</li> <li>○ Consider spacing of desks to minimize risk of disease transmission.</li> <li>○ Consider removing additional items or pieces of equipment that are not in use from classrooms to allow more space to spread out.</li> <li>○ Considering utilizing virtual options instead of holding large in-person gatherings of students and staff</li> </ul> </li> <li>• In situations where crowding or large gatherings are occurring, consider options to promote hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette, not</li> </ul>

# GUIDANCE FOR SCHOOLS (K-12) AND SCHOOL BUSES

	attending school when ill and cleaning and disinfecting on a regular basis before and after activities.
<b>Masks</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Masking is no longer required for students in K-12 during curriculum-related activities or when participating in extracurricular school activities. Masking during the school day remains a personal health choice for students and their parents/guardians. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Masks should be well-constructed, well-fitted and properly worn.</li> <li>If non-medical masks are worn, they should be constructed of at least three layers: two of breathable tightly woven fabric, such as cotton, and an additional effective middle filter layer, such as non-woven polypropylene.</li> <li>Medical masks can be worn to provide additional protection.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Students at higher risk of severe outcomes from COVID-19 are recommended to continue wearing a well-fitting three layer cloth mask or medical mask to reduce their risk of infection.</li> <li>Students who become ill while at school should be provided with a medical mask that can be worn while waiting to go home (See Section on Responding to Illness).</li> <li>Fully vaccinated students or staff recovering from COVID-19 who are completing their day 6-10 mandatory masking period at school must wear a mask at all times and must not share breaks where masks must be removed to consume food or beverages with non-COVID-19 infected individuals. If more than one individual is isolating, it is possible to cohort people with COVID-19 for breaks and lunch.</li> <li>Face shields are not equivalent to non-medical face masks and offer insufficient protection on their own. Other alternatives (e.g., neck gaiters, buffs or bandanas) offer less protection than masks and are therefore not recommended.</li> <li>Face shields may be worn in addition to a mask, at the discretion of the individual. Staff may elect to wear a face shield or eye protection in addition to a mask when completing personal care of students or when staff are in close contact with students (i.e., symptomatic students awaiting pick up by parents/guardians).</li> <li>Schools should consult their designated Occupational Health and Safety department for mask-wearing policies and other personal protective equipment policies for their staff.</li> <li>School administrators/authorities should develop a plan to ensure that students who are hearing impaired or who rely on facial cues are able to communicate with others in areas where masks are being worn, or have their educational needs met when teachers are wearing masks in</li> </ul>

# GUIDANCE FOR SCHOOLS (K-12) AND SCHOOL BUSES

	<p>the classroom. This may include the use of transparent masks. As with other masks, it is important that transparent masks cover the nose and mouth, as well as fit securely against the face.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School staff should monitor for and address any discrimination or bullying associated with a student either wearing or not wearing a mask.</li> <li>• Students who prefer to wear a mask while attending school should be supported to do so.</li> <li>• Masks should not be worn by anyone who is unable to remove the mask without assistance (e.g., due to age, ability or developmental status).</li> </ul>
<b>Performance Activity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students are permitted to participate in a group performance activity (i.e., singing, dancing, playing instruments, theatre) as part of their education program curriculum or extra-curricular activities. Schools may consider strategies to reduce crowding and improving/increasing ventilation in indoor settings to reduce potential transmission of COVID-19 and other respiratory illnesses.</li> </ul>
<b>Physical Activity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students are permitted to participate in group physical activity as part of their education program curriculum (i.e., physical education class and sports academy classes may occur) or extra-curricular activities. Schools may consider strategies to reduce crowding and improving/increasing ventilation in indoor settings to reduce potential transmission of COVID-19 and other respiratory illnesses.</li> </ul>
<b>Expectations for Visitors and Other Service Providers Entering the School</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Applicable school policies for adult visitors and volunteers, such as hand hygiene and staying home when ill should be followed.</li> <li>• When a visitor, volunteer or service provider (including delivery drivers and independent contractors) enters the school they may be asked to use the applicable checklist for their age group (<a href="#">Child Alberta Health Daily Checklist</a> or <a href="#">Adult Alberta Health Daily Checklist</a>) before they enter the school. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ If a visitor, volunteer or service provider answers YES to any of the questions, the individual must not be admitted into the school.</li> <li>○ In the case of a delivery driver answering YES, the driver/school will make alternate delivery arrangements.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Food Services</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Classes that teach food preparation may occur as long as students follow general precautions, such as ensuring hand hygiene and, respiratory etiquette. Schools may consider strategies to reduce crowding and reducing the number of surfaces/utensils shared between students to lessen the potential transmission of COVID-19.</li> </ul>

# GUIDANCE FOR SCHOOLS (K-12) AND SCHOOL BUSES

<p><b>Responding to Illness</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Schools should have detailed plans for a rapid response if a student, teacher, staff member or visitor becomes symptomatic while at school. This includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sending home students or staff who are sick, where possible.</li> <li>Having a separate area for students and staff who are sick and waiting to go home.</li> <li>Ensuring that students and staff with respiratory illness symptoms wear a medical mask continuously while in school setting.</li> <li>Disinfecting areas and items touched by the sick student or staff member.</li> <li>Staff members caring for an ill student should wear a medical mask and may use a face shield or other eye protections, if available.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Anyone with symptoms should isolate immediately, following <a href="#">AH isolation guidance and orders</a>, use an at-home rapid antigen test if available. Refer to <a href="#">rapid testing at home</a> for more information.</li> <li>Fully vaccinated students experiencing fever, cough, shortness of breath or loss of sense of taste/smell <b>must</b> continue to isolate for 5 calendar days from when their symptoms started or until they resolve, whichever is longer. For more information on isolation please visit <a href="#">alberta.ca/isolation</a>.</li> <li>For up to five days following their isolation, all fully vaccinated individuals must wear masks at all times when around others outside of home for up to 5 more calendar days (10 calendar days total). This means they must eat or drink alone, away from others. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If it's not possible to give each student in their day 6-10 mandatory masking period a private space to eat in, they can cohort together for meals in the same well-ventilated room. Distancing is recommended and individuals should remain masked at all times when not actively consuming food and drink.</li> </ul> </li> <li>If schools find this operationally challenging to accommodate, the consistent use of a 10 calendar day absence prior to return, for both immunized and non-immunized cases, is an acceptable approach.</li> <li>Students who are not fully vaccinated who are a case of COVID-19 or who have a fever, cough, shortness of breath or loss of sense of taste/smell must continue to isolate for 10 calendar days from when their symptoms started or until they are fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication and other symptoms are improving, whichever is longer. If they are negative for COVID-19, they must continue to isolate until their symptoms resolve. For more information on isolation please visit <a href="#">alberta.ca/isolation</a>.</li> </ul>
-------------------------------------	--



# GUIDANCE FOR SCHOOLS (K-12) AND SCHOOL BUSES

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Please see Appendix B for management of adults and children who are symptomatic and/or tested for COVID-19.</li> <li>• Proof of a negative COVID-19 test result is not necessary for a student, teacher or staff member to return to school.</li> <li>• It is strongly recommended that household contacts who are NOT fully vaccinated, stay home for 10 calendar days from the date of last household exposure to the COVID-19 case <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ In addition, they should monitor for symptoms for 10 calendar days from the last day of household exposure, and if they develop any symptoms, they should isolate and complete the <a href="#">AHS Self-Assessment tool</a>.</li> <li>○ If rapid antigen testing kits are available, they can be used on individuals to test for COVID-19. Refer to rapid testing at home for more information.</li> <li>○ For more information on isolation requirements for people with symptoms, please visit <a href="https://alberta.ca/isolation">alberta.ca/isolation</a>.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Student Transportation (Including School Buses)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parents and children/students should not be in the pick-up area or enter the bus if they have symptoms of COVID-19.</li> <li>• A child who becomes symptomatic during the bus trip should be provided a mask if they are not already wearing one. The driver should contact the school to make the appropriate arrangements to pick up the child/student (see Responding to Illness above).</li> <li>• School bus cleaning and records: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Choose a disinfectant that has a Drug Identification Number (DIN) and a broad-spectrum virucidal claim OR a virucidal claim against non-enveloped viruses or coronaviruses and use it according to the manufacturer's instructions. More information is available in the <a href="#">AHS COVID-19 public health recommendations for environmental cleaning of public facilities</a>.</li> <li>○ Increase frequency of cleaning and disinfection of high-touch surfaces, such as door handles, window areas, rails, steering wheel, mobile devices and GPS prior to each run.</li> <li>○ It is recommended that vehicle cleaning logs be kept.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Work Experience</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work experience is permitted.</li> <li>• If the work experience placement is in a workplace, the student is expected to follow health rules set out by the workplace which should comply with the <a href="#">General Operational Guidance</a> and any applicable <a href="#">sector-specific guidance</a>.</li> </ul>

# GUIDANCE FOR SCHOOLS (K-12) AND SCHOOL BUSES

<b>International Students/Programs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• International travel programs and international education programs in Alberta must follow current <a href="#">public health orders</a> and local restrictions.</li><li>• Individuals who have traveled from outside of Canada are provided with specific instructions and requirements at the border. They are to follow the Government of Canada <a href="#">Travel, Testing, Quarantine and Borders</a> instructions, including any requirements for exempt travelers related to attending high-risk environments.</li><li>• School administrators/authorities are not expected to be assessing students for following requirements set out by the federal <i>Quarantine Act</i>.</li><li>• Students/families are not required to provide proof of vaccination status for school administrators/authorities.</li><li>• Providing school administrators with proof of a negative test result after arrival in Canada is not required to attend school.</li></ul>
<b>Compliance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Concerns with individuals not complying with school protocols should be directed to the school principal, the school authority central office or Alberta Education.</li><li>• School administrators and school authorities who have concerns, need specific guidance or have questions about how to apply the measures outlined in the guidance document may contact AHS Environmental Public Health in their zone for assistance.</li><li>• Concerns identified by AHS should be discussed with the school administration. Concerns that cannot be resolved through this process should be directed to Alberta Health, who may bring forward to Alberta Education as appropriate.</li></ul>



# GUIDANCE FOR SCHOOLS (K-12) AND SCHOOL BUSES

## Appendix A: Environmental Public Health Contacts

### Alberta Health Services

Portal link: <https://ephisahs.albertahealthservices.ca/create-case/>

ZONE	CONTACT EMAIL ADDRESS	PHONE NUMBERS FOR MAIN OFFICE
Calgary Zone	<a href="mailto:calgaryzone.environmentalhealth@ahs.ca">calgaryzone.environmentalhealth@ahs.ca</a>	Calgary 403-943-2288
Central Zone	<a href="mailto:centralzone.environmentalhealth@ahs.ca">centralzone.environmentalhealth@ahs.ca</a>	Red Deer 403-356-6366
Edmonton Zone	<a href="mailto:edmontonzone.environmentalhealth@ahs.ca">edmontonzone.environmentalhealth@ahs.ca</a>	Edmonton 780-735-1800
North Zone	<a href="mailto:northzone.environmentalhealth@ahs.ca">northzone.environmentalhealth@ahs.ca</a>	Grande Prairie 780-513-7517
South Zone	<a href="mailto:she.southzoneeph@ahs.ca">she.southzoneeph@ahs.ca</a>	Lethbridge 403-388-6689

### Indigenous Services Canada – First Nations and Inuit Health Branch

OFFICE	REGULAR BUSINESS HOURS 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM	
Edmonton	Environmental Public Health	780-495-4409
Tsuut'ina	Environmental Public Health	403-299-3939

# GUIDANCE FOR SCHOOLS (K-12) AND SCHOOL BUSES

## Appendix B: Management of Individuals who are Symptomatic and/or Tested for COVID-19

Symptoms	COVID-19 Test Result:	Management of Individual:
Symptomatic	Positive molecular (e.g. PCR) test or rapid antigen take-home test	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Fully vaccinated staff (i.e. staff who have received the complete vaccine series for COVID-19 and it has been 14 days after the second dose in a two dose series or one dose in a one dose series [i.e. Janssen vaccine]) or student (2 doses of mRNA vaccine):</b> Isolate for 5 calendar days from the start of symptoms or until they are fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication and other symptoms are improving, whichever is longer, if symptoms are not related to a pre-existing condition</li> <li>Following their home isolation period, all fully vaccinated individuals must wear masks at all times when in a public place or otherwise in the company of other persons for up to 5 more calendar days (10 calendar days total). This means they must eat or drink alone, away from others.</li> <li>If it's not possible to give each individual on day 6-10 isolation a private space to eat in, they can cohort together with other COVID-19-infected individuals for meals in the same well-ventilated room. Distancing is recommended and individuals should remain masked at all times when not actively consuming food and drink. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If schools find this operationally challenging to accommodate, the consistent use of a 10-day absence prior to return, for both immunized and non-immunized cases, is an acceptable approach.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Not fully vaccinated:</b> Isolate at home for 10 calendar days from the start of symptoms or until they are fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication and other symptoms are improving, whichever is longer, if symptoms are not related to a pre-existing condition.</p>
	Negative molecular (e.g. PCR) test	<b>Fully vaccinated staff (i.e. staff who have received the complete vaccine series for COVID-19 and it has been 14 days after the second dose in a two dose series or one dose in a one dose series [i.e. Janssen vaccine]) or student (2 doses mRNA</b>

# GUIDANCE FOR SCHOOLS (K-12) AND SCHOOL BUSES

Symptoms	COVID-19 Test Result:	Management of Individual:
		<p><b>vaccine):</b> Stay home until they are fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication and other symptoms are improving, before cautiously resuming normal activities.</p> <p><b>Not fully vaccinated:</b> Stay home until they are fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication and other symptoms are improving if symptoms are not related to a pre-existing condition, before cautiously resuming normal activities.</p>
	Negative rapid antigen take-home test	<p><b>NOTE:</b> A negative test result does not rule out infection. Rapid tests can be falsely negative, early in COVID infections. Continue monitoring your symptoms and following public health guidelines.</p> <p>Isolate immediately for 24 hours.</p> <p>Take a second rapid antigen test not less than 24 hours from initial test:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If negative, continue isolating until they are fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication and other symptoms are improving before cautiously resuming normal activities.</li> <li>• If positive, continue isolation:</li> </ul> <p><b>Fully vaccinated:</b> Isolate at home for 5 calendar days or until they are fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication and other symptoms are improving, whichever is longer. For up to five days following their home-isolation period, they must wear masks at all times when in a public place or otherwise in the company of other persons for up to 5 more calendar days (10 calendar days total). This means they must eat or drink alone, away from others.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If it's not possible to give each individual on day 6-10 isolation a private space to eat in, they can cohort together with other COVID-19-infected individuals for meals in the same well-ventilated room. Distancing is recommended and individuals should remain masked at all times when not actively consuming food and drink.</li> <li>• If schools find this operationally challenging to accommodate, the consistent use of a 10-day absence prior to return, for</li> </ul>

# GUIDANCE FOR SCHOOLS (K-12) AND SCHOOL BUSES

Symptoms	COVID-19 Test Result:	Management of Individual:
		<p>both immunized and non-immunized cases, is an acceptable approach.</p> <p><b>Not fully vaccinated:</b> 10 calendar days or until symptoms resolve, whichever is longer</p>
	Not tested	<p><b>Student:</b> If symptoms include fever, cough, shortness of breath or loss of sense of taste/smell, follow instructions for symptomatic positive above.</p> <p><b>Adult:</b> If symptoms include fever, cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, loss of taste/smell or runny nose, follow instructions for symptomatic positive above.</p> <p><b>Student:</b> If other symptoms (chills, sore throat/painful swallowing, runny nose/congestion, feeling unwell/fatigued, nausea/vomiting/diarrhea, unexplained loss of appetite, muscle/joint aches, headache or conjunctivitis):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ONE symptom: stay home, monitor for 24hours. If symptom improves, return when well enough to go (testing not necessary).</li> <li>• TWO symptoms OR ONE symptom that persists or worsens: Stay home until fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication, and other symptoms are improving.</li> </ul> <p><b>Adult:</b> If other symptoms, stay home until fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication, and if other symptoms are improving.</p>
Asymptomatic	Positive molecular (e.g. PCR) test	<p><b>Fully vaccinated staff (i.e. staff who have received the complete vaccine series for COVID-19 and it has been 14 days after the second dose in a two dose series or one dose in a one dose series [i.e. Janssen vaccine]) or student (2 doses of mRNA vaccine):</b> Isolate for 5 calendar days from the collection date of the swab or from the date when the molecular test was completed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Following their home isolation period, all fully vaccinated individuals must wear masks at all times when in a public place or otherwise in the company of other persons for up to 5 more calendar days (10 calendar days total). This means they must eat or drink alone, away from others.</li> <li>• If it's not possible to give each individual on day 6-10 isolation a private space to eat in, they can cohort together with other COVID-19-infected individuals for meals in the same well-</li> </ul>

# GUIDANCE FOR SCHOOLS (K-12) AND SCHOOL BUSES

Symptoms	COVID-19 Test Result:	Management of Individual:
		<p>ventilated room. Distancing is recommended and individuals should remain masked at all times when not actively consuming food and drink.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If schools find this operationally challenging to accommodate, the consistent use of a 10 calendar day absence prior to return, for both immunized and non-immunized cases, is an acceptable approach.</li> </ul> <p><b>Not fully vaccinated:</b> Isolate at home for 10 calendar days from the collection date of the swab or from the date when the molecular test was completed.</p>
	Positive Rapid antigen take-home test	<p>Individuals can conduct a second test not less than 24 hours after the initial test, and if negative, and still no symptoms, they do not need to continue to isolate. If the result is positive on the repeat test, they should continue to isolate. If at any time, symptoms develop, they must follow isolation instructions for symptomatic individuals.</p> <p><b>Fully vaccinated staff (i.e. staff who have received the complete vaccine series for COVID-19 and it has been 14 days after the second dose in a two dose series or one dose in a one dose series [i.e. Janssen vaccine]) or student (2 doses of mRNA vaccine):</b> Isolate at home for 5 calendar days from the collection date of the swab or from the date when the rapid take-home test was completed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Following their home isolation period, all fully vaccinated individuals must wear masks at all times when in a public place or otherwise in the company of other persons for up to 5 more calendar days (10 calendar days total). This means they must eat or drink alone, away from others.</li> <li>If it's not possible to give each individual on day 6-10 isolation a private space to eat in, they can cohort together with other COVID-infected individuals for meals in the same well-ventilated room. Distancing is recommended and individuals should remain masked at all times when not actively consuming food and drink.</li> <li>If schools find this operationally challenging to accommodate, the consistent use of a 10 calendar day absence prior to return, for both immunized and non-immunized cases, is an acceptable approach.</li> </ul>

# GUIDANCE FOR SCHOOLS (K-12) AND SCHOOL BUSES

Symptoms	COVID-19 Test Result:	Management of Individual:
		<b>Not fully vaccinated:</b> Isolate at home for 10 calendar days from the collection date of the swab or from the date when the rapid take-home test was completed.
	Negative	No isolation required.



---

# 2021–2022 School Year Plan







# Contents

2021–2022 School Year Plan .....	4	Children and Students Who Require Specialized Supports and Services .....	9
Context .....	6	Mental Health Psychosocial Supports for Students and Staff .....	10
Key Public Health Message .....	7	Universal Supports .....	10
Planning .....	8	Targeted Supports .....	11
School Calendar for the 2021–2022 School Year .....	8	Individualized Supports and Services .....	12
Online Learning .....	8	Evaluations for Teacher Permanent Professional Certification (PPC) .....	13
Grade 12 Diploma Exams .....	9	Teacher Preparation Program Student Practicums .....	13
Grades 6 and 9 Provincial Achievement Tests (PATs) ....	9		
Grade 3 Student Learning Assessments (SLAs) .....	9		
Extra-Curricular Activities .....	9		
<hr/>			
APPENDIX: Contingency Plans .....	14	Evaluation for Teacher Permanent Professional Certification (PPC) .....	17
Short-term Operational Shifts to At-home/Online Learning .....	14	· Contingency Scenario 1 .....	17
School Calendar for the 2021–2022 School Year .....	14	· Contingency Scenario 2 .....	17
· Contingency Scenario 1 .....	14	Teacher Preparation Program Student Practicums .....	18
· Contingency Scenario 2 .....	15	· Contingency Scenario 1 .....	18
Children and Students Who Require Specialized Supports and Services .....	16	· Contingency Scenario 2 .....	18
· Contingency Scenario 1 .....	16	Internet/SuperNet Connectivity for First Nations and Rural/Remote Communities .....	19
· Contingency Scenario 2 .....	16	Celebratory Events .....	19
Transportation .....	17		

## 2021–2022 School Year Plan

Albertans, including the Early Childhood Services (ECS) to Grade 12 education system, made tremendous efforts during the 2020–2021 school year to minimize the spread of COVID-19 and manage its effects.

Implementation of the 2021–2022 School Year Plan is subject to change as pandemic conditions evolve. This plan is founded on the following four principles that were established by government in collaboration with education partners.

1. The safety of children, students and staff comes first.
2. Child and student learning will continue.
3. Provincial funding is still flowing to schools.
4. School authorities have flexibility to do what is best for their community.

This plan balances the need for provincial direction and standardized approaches in some areas while also providing flexibility and respecting school authority autonomy at the local level.

For the 2021–2022 school year, Alberta's government expects that every child and student, regardless of their geographic location or socioeconomic status, will continue to learn. This includes children and students in public, separate, Francophone, charter and independent schools, and Indigenous students attending provincial schools and independent ECS operators.

Continuing learning will require everyone in the ECS to Grade 12 education system to continue to be nimble in contributing to the success of our children and students.



**Note:**

Approximately 48,000 self-identified First Nations, Métis and Inuit students, including approximately 7,000 First Nations students living on-reserve learn within the provincial education system. School authorities that have education services agreements with First Nations, or the Government of Canada on behalf of a First Nation are encouraged to reach out early to those First Nations to discuss the 2021–2022 school year and consider the needs of those students. Specific supports may vary from region to region and will vary for the unique cultural needs between First Nations, Métis and Inuit students. A flexible approach may be needed to accommodate these students depending upon local safety decisions made by First Nations' Chief and Councils. Provincial school authorities should ensure discussions with First Nations, Métis and Inuit students, parents and officials occur early, and consider all aspects of the 2021–2022 School Year Plan.

“As we move through this pandemic, the safety of students and staff remains our No. 1 priority. I am incredibly grateful to our students, parents, school staff and administrators for their flexibility during this challenging time.”

**Adriana LaGrange**, Minister of Education







---

## Context

The plan outlines key elements for the resumption of learning. Routine public health practices can minimize transmission of respiratory infections, including COVID-19, influenza and common colds. Together with the [Guidance for Schools \(K–12\) and School Buses](#), this plan supports school and school authority leaders in reducing opportunities for transmission of COVID-19 in schools.

Recognizing the dynamic nature of COVID-19, the Appendix contains two contingency plans in the event they may be needed.

## Key Public Health Message

Alberta Education and Alberta Health have a long history of collaboration to ensure the health and safety of students and staff, including establishing health measures and best practices for schools. Parents and guardians play an essential role as they support actions in the home such as keeping children/students home when sick.

Vaccination is an effective means of protecting Albertans from COVID-19. Albertans who are eligible should get the COVID-19 vaccine.

**Vaccination is an effective means of protecting Albertans from COVID-19.**

The decision to be vaccinated is a personal choice. In accordance with Alberta's privacy legislation, the *Personal Information Protection Act* and the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, everyone must respect the health privacy of students and staff, including their vaccination status.

Current public health measures can be found at [Staying Safe and Healthy this School Year](#).

Alberta has begun a [careful and prudent plan](#) to phase out public health measures, including those in schools. The three-step approach will begin with lower-risk activities while maintaining protections for the health-care system, including continuing care facilities.

As of February 14, 2022, provincial health orders will not require early childhood services (ECS) to Grade 12 students to be masked to attend school in person or ride a school bus. As of March 1, 2022, the provincial masking mandate is removed in schools.

Students can continue to wear masks if they choose to. Schools should support students who choose to wear masks.

School authorities cannot require parents, volunteers or other non-school employees to show proof of vaccination. Parents, volunteers and other non-school employees are required to follow all provincial health orders and guidelines that are applicable in schools.

The Restrictions Exemption Program also ended as part of Step 1, along with most associated restrictions.

Step 2 removes any remaining provincial school requirements, including the class cohorting requirement.

Step 3 will remove the mandatory isolation requirement.

Students and staff should screen daily for symptoms using the [Alberta Health Daily Checklist](#).

Routine best practices to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19 and other respiratory illnesses will continue to include promoting and facilitating hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette, staying home when sick, maintaining ventilation, and ensuring regular cleaning and disinfection of high traffic/touch areas.

Until Step 3, students and school staff are required to isolate if they test positive for COVID-19 or if have core COVID-19 symptoms that are not related to a pre-existing illness or condition.

People who are not fully immunized and are household contacts of someone with COVID-19 should also stay home and monitor for symptoms for 10 calendar days. Please visit <https://www.alberta.ca/isolation> for current requirements.





---

## Planning

[Guidance for K-12 Schools and School Buses](#) is intended to support school and school authority leaders in reducing opportunities for transmission of COVID-19 in schools under the 2021–2022 School Year Plan.

Recognizing local contexts, school authorities are in the best position to continue to work with their suppliers to purchase their regular hygiene and cleaning products, as required, within the context of COVID-19 or other respiratory illnesses.



---

## School Calendar for the 2021–2022 School Year

Local school authorities continue to have the autonomy and flexibility to determine the school year calendar, including the length of the school day, in order to meet requirements.

School authorities must be prepared to implement contingency plans, if necessary (see Appendix).

---

## Online Learning

Experiences in the 2019–2021 school years indicate that online learning is an important educational delivery approach for students across Alberta. As such, Alberta Education is strengthening supports and providing online learning information to school authorities, parents and students.

The [Online Learning Directory](#) is a listing of online learning programs in Alberta. It is organized by geographic area (north, central, south) and is intended to provide information on the types of online learning programming offered by each school authority including:

- type of program offered—online learning, print-based distance education, blended learning (part face-to-face in a classroom, part online away from teacher)
- grades offered
- serving students from other school authorities (that is, open boundaries)
- teacher resource sharing
- synchronous (real-time, online) instruction provided
- face-to-face opportunities provided
- registering anytime during the year (that is, continuous intake during the school year)
- summer school (Grades 10 to 12)
- off-campus programs (that is, RAP, Green Certificate, Work Experience)
- dual credit opportunities
- adult programming (that is, students 20 years or older)
- other pertinent information.

Information related to funding for online learning can be accessed in the [Funding Manual for School Authorities 2021–22 School Year](#).

---

## Grade 12 Diploma Exams

The administration of diploma exams resumed in the 2021–2022 school year, as per normal practice. Diploma exams were offered in every diploma course subject in November.

Due to learning disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the weighting of diploma exams will be temporarily reduced to 10 per cent for the 2021–2022 school year only. The January 2022 sitting of diploma exams was cancelled.

More information about the administration of diploma exams, and updates on exam sittings can be found in the [General Information Bulletin](#).

---

## Grades 6 and 9 Provincial Achievement Tests (PATs)

The administration of PATs resumed as per normal practice in the 2021–2022 school year. The PAT schedule provides flexibility for school authorities to administer them within a fixed period of time.

- Schools piloting the draft Kindergarten to Grade 6 curriculum are not required to administer the Grade 6 PATs for the subject(s) they are piloting. It is mandatory for schools to administer all Grade 6 PATs for the subject(s) they are not piloting and it is mandatory for schools to administer all Grade 9 PAT subjects.
- PATs will be administered in all subjects—English Language Arts, French Language Arts, Français, Knowledge and Employability, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies.
- More information about the administration of PATs is found in the [General Information Bulletin](#).

---

## Grade 3 Student Learning Assessments (SLAs)

Like in the 2020–2021 school year, school authorities have flexibility to administer SLAs. School authorities can also choose if all or some of their schools or classes within a school will participate, and to what degree participation takes place. School authorities are strongly encouraged to administer SLAs to Grade 3 students. If necessary, SLAs can be digitally administered within student residences. SLAs results will not be publicized nor be part of the Alberta Education Business Plan.



---

## Extra-Curricular Activities

As per the Guide to Education, extra-curricular activities complement and are not part of instructional time where there is student-teacher interaction and supervision.

School authorities continue to have the flexibility to offer extra-curricular activities to students. Alberta Education is working with Alberta Health and education partners, including the Alberta School Athletics Association, to support athletic activities and events within the context of health measures that may be in place.

School authorities, parents/guardians, students and community members must continue to follow public health measures and recommendations that may be in place.

---

## Children and Students Who Require Specialized Supports and Services

Individualized and/or specialized supports and services are available to students who require additional support. School authorities must consider and enable participation and inclusion of students with disabilities and other individualized learning needs.



## Mental Health Psychosocial Supports for Students and Staff

Alberta Education's Specialized Learning Support (SLS) Grant provides funding for school authorities to provide a continuum of supports and services to students in an inclusive learning environment. SLS funding is comprised of three allocations, including a Student Wellness Program allocation. The funding allows for psychological and social-emotional support, supports for loss, access to mental health workers and behavioral consultants, and other wellness supports as needed.

The following tools and resources are intended to support school and school authorities in meeting the mental health needs of children, students and school communities.



### Universal Supports

Supports and services incorporated into the inclusive learning environment for all learners, including but not limited to quality instruction and providing welcoming, caring, respectful and safe and respectful learning environments.

#### Resources

- [The Heart of Recovery: Creating supportive school environments following a natural disaster \(Le coeur du rétablissement\)](#)
- [Working Together to Support Mental Health in Alberta Schools \(Travailler ensemble pour soutenir la santé mentale dans les écoles de l'Alberta\)](#)
- [Government of Alberta K-12 Instructional Supports](#)
- [Government of Alberta: Children's Mental Health](#)
- [Alberta Health Services: Information for Teachers](#)
- [Alberta Health Services: Healthy Together](#)
- [Mental Health Online Resources for Educators \(MORE\)](#)
- [Mental Health Literacy](#)
- [Mental Health Promotion and Illness Prevention: Self Care in Disaster Times and Beyond Toolkit](#)
- [Joint Consortium for School Health](#)
- [Schools Healthier Together](#)
- [Student Learning Hub](#)
- [Supporting Learning at Home](#)

#### Training

- [Alberta Family Wellness Initiative: Brain Story Certification](#)
- [Alberta Health Services Wellness Series](#)
- [Community Mental Health Action Plan](#)
- [Psychosocial Disaster Learning Series](#)
- [Psychological First Aid](#)
- [Skills for Psychological Recovery](#)
- [Respect in the Workplace](#)
- [Respect in Schools](#)





## Targeted Supports

Supports and services for some, who are identified through an early identification or assessment process, as requiring something more beyond universal supports. This may include further developing foundational knowledge, skills and understandings or increasing protective factors for children and their families. Targeted supports are more unique to the specific learners than universal supports.

### Resources

- [Pathways to Hope: Best practices in suicide prevention for Alberta schools \(Sur les voies de l'espoir : pratiques exemplaires en matière de prévention du suicide dans les écoles de l'Alberta\)](#) provides a synthesis of current research and evidence-informed strategies for developing a comprehensive school-based suicide prevention and intervention strategy.
- [Alberta.ca/COVID](#) provides mental health and psychosocial supports specific to the pandemic.
- [Jack.org Alberta Hub](#) is a hub of relevant resources to help youth take care of themselves and look out for the people they care for during this challenging time.
- The e-Tutoring Hub helps students catch up on skills and learning they may have fallen behind on. Students in Grades 4 to 9 can access pre-recorded video sessions online anytime to build their literacy and numeracy skills. Find out more and view a tutoring session on the e-Tutoring Hub at [New.LearnAlberta](#).

### Training

- [AHS Community Helpers](#) provides training to strengthen students' natural helping abilities. Helpers learn a variety of topics and skills including self-care, coping with stress, knowing when to refer people to professional services, and handling crisis situations. Helpers are also introduced to community services and professional supports.
- [Cognitive Behavioural Intervention for Trauma in Schools](#) is a school-based, group and individual intervention designed to reduce symptoms of post-traumatic stress

disorder (PTSD), depression, and behavioral problems, and to improve functioning, grades and attendance, peer and parent support, and coping skills.

### Services

- [Togetherall](#) is a clinically moderated, online peer to peer mental health community that empowers individuals to anonymously seek and provide support 24/7. Togetherall is free to all Albertans aged 16+.
- [Bounceback](#) (CMHA) is program designed to help adults and youth 15+ manage low mood, mild to moderate depression, anxiety, stress or worry.
- [Recovery \(and Discovery\) College \(CMHA\)](#) provides learning centers for youth focused on mental health and well-being.
- [Alberta Mentoring Partnership \(AMP\)](#) supports schools, community organizations, and mentoring agencies to meet the needs of children and youth, through building capacity, resources, and sharing of best practices and research, enabling implementation of strategies to ensure children and youth who need a mentor have access to one.
- [Provincial Family Resource Networks](#) (FRNs) deliver high quality prevention and early intervention services and supports for children aged 0 to 18. Through a 'hub and spoke' model of service delivery, networks (hubs) coordinate the prevention and early intervention services in all geographic areas and in various cultural communities across the province—either directly or through collaborative partnerships with qualified service agencies or providers (spokes).

## Individualized Supports and Services

Supports and services designed for individual learners to address specific areas for growth, barriers and/or personal circumstances that may be impacting the ability of individual learners to participate in and/or benefit from learning opportunities. They are intended for fewer individuals with more severe or pervasive challenges that require changes to supports and services beyond the universal and targeted supports provided.

Individualized supports are more intense and may require comprehensive wraparound plans that include access to specialized supports and service providers, partners or training. Supporting pathways to, through and from these services ensures barrier-free access.

### Resources

- AHS' [Help in Tough Times](#) page provides links to supports and services, including addiction and mental health, available to Albertans.
- [Wellness Program—Metis Nation of Alberta](#): Resources in navigating mental health supports.

### Services

- [Kids Help Phone/French Kids Help Phone](#) (1-800-668-6868) provides free, confidential 24/7 services for children, youth, and young adults. Services include professional counselling by phone, and volunteer-led information and crisis support via phone, text, or chat.
- [Alberta 211](#) provides information, including support via phone, text, chat and website referrals and resources addiction and mental health referrals and resources. Professionally trained specialists are available by texting INFO to 211, live chat through the website, [ab.211.ca](#) or calling 2-1-1.
- The [Crisis Services Canada Suicide Prevention Service](#) offers a 24/7 helpline for people thinking about or affected by suicide via phone, text or chat (1-833-456-4566).
- The [Crisis Text Line Alberta](#) is a service available 24/7 that offers information, referrals and volunteer-led, text based support for Albertans of all ages, by texting CONNECT to 741741.
- The [Mental Health Helpline](#) (1-877-303-2642)/French Mental Health Helpline (1-800-567-9699) and [Addiction Helpline](#) (1-866-332-2322) is a 24 hour, 7 day a week confidential services that provides support, information and referrals to Albertans experiencing mental health concerns. Alberta Health Services provides a number of [virtual addiction and mental health services and supports](#) free to Albertans.
- Indigenous students and staff may wish to contact the toll-free [Hope for Wellness Help Line](#) at 1-855-242-3310 or the online chat at [hopeforwellness.ca](#) (open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week). This line offers immediate mental health counselling and crisis intervention to all Indigenous peoples across Canada in Cree, Ojibwe and Inuktitut.



- [Jordan's Principle](#) supports First nations children access to but not limited to mental health supports and services.
- [Indigenous Mental Health Resources](#): Jack.org has compiled services, online resources, books, podcasts, books, and videos curated by Indigenous youth for Indigenous youth.
- [Indigenous Health](#): The program partners with Indigenous peoples, communities and key stakeholders to provide accessible, culturally appropriate health services for First Nations, Métis and Inuit people in Alberta.
- [Child Advocacy Centres \(CAC\)](#): These centres build capacity in school authority staff in the central Alberta region regarding recognizing the signs of child abuse, understanding their role in reporting child abuse and how to support victims of child abuse.

**The Hope for Wellness Help Line offers 24/7 support for Indigenous people across Canada at 1-855-242-3310.**



---

## Evaluations for Teacher Permanent Professional Certification (PPC)

Evaluations for teacher PPC resume as per normal practice.

---

## Teacher Preparation Program Student Practicums

Teacher preparation program student practicums resume as per normal practice.



## APPENDIX: Contingency Plans

In the event that there is a resurgence of the COVID-19 pandemic that impacts the province of Alberta and its ECS to Grade 12 education system, the following two contingencies will be considered.

### Short-term Operational Shifts to At-home/Online Learning

- If required, the decision to move a portion of a school, such as individual grades or classes to at-home/online learning due to operational reasons (i.e., staffing issues), will continue to be at the discretion of the local school authority and will take into account any health measures that are in place.
- Approval from the Minister of Education is required for a short-term shift of one or more schools, or an entire school authority, to at-home/online learning for operational reasons.
- The following local contextual factors will be considered in arriving at a final decision:
  - an indication of a teaching and/or support staff shortage that prevents a school or multiple schools in the school authority from continuing in-class learning;
  - a significant number of students absent;
  - other relevant information including local health data, if available.



- The centralized approach for requesting and approving both a school's or school authority's short-term shift to at-home learning for operational reasons provides school authorities the opportunity to outline the situation that the school faces, including important local contextual considerations. It also provides for consistency and fairness across the province.

## School Calendar for the 2021–2022 School Year



### Contingency Scenario 1: in-school classes (near normal with enhanced health measures)

- Local school authorities can adjust their school calendars and/or the number and length of instructional days, while meeting required instructional hours (950 hours for Grades 1 to 9 and 1,000 hours for Grades 10 to 12) and within the parameters of all contractual agreements with school authority employees, to address subject area content.
- School authorities are encouraged to implement routine measures to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19 and other respiratory illnesses including promoting and facilitating hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette, staying home when sick, maintaining ventilation, and ensuring regular cleaning and disinfection of high traffic/touch areas.
- Additional public health recommendations and guidance can be found at [Guidance for Schools \(K–12\) and School Buses](#).



## Contingency Scenario 2: at-home learning (in-school classes are suspended)

- School authorities offer at-home learning opportunities to children and students based on the provincial or regional context.
- Following are the expectations when operating within contingency scenario 2 for the 2021–2022 school year.
- School authorities continue to have flexibility and make decisions on their calendars.
- Hours of instruction will be determined by school authorities while meeting requirements for instructional hours that remain the same.
- School authorities will work with families to ensure that learning will continue, and that the needs of students are met.
- Should contingency scenario 2 be in place, the ability for the principal to award unallocated credits to students in grades 10, 11 and 12 may be activated. The total maximum number of unallocated credits any one student can use to graduate will be limited to 20 credits.
- Teachers continue to be responsible for assessing the progress of children and students.
- Students continue to be responsible to actively engage in learning and diligently pursue their education.
- School authorities, parents/guardians, children and students must continue to follow public health measures in place.

### Supporting Growth in Student Learning

Under Contingency Scenario 2, school authorities can, as deemed appropriate at the local level, for Grades 1 to 9 reduce time spent teaching non-core subjects to allow for additional instruction time on core (English, Français, French language arts, Math, Social, and Science).

Administrators, teachers and parents can access the [Student Learning Hub](#) for information and resources.

- Support materials include FAQs and links to specific resources and materials.
- Digital and printable resources to support administrators, teachers, parents and students in a variety of learning settings (e.g. digital, non-digital).
- Resources that support diverse student learning needs (e.g. English language learners, Francisation).

Students	Learning Focus	Weekly Instructional Hours	Resources
Pre-K	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Will continue in school.</li><li>• Learning expectations are as per usual practice.</li><li>• Student assessment by teachers continues.</li></ul>	Can continue to access services in-school.	As per usual practice.
K-6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Will shift to at-home/online.</li><li>• Learning expectations: Language and mathematics learning outcomes that strengthen the development of literacy and numeracy Incorporate health curriculum outcomes (with a focus on mental health).</li><li>• Student assessment by teachers continues.</li></ul>	At discretion of school authority.	Online, digital and/or paper-based as needed.
Grades 7-12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Will shift to at-home/online.</li><li>• Learning expectations are equivalent to current in school.</li><li>• Student assessment by teachers continues.</li></ul>	Equivalent to current in-school hours.	Online, digital and/or paper-based as needed.
Students with Disabilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Can continue to access services in school.</li></ul>	Can continue to access services in-school.	As per unique needs.

## Children and Students Who Require Specialized Supports and Services

Individualized and/or specialized supports and services are available to students who require additional support whether they are learning at home or in school.

School authorities must consider and enable participation and inclusion of students with disabilities and other individualized learning needs. In circumstances in which students who require individualized and/or specialized supports and services are not able to follow guidelines that may be in place and require support and adaptation to public health measures, plans must be developed to ensure their inclusion. School administrations are responsible to create these plans to best meet the needs of their students.



### Contingency Scenario 1: in-school classes (near normal with enhanced health measures)

- School authorities should determine which children and students require individualized and/or specialized supports and services (i.e. behavioural, intellectual, learning, communication or physical characteristics, or a combination of any of them) based on individual support plans from the 2020/21 school year.
- Mental health supports for children, students and staff should be in place, as per the section on mental health.



### Contingency Scenario 2: at-home learning (in-school classes are suspended)

- School authorities continue to offer at-home learning for all their children in an Early Childhood Services (including Kindergarten) program and students in Grades 1 through 12, including those who require individualized and/or specialized supports and services.
- Teachers will be responsible to ensure that individual support plans/individual program plans (ISPs/IPPs) are implemented, monitored and evaluated for children and students who may be in need of specialized supports and services, as per the Standards for an Inclusive Education System.
- Teachers will consult with parents through their chosen communication methods, such as email, phone and/or other digital modes, to develop ISP/IPPs for the 2021–22 school year.
- ISPs will be reviewed regularly by teachers with parents and when appropriate, with the student, to update information, review effectiveness of identified supports, strategies and services and revise plans and/or identify new supports and/or strategies and/or services that will be provided.
- Teachers are responsible for assessing and reporting on a child's/student's progress. Each school authority will have to determine what will work best for their children and students. This will likely vary among the school authorities, and may even vary from school to school.
- School authorities have the flexibility to identify if an educational assistant is needed to virtually deliver specific ISP strategies, under the direction of a teacher, working alongside the caregiver and student. The teacher is primarily responsible for the educational programming of the student.
- A continuum of mental health supports and services for children, students and staff are in place, as per the section on mental health in this document.
- Students with disabilities who require supports and services whose needs cannot be met through at-home learning can continue to receive supports and services in-person at school. All students and staff who continue to attend in-person learning are to follow the public health measures.



## Transportation

Children and students across the province travel to and from school through a combination of walking, being driven by their parents/guardians, public transportation and school bus services provided by school authorities.

School authorities determine transportation service levels, ensuring all children and students legally entitled to transportation are transported in accordance with school authority policy. School authorities should continue to adjust routing in response to ridership demand. School authorities should discuss transportation plans early in cases of Education Services Agreements with First Nations.

Travel/transportation of children and students must follow public health measures should they be in place. Alberta Education will collaborate, should the need arise, with Alberta Transportation and Alberta Health to ensure challenges raised by school authorities are considered.



## Evaluation for Teacher Permanent Professional Certification (PPC)



### Contingency Scenario 1: in-school classes (near normal with enhanced health measures)

- Alberta Education will work with school authorities to ensure that evaluations continue.
- Alberta Education will extend Interim Professional Certificates (IPC) for teachers who have completed 400 days of teaching, but have not completed two successful evaluations. Teachers will be evaluated in the future in order to attain their PPC.
- Alberta Education will also waive fees for IPC extensions for those teachers impacted by the interruption to their evaluations.



### Contingency Scenario 2: at-home learning (in-school classes are suspended)

- As a result of students and teachers shifting to at-home learning, evaluations for PPC may be delayed and require an extension to a teacher's IPC.
- Alberta Education will extend IPCs for teachers who have completed 400 days of teaching, but have not completed two successful evaluations. Teachers will be evaluated in the future in order to attain their PPC.
- Alberta Education will also waive fees for IPC extensions for those teachers impacted by the interruption to their evaluations.



## Teacher Preparation Program Student Practicums



### Contingency Scenario 1: in-school classes (near normal with enhanced health measures)

Teacher preparation program student practicums resume. Consideration will be given to unique situations.



### Contingency Scenario 2: at-home learning (in-school classes are suspended)

Alberta Education recognizes that some student teachers may be impacted by a shift to at-home learning and may not be able to complete the required 10 weeks of supervised student teaching. Student teachers who are in their final year of their teacher preparation program may be particularly impacted.

New graduates generally receive an Interim Professional Certificate (IPC) as they begin their careers, eventually progressing to a Permanent Professional Certificate (PPC) once they have demonstrated sufficient professional practice. To receive an IPC, the Alberta university graduate must meet minimum requirements, including completing the practicum component.

In the event there are no opportunities for face-to-face placements of student practicums, Alberta Education will recognize a broader spectrum of supervised practicum experiences, including online and blended settings. Based on the attestation of the Dean of the Faculty of Education at the teacher preparation institution, such practicum experiences will qualify Alberta B.Ed. graduates to obtain an IPC.

On a case-by-case basis, the Alberta Registrar will also consider exceptions to the 10-week practicum experience and may issue an IPC with conditions.

---

## Internet/SuperNet Connectivity for First Nations and Rural/Remote Communities

Alberta Education is aware of the challenges in accessing internet/SuperNet in some First Nations, Métis Settlements and rural/remote communities.

While children or students without access to high-speed internet, and therefore online learning, were able to continue their studies through alternative means (e.g. hard-copy course packages and communicate by phone), the Alberta government is working with various partners, such as telecommunication and internet service providers, as well as the Government of Canada, on planning to further support affordable connectivity across the province. School authorities should continue to work with First Nations and Métis Settlements and rural/remote communities to deliver remote learning options.

Special considerations will continue to be given to strategies for maintaining learning in communities that do not use learning technology (e.g. Hutterite and Mennonite communities).

---

## Celebratory Events

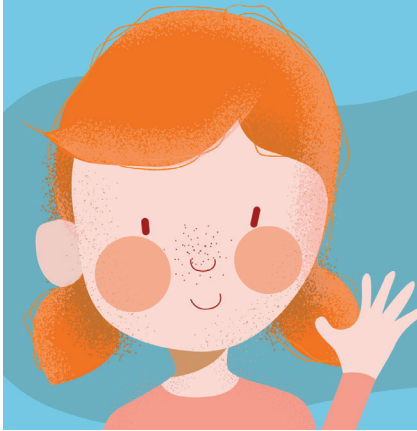
Celebratory events, including graduation ceremonies, must follow public health measures that may be in place at the time of the event.



Alberta

# PARENTS' GUIDE 2021–22 SCHOOL YEAR

## Information for parents and guardians



### What to expect

Alberta continues under a [careful and prudent plan](#) to phase out public health measures, including those in schools.

Under Step 1, as of February 14, 2022 provincial health orders no longer require early childhood services (ECS) to Grade 12 students to be masked to attend school in-person or ride a school bus. As of March 1, 2022, the provincial masking mandate is removed in schools.

School authorities cannot require parents, volunteers or other non-school employees to show proof of vaccination. Parents, volunteers and other non-school employees are required to follow all provincial health orders and guidelines that are applicable in schools.

The Restrictions Exemption Program also ended as part of Step 1, along with most associated restrictions.

Step 2 came into effect March 1, 2022, removing any remaining provincial school requirements, including the class cohorting requirement, as hospitalizations have continued trending downwards.

Step 3 will remove the mandatory isolation requirement.

- Updated guidance is available for schools to use.
- We will continue to work with school authorities on shifts to at home learning if needed.
- Students in grades 4 to 9 and their parents can continue to access free online tutoring through the e-Tutoring Hub on [new.LearnAlberta.ca](#) to catch up on important skills and learning.



For more details: [alberta.ca/returntoschool](https://alberta.ca/returntoschool)

## What to do if you or your child are sick

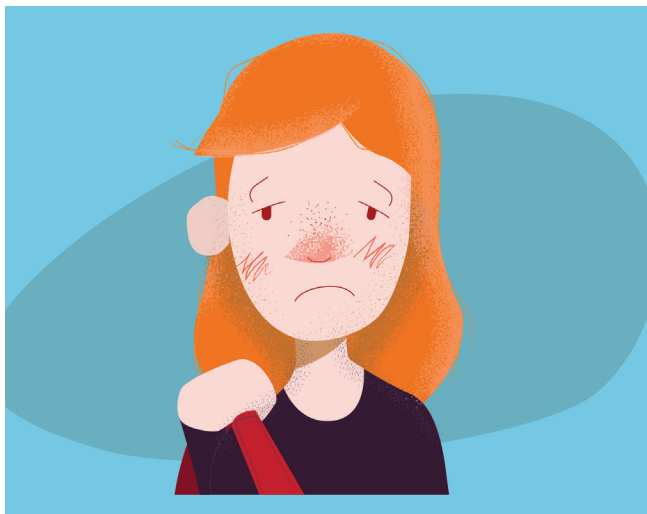
- Core symptoms of COVID-19 are:
- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Loss of sense of smell or taste
- Sore throat (adults only)
- Runny nose (adults only)

You are required to isolate if you test positive for COVID-19 or if you have core COVID-19 symptoms that are not related to a pre-existing illness or condition.

- **If you are fully immunized<sup>1</sup>:** 5 calendar days or until symptoms resolve<sup>2</sup>, whichever is longer, plus 5 calendar days of wearing a mask at all times when around others outside of home (up to 10 calendar days total from when symptoms started or positive test).
- **If you are not fully immunized:** 10 calendar days or until symptoms resolve, whichever is longer.
- **If you test negative:** you should still stay home and away from others until symptoms resolve.

<sup>1</sup> A person who has received the complete vaccine series for COVID-19 and it has been 14 days after the second dose in a two dose series or one dose in a one dose series (i.e. Janssen vaccine)

<sup>2</sup> Symptoms resolved means symptoms have improved and with no fever for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication



Mandatory isolation requirements will be removed in Step 3.

People who are not fully immunized and are household contacts of someone with COVID-19 should also stay home and monitor for symptoms for 10 calendar days. A household contact is a person who lives in the same home as the person with COVID-19, such as parent or sibling. Household contacts also include people who have similar close interactions, such as caregivers or friends sleeping over. Follow best practices to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19 and other respiratory illnesses.

## Returning to school after testing positive (if your child is fully immunized):

Students who are fully immunized against COVID-19 are more likely to have a mild infection or no symptoms at all.

If your child doesn't have any symptoms five calendar days after their test results, or they have clinically improved and been without fever, without the use of medications, for at least 24 hours, they may be able to return to the classroom.

However, they will need to wear a mask of medical-grade quality or higher at all times while in the school setting. This would mean the child could not take meals with others or take part in other activities like sports or singing.

Since this could be challenging for students and the school, your child's school may require students to stay out of school for 10 calendar days, regardless of immunization status, if they have COVID-19. Check with your school to find out what their rules are.





### Good public health practices

Washing hands and following the school's rules are important ways to keep each other safe.

It is important to encourage good respiratory etiquette: sneezing into the elbow or a tissue, discarding tissues immediately into a lined bin, and washing hands before touching anything else.

Each day before you take your child to school, ask your child how they are feeling. You should use the [Alberta Health Daily Checklist](#) for children under 18.

If your child has new signs of illness or symptoms, the checklist will help you determine how long your child should stay home from school. Refer to the [AHS Online Assessment Tool](#) to help you decide if you should talk to someone about your symptoms, for advice on managing mild symptoms, and whether you need to be tested for COVID-19.

### Vaccines work

It is important for Albertans to get vaccinated to protect themselves and others. Vaccines are safe, effective, and they save lives. Every fall, the [annual influenza vaccine](#) is available to everyone aged six months and older.

Everyone ages 5 and older is eligible to get the COVID-19 vaccine. A complete series of the COVID-19 vaccine has been shown to be highly protective against severe outcomes of COVID-19. You can [book an appointment](#) today for yourself and your child, if they are eligible.

If you want more information on vaccines, please read [why the COVID-19 vaccine is safe](#) and familiarize yourself with [common myths and facts](#).

A school authority cannot deny students access to education due to immunization status.

### Protecting children who are not yet eligible for the vaccine

Getting vaccinated is a highly effective way to reduce the risk to those who cannot get the vaccine yet, such as children under age 5.

Staying home when sick, washing hands and covering coughs and sneezes are also essential in reducing the risk of spreading COVID-19 and other respiratory illnesses.



### Masks

As of March 1, 2022, the provincial masking mandate is removed in schools.

Children and youth, and adults, can continue to wear masks if they choose to. Schools should support anyone who chooses to wear a mask.

Fully immunized students returning after 5 calendar days of isolation and asymptomatic must wear a mask if returning prior to ten days total of isolation.

For more details: [alberta.ca/returntoschool](https://alberta.ca/returntoschool)

## **Routine public health measures for schools**

Schools should have procedures for regular cleaning and disinfecting of high touch surfaces. This will help prevent the spread of respiratory illnesses, gastrointestinal illnesses, and other communicable diseases.

Other things schools can do include:

- Ensuring air circulation (HVAC) systems are working properly
- Opening windows and doors, and encouraging outdoor activities when weather permits
- Routine cleaning procedures, like regularly wiping down high touch areas and disinfecting

## **If your child or a staff member gets sick at school**

If a student or staff member develops symptoms of illness at school, the school will have a plan on what to do. Schools will contact parents if their children show symptoms of illness while at school. This may mean sending the student or staff member home, where possible, and having a separate area for them until they can go home.

If the student does not have a mask, they should be given one if they begin developing new symptoms (like a cough, fever, runny nose or sore throat) while they wait to go home. Parents should make sure the school has their most up-to-date contact information.

## **Safety for students with underlying medical conditions**

For students with underlying medical conditions or risk factors, parents should consult their child's physician to consider the health risks and make a decision that will best support the child. Contact your child's school to discuss available options and support.

## **Shifting to at-home learning**

Parents will be notified by the school if the class will shift to at-home learning.

The government will continue to work with school authorities on shifts to at-home learning, if needed. School authorities can decide whether to shift a class or an

individual grade to short-term at-home learning if they need to (for example, if a lot of teachers or students are at home because they are sick).

Decisions on shifting entire schools or school authorities to at-home learning will continue to be made by the Alberta government, with input from school authorities.

## **Online tutoring services for grades 4 to 9**

The e-Tutoring Hub will help students catch up on important skills and learning they may have fallen behind on due to the pandemic. It launched on new.LearnAlberta.ca on January 11, 2022 with free, pre-recorded video tutoring sessions for students in grades 4 to 9 to strengthen their literacy and numeracy skills.

Later in the year, the free online tutoring resources will be expanded to cover more grades and subjects, including live tutoring. Feedback from school authorities, parents and students will be used to help inform the topics for new tutoring sessions.

## **Taking care of our mental health**

Parents are encouraged to talk to their children about how they are feeling, and let them know they are there for them.

If your child needs someone to talk to, they can text CONNECT to the Kids' Help Phone at 686868 or call 1-800-668-6868. This 24/7, free service offers professional counselling, information and referrals. The [Jack.org Alberta COVID-19 Youth Mental Health Resource Hub](#) also has great information for teens on mental health, self-care and supporting others.

If you, as a parent, need someone to talk to, you are encouraged to call the confidential toll-free, 24/7 mental health helpline at 1-877-303-2642. A team that includes nurses, psychologists and social workers attend this line. The AHS website [Help in Tough Times](#) also has helpful information—like the [Text4Hope](#) resource, which you can subscribe to for free by texting COVID19HOPE to 393939. It offers supportive text messages written by mental health therapists.

For more details: [alberta.ca/returntoschool](https://alberta.ca/returntoschool)



## COVID-19 INFORMATION

# COVID-19 ALBERTA HEALTH DAILY CHECKLIST (FOR ADULTS 18 YEARS AND OLDER)

### Overview

This tool was developed to support Albertans in protecting others and reducing the risk of transmission of COVID-19. Adults 18 years and older can complete this checklist every day to self-monitor for symptoms of COVID-19.

If you have traveled outside Canada in the last 14 days, follow the [Government of Canada Travel, Testing, Quarantine and Borders](#) instructions, including any requirements for exempt travelers related to attending high-risk environments. International travellers who become a case after arrival in Alberta should follow isolation requirements outlined by Government of Canada.

If you have tested positive on [a rapid test](#) or received a message from Public Health indicating that you are a case<sup>1</sup> of COVID-19, you are required to isolate as per current [Public Health instructions](#). For more information on isolation requirements after a positive rapid antigen test, refer to the [Rapid Testing at home website](#).

### Screening Questions for Adults 18 Years and Older:

1.	<b>Have you been a household contact of a case<sup>1</sup> of COVID-19 in the last 10 days?</b> <i>A household contact: a person who lives in the same residence as the case OR who has been in frequent, long-duration, close-range interaction with a case of COVID-19. For example, someone who is a caregiver or an intimate or sexual partner of a COVID-19 case.</i>	YES	NO
<b>If you answered “YES” AND you are NOT fully immunized<sup>2</sup>:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>You should stay home for 10 days from the last day of exposure and monitor for symptoms, unless you have tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 90 days AND completed your mandatory 10-day isolation period, in which case you can proceed to question 2.</li></ul> <b>If you answered “YES” AND you are fully immunized<sup>2</sup> proceed to question 2.</b> <b>If you answered “NO” to question 1, proceed to question 2.</b>			

<sup>1</sup> A lab-confirmed case OR a probable case as defined in the [Alberta COVID-19 Notifiable Disease Guideline](#)

<sup>2</sup> A person who has received the complete vaccine series for COVID-19 and it has been 14 days after the second dose in a two dose series or one dose in a one dose series (i.e. Janssen vaccine)

2.	<b>Do you have any new onset (or worsening) of the following symptoms:</b>		
	• Fever	YES	NO
	• Cough	YES	NO
	• Shortness of breath	YES	NO
	• Runny nose	YES	NO
	• Sore throat	YES	NO
	• Chills	YES	NO
	• Painful swallowing	YES	NO
	• Nasal congestion	YES	NO
	• Feeling unwell / fatigued	YES	NO
	• Nausea / vomiting / diarrhea	YES	NO
	• Unexplained loss of appetite	YES	NO
	• Loss of sense of taste or smell	YES	NO
	• Muscle / joint aches	YES	NO
	• Headache	YES	NO
	• Conjunctivitis (commonly known as pink eye)	YES	NO

**If you answered “YES” to any symptom:**

- Stay home.
- If you have fever, cough, shortness of breath, runny nose, sore throat or loss of sense of taste or smell, you are required to isolate as per the current [CMOH Orders](#):
  - If you are fully immunized<sup>2</sup>
    - Isolate for 5 days from the day of onset of symptoms or until symptoms resolve<sup>3</sup> whichever is longer.
    - After this isolation period, up to a total of 10 days from the day of symptom onset, you are required to wear a mask at all times when in a public place or otherwise in the company of other persons, with no exceptions.
  - If you are NOT fully immunized<sup>2</sup>,
    - You must isolate for 10 days from the day of onset of symptoms or until symptoms resolve<sup>3</sup> whichever is longer
  - Whether you are fully immunized or not, even if you have a negative molecular (e.g. PCR) COVID-19 test or two negative rapid antigen tests, taken not less than 24 hours of each other, you still must isolate until symptoms resolve<sup>3</sup>.
  - If you are within three weeks of the initial positive test of a previous infection you do not need to test again, and you can leave isolation when symptoms resolve<sup>3</sup>.
- You can use an [at-home rapid antigen test](#) if available or access the [AHS Online Assessment Tool](#) for advice on managing mild symptoms, and whether you are eligible for a COVID-19 molecular test.
- Note: If you have recently recovered from a previously confirmed COVID-19 infection and are within three weeks of the initial positive test, you do not need to get tested. If three weeks have elapsed but you are within 90 days from the initial positive test, you are recommended to take a rapid antigen test.

**If you answered “NO”:**

- You may attend work, school, and/or other activities.
- Asymptomatic close contacts of a confirmed COVID-19 case who are healthcare workers are subject to testing requirements as per [CMOH Orders](#) or their organizational policy.

<sup>2</sup> A person who has received the complete vaccine series for COVID-19 and it has been 14 days after the second dose in a two dose series or one dose in a one dose series (i.e. Janssen vaccine)

<sup>3</sup> Symptoms resolved means symptoms have improved and with no fever for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication

## COVID-19 INFORMATION

# COVID-19 ALBERTA HEALTH DAILY CHECKLIST (FOR CHILDREN UNDER 18)

### Overview

This checklist applies for all children, as well as all students who attend kindergarten through Grade 12, including high school students over 18. Children should be screened every day by completing this checklist before going to school, childcare or other activities. Children may need a parent or guardian to assist them to complete this screening tool.

If your child has traveled outside Canada in the last 14 days, follow the [Government of Canada Travel, Testing, Quarantine and Borders](#) instructions, including any requirements for exempt travelers related to attending high-risk environments. International travellers who become a case of COVID-19 after arrival in Alberta should follow isolation requirements outlined by the Government of Canada.

If your child has tested positive on a [rapid antigen test](#) or received a message from Public Health indicating that they are a case<sup>4</sup> of COVID-19, they are required to isolate as per [Public Health instructions](#). For more information on isolation requirements after a positive rapid antigen test, refer to the [Rapid testing at home website](#).

### Screening Questions for Children under 18:

1.	<b>Has your child been a household contact of a case<sup>4</sup> of COVID-19 in the last 10 days?</b> <i>A household contact: a person who lives in the same residence as the case OR who has been in frequent, long-duration, close-range interaction with a case of COVID-19. For example, someone who slept over, attended a birthday party or someone who was a play date with a case.</i>	YES	NO
<b>If child answered "YES" AND they are NOT fully immunized<sup>5</sup>:</b> • Child should stay home and NOT attend school, childcare and/or other activities for 10 days from the last day of exposure and monitor for symptoms, <b>unless they have tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 90 days AND completed the mandatory 10-day isolation period, in which case they can proceed to question 2.</b>			
<b>If child answered "YES" and they are fully immunized<sup>5</sup> proceed to question 2:</b> <b>If child answered "NO" to question 1, proceed to question 2:</b>			
2.	<b>Does the child have any new onset (or worsening) of the following core symptoms:</b>		
	<b>Fever</b> Temperature of 38 degrees Celsius or higher	YES	NO
	<b>Cough</b> Continuous, more than usual, not related to other known causes or conditions such as asthma	YES	NO
	<b>Shortness of breath</b> Continuous, unable to breathe deeply, not related to other known causes or conditions such as asthma	YES	NO
	<b>Loss of sense of smell or taste</b> Not related to other known causes or conditions like allergies or neurological disorders	YES	NO
<b>If the child answered "YES" to any symptom in question 2:</b>			
• If the child is fully immunized <sup>5</sup> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Isolate for 5 days from the day of onset of symptoms or until symptoms resolve<sup>3</sup> whichever is longer.</li> <li>After this isolation period, up to a total of 10 days <b>from the day of symptom onset, they are required to wear a mask at all times when in a public place or otherwise in the company of other persons</b> with no exceptions.</li> </ul>			
• If the child is NOT fully immunized <sup>5</sup> , <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>they must isolate for 10 days from the day of onset of symptoms or until symptoms resolve<sup>3</sup> whichever is longer</li> </ul>			
• Whether they are fully immunized or not, even if they have a negative molecular (e.g. PCR) COVID-19 test or two negative rapid antigen tests, taken not less than 24 hours of each other, they still must isolate until symptoms resolve <sup>3</sup> .			
• If they are within three weeks of the initial positive test of a previous infection they do not need to test again, and they can leave isolation when symptoms resolve <sup>3</sup> .			
• They can use an <a href="#">at-home rapid antigen test</a> if available or access the <a href="#">AHS Online Assessment Tool</a> for advice on managing mild symptoms, and whether they are eligible for a COVID-19 molecular test.			

<sup>3</sup>Symptoms resolved means symptoms have improved and with no fever for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication

<sup>4</sup> A lab-confirmed case OR a probable case as defined in the [Alberta COVID-19 Notifiable Disease Guideline](#)

<sup>5</sup> A child who has received the complete vaccine series for COVID-19 and it has been 14 days after the second dose in a two dose series

**NOTE:**

- If they have had a previously confirmed COVID-19 infection within the past 90 days, wait until three weeks have elapsed from the initial positive test, to take a rapid antigen test.
- Children 2 years of age and younger are not eligible for rapid antigen testing and should complete the [AHS Online Self-Assessment tool](#) to access molecular (e.g. PCR) testing.

If the child answered “NO” to all of the symptoms in question 2, proceed to question 3.

**3. Does the child have any new onset (or worsening) of the following other symptoms:**

<b>Chills</b> Without fever, not related to being outside in cold weather	YES	NO
<b>Sore throat/painful swallowing</b> Not related to other known causes/conditions, such as seasonal allergies or reflux	YES	NO
<b>Runny nose/congestion</b> Not related to other known causes/conditions, such as seasonal allergies or being outside in cold weather	YES	NO
<b>Feeling unwell/fatigued</b> Lack of energy, poor feeding in infants, not related to other known causes or conditions, such as depression, insomnia, thyroid dysfunction or sudden injury	YES	NO
<b>Nausea, vomiting and/or diarrhea</b> Not related to other known causes/conditions, such as anxiety, medication or irritable bowel syndrome	YES	NO
<b>Unexplained loss of appetite</b> Not related to other known causes/conditions, such as anxiety or medication	YES	NO
<b>Muscle/joint aches</b> Not related to other known causes/conditions, such as arthritis or injury	YES	NO
<b>Headache</b> Not related to other known causes/conditions, such as tension-type headaches or chronic migraines	YES	NO
<b>Conjunctivitis</b> (commonly known as pink eye)	YES	NO

**If the child answered “YES” to ONE symptom in question 3:**

Keep your child home and monitor for 24 hours and consider giving child an [at-home rapid antigen test](#).

- If [at-home rapid antigen testing](#) is not done and the symptom is improving after 24 hours, your child can return to school and activities when they feel well enough to go.
- If the symptom **does not improve or worsens** after 24 hours (or if additional symptoms emerge), use an [at-home rapid antigen test](#) if available or follow the [AHS Online Assessment Tool](#) for advice on managing mild symptoms, and whether you need to be tested for COVID-19.

**If the child answered “YES” to TWO OR MORE symptoms in question 3:**

- Keep your child home
- Use an [at-home rapid antigen test](#) if available or follow the [AHS Online Assessment Tool](#) for advice on managing mild symptoms, and whether you need to be tested for COVID-19.

**NOTE:**

- If they have had a previously confirmed COVID-19 infection within the past 90 days, wait until three weeks have elapsed from the initial positive test, to take a rapid antigen test.
- Children 2 years of age and younger are not eligible for rapid antigen testing, and should complete the [AHS Online Self-Assessment tool](#) to access molecular (e.g. PCR) testing.

**For at-home rapid antigen testing result instructions:**

- If [at-home rapid antigen test](#) is negative they can return to school and activities when they feel well enough to go.
- If [at-home rapid antigen test](#) is positive, the child is required to isolate as outlined above for **question 2**.

**If the child answered “NO” to all questions:**

- Your child may attend school, childcare and/or other activities

**Please note:** If your child is experiencing any symptoms from the lists above, do not bring them to *visit* a continuing care or acute care facility for 10 days from when symptoms started or until symptoms resolve (whichever is longer), unless they receive a negative COVID-19 molecular test result or two negative rapid antigen tests, taken not less than 24 hours of each other and feel better.

## **RECORD OF DECISION – CMOH Order 09-2022**

### **Re: 2022 COVID-19 Response – Step 2 Easing Measures**

Whereas I, Dr. Deena Hinshaw, Chief Medical Officer of Health (CMOH) have initiated an investigation into the existence of COVID-19 within the Province of Alberta.

Whereas the investigation has confirmed that COVID-19 is present in Alberta and constitutes a public health emergency as a novel or highly infectious agent that poses a significant risk to public health.

Whereas under section 29(2.1) of the *Public Health Act* (the Act), I have the authority by order to prohibit a person from attending a location for any period and subject to any conditions that I consider appropriate, where I have determined that the person engaging in that activity could transmit an infectious agent. I also have the authority to take whatever other steps that are, in my opinion, necessary in order to lessen the impact of the public health emergency.

Whereas more Albertans are now eligible for COVID-19 vaccination including five to eleven year olds and more Albertans are eligible for COVID-19 booster vaccinations.

Whereas rapid testing for COVID-19 is widely available.

Whereas having determined that certain measures are necessary to protect Albertans from exposure to COVID-19 and to prevent the spread of COVID-19, I hereby make the following order:

#### **Table of Contents**

<b>Part 1</b>	<b>Application</b>
<b>Part 2</b>	<b>Definitions</b>
<b>Part 3</b>	<b>Masking</b>
	A. Indoor masking requirements
	B. General exceptions to indoor masking
	C. Exceptions for health conditions
<b>Part 4</b>	<b>General</b>

---

## **Part 1 – Application**

- 1.1 This Order applies throughout the province of Alberta.
- 1.2 This Order comes into force on February 28, 2022 at 11:59 p.m..
- 1.3 If a section of this Order is inconsistent or in conflict with a provision in Record of Decision – CMOH Order 02-2022, CMOH Order 06-2022 or CMOH Order 07-2022, the sections in those Orders prevail to the extent of the inconsistency or conflict.
- 1.4 This Order rescinds Record of Decision - CMOH Order 08-2022.

## **Part 2 – Definitions**

- 2.1 In this Order, the following terms have the following meanings:
  - (a) “authorizing health professional” means one of the following regulated members under the *Health Professions Act* who holds a practice permit:
    - i. nurse practitioners;
    - ii. physicians;
    - iii. psychologists.
  - (b) “face mask” means a medical or non-medical mask or other face covering that covers a person’s nose, mouth and chin.
  - (c) “health condition” means the following mental or physical limitations:
    - i. sensory processing disorders;
    - ii. developmental delays;
    - iii. mental illnesses including: anxiety disorders; psychotic disorders; dissociative identity disorder; and depressive disorders;
    - iv. facial trauma or recent oral maxillofacial surgery;
    - v. contact dermatitis or allergic reactions to face mask components; or
    - vi. clinically significant acute respiratory distress.
  - (d) “masking directive or guidance” means, as the context of this Order requires, either:
    - i. a directive or guidance document made by a regional health authority, or a contracted service provider of a regional health authority, which sets out directions or guidance respecting the use of face masks in facilities or settings operated by the regional health authority or the contracted service provider; or
    - ii. a directive or guidance document made by Alberta Health and posted on the Government of Alberta website.
  - (e) “medical exception letter” means written confirmation provided to a person by an authorizing health professional which verifies that the person has a health condition

that prevents the person from wearing a face mask while attending an indoor public place and

- i. clearly sets out the information required by section 3.5 of this Order; and
  - ii. is valid for a period of one year from the date on which it is made.
- (f) “public transit” means municipal buses, light rail transit, privately owned intra-provincial buses, and stations and terminals used in connection with them but does not include privately chartered vehicles used by a single group or school buses.

### **Part 3 – Masking**

#### **A. Indoor masking requirements**

- 3.1 A person must wear a face mask while using public transit.
- 3.2 A person must comply with all masking directives or guidance while attending at a facility operated by Alberta Health Services or a facility operated by a contracted service provider of Alberta Health Services.

#### **B. General exceptions to indoor masking**

- 3.3 Despite this Part of this Order, a person is not required to wear a face mask if the person is:
- (a) under thirteen years of age while using public transit;
  - (b) unable to place, use or remove a face mask without assistance;
  - (c) consuming food or drink while remaining seated;
  - (d) providing or receiving care or assistance where a face mask would hinder that caregiving or assistance;
  - (e) separated from every other person by a physical barrier that prevents droplet transmission;
  - (f) a person who needs to temporarily remove their face mask for the purposes of:
    - i. receiving a service that requires the temporary removal of their face mask;
    - ii. an emergency or medical purpose, or
    - iii. establishing their identity.

#### **C. Exceptions for health conditions**

- 3.4 Despite this Part of this Order, a person who is unable to wear a face mask due to a health condition as determined by an authorizing health professional is excepted from wearing a face mask while attending an indoor public place.
- 3.5 For the purposes of section 3.4, the health condition must be verified by a medical exception letter that includes the following:
- (a) the name of the person to whom the exception applies;




- (b) the name, phone number, email address, professional registration number, and signature of the authorizing health professional; and
  - (c) the date on which the written confirmation was provided.
- 3.6 For greater certainty, although the medical exception letter must verify that a health condition applies, the medical exception letter must not include specific information about the health condition.

#### **Part 4 – General**

- 4.1 Notwithstanding anything in this Order, the Chief Medical Officer of Health may exempt a person or a class of persons from the application of this Order.
- 4.2 This Order provides the minimum standards for public health measures in Alberta for those matters addressed by this Order.
- 4.3 For greater certainty, nothing in this Order relieves a person from complying with any provision of any federal, provincial or municipal law or regulation or any requirement of any lawful permit, order or licence covering those matters which are addressed in this Order.
- 4.4 This Order remains in effect until rescinded by the Chief Medical Officer of Health.

Signed on this 26th day of February, 2022.

  
Deena Hinshaw, MD  
Chief Medical Officer of Health

## **RECORD OF DECISION – CMOH Order 02-2022**

### **Re: 2022 COVID-19 Response**

Whereas I, Dr. Deena Hinshaw, Chief Medical Officer of Health (CMOH) have initiated an investigation into the existence of COVID-19 within the Province of Alberta.

Whereas under section 29(2.1) of the *Public Health Act*, I have the authority to take whatever steps that are, in my opinion, necessary in order to lessen the impact of the public health emergency.

Whereas having determined that it is possible to modify certain restrictions while still protecting Albertans from exposure to COVID-19 and preventing the spread of COVID-19, I hereby make the following order (the Order):

### **Table of Contents**

- Part 1 – Application
- Part 2 – Definitions
- Part 3 – Isolation requirements
- Part 4 – Critical worker exception
- Part 5 – General

### **Part 1 – Application**

- 1.1 This Order applies throughout the Province of Alberta and is effective January 10, 2022.
- 1.2 This Order rescinds Record of Decision CMOH Order 01-2022 and CMOH Order 48-2021.

---

### **Part 2 – Definitions**

- 2.1 In this Order and the Schedule to this Order, the following terms have the following meanings:
  - (a) “asymptomatic” means a person who is not exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms.
  - (b) “confirmed case of COVID-19” means a COVID-19 infection where a person is:

- i. asymptomatic and has taken two rapid tests, not less than 24 hours of each other, and both rapid tests indicate the person is positive for COVID-19;
  - ii. symptomatic and has taken one or more rapid tests indicating the person is positive for COVID-19; OR
  - iii. asymptomatic or symptomatic and has taken a PCR test which indicates the person is positive for COVID-19.
- (c) "COVID-19 symptoms" means the following symptoms of COVID-19 that are not related to a pre-existing illness or health condition:
  - i. cough;
  - ii. fever;
  - iii. sore throat;
  - iv. shortness of breath;
  - v. runny nose; or
  - vi. loss of taste or smell.
- (d) "COVID-19 test" means a Health Canada approved rapid test or a lab based PCR test approved by Health Canada or the lab accreditation body of the jurisdiction in which the test is performed.
- (e) "critical worker" means a person identified by the owner or operator of a business or entity who is essential to continued safe operations and who provides or is responsible for services that are essential to the safe operation of the business or entity.
- (f) "fully vaccinated" means a person eligible for vaccination who has:
  - i. proof of receiving no less than two doses of a World Health Organization approved COVID-19 vaccine in a two dose vaccine series and has had fourteen or more days elapse since the date on which the person received the last dose of vaccine; or
  - ii. proof of receiving at least one dose in a World Health Organization approved COVID-19 vaccine in a one dose series and has had fourteen days or more elapse since the date on which the person received the last dose of vaccine.
- (g) "health care facility" means
  - i. an auxiliary hospital under the *Hospitals Act*;
  - ii. a nursing home under the *Nursing Homes Act*;
  - iii. a designated supportive living accommodation under the *Supportive Living Accommodation Licensing Act*;
  - iv. any facility in which residential hospice services are offered or provided by Alberta Health Services or by a service provider under contract with Alberta Health Services.
- (h) "isolation" means the separation of a person from any other person for the purpose of preventing the spread of COVID-19.

- (i) "isolation period" means the period of time that a person is required to be in isolation pursuant to this Order.
- (j) "PCR test" means the polymerase chain reaction test for COVID-19.
- (k) "rapid test" means a COVID-19 testing device that is listed in authorized medical devices for uses related to COVID-19: List of authorized testing devices by Health Canada published on the Government of Canada website and is approved for point-of-care molecular or antigen COVID-19 testing, including but not limited to, symptomatic, asymptomatic, tests performed by a health care professional, tests performed by a lay-person, or self-testing.
- (l) "symptomatic" means a person who is exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms which are not related to a pre-existing illness or health condition.
- (m) "symptoms resolve" means the state when a person's COVID-19 symptoms improve and the person remains afebrile for a period of twenty four hours without using fever reducing medications.

### **Part 3 – Isolation requirements**

#### **General Requirement**

3.1 A person is required to be in isolation if the person is:

- (a) symptomatic; or
- (b) asymptomatic and has taken one rapid test with a positive result; or
- (c) a confirmed case of COVID-19.

#### **For symptomatic persons**

3.2 A symptomatic person who is fully vaccinated is required to isolate in accordance with Part 3 and must:

- (a) immediately start isolation and isolate for a minimum period of five days from the first day on which the person is symptomatic, or until the person's COVID-19 symptoms resolve, whichever is longer;
- (b) remain at home, and two metres distant from any other person at all times;
- (c) not attend work, school, social events or any other public gatherings; and
- (d) not take public transportation.

3.3 A symptomatic person who is not fully vaccinated is required to isolate in accordance with Part 3 and must:

- (a) immediately start isolation and isolate for a minimum period of ten days from the first day on which the person is symptomatic, or until the person's COVID-19 symptoms resolve, whichever is longer;
  - (b) remain at home, and two metres distant from any other person at all times;
  - (c) not attend work, school, social events or any other public gatherings; and
  - (d) not take public transportation.
- 3.4 Despite section 3.2 and section 3.3, a symptomatic person is not required to isolate in accordance with Part 3 if:
- (a) a PCR test indicates the person is negative for COVID-19 and the COVID-19 symptoms have resolved; or
  - (b) two rapid tests, taken not less than 24 hours of each other, both indicate the person is negative for COVID-19 and the COVID-19 symptoms have resolved.

**For asymptomatic persons**

- 3.5 An asymptomatic person who is fully vaccinated and has taken one rapid test indicating the person is positive for COVID-19 or is a confirmed case of COVID-19, is required to isolate in accordance with Part 3 and must:
- (a) immediately start isolation and isolate for a minimum period of five days from the day on which the asymptomatic person takes a COVID-19 test that indicates the person is positive for COVID-19;
  - (b) remain at home, and two metres distant from any other person at all times;
  - (c) not attend work, school, social events or any other public gatherings; and
  - (d) not take public transportation.
- 3.6 An asymptomatic person who is not fully vaccinated and has taken one rapid test indicating the person is positive for COVID-19 or is a confirmed case of COVID-19, is required to isolate in accordance with Part 3 and must:
- (a) immediately start isolation and isolate for a minimum period of ten days from the day on which the asymptomatic person takes a COVID-19 test that indicates the person is positive for COVID-19;
  - (b) remain at home, and two metres distant from any other person at all times;
  - (c) not attend work, school, social events or any other public gatherings; and
  - (d) not take public transportation.
- 3.7 Despite section 3.5, if an asymptomatic person who is fully vaccinated develops COVID-19 symptoms during the isolation period, the person must continue to isolate for five



days from the first day on which the person is symptomatic or until the COVID-19 symptoms resolve, whichever is later.

- 3.8 Despite section 3.6, if an asymptomatic person who is not fully vaccinated develops COVID-19 symptoms during the isolation period, the person must continue to isolate for 10 days from the first day on which the person is symptomatic or until the COVID-19 symptoms resolve, whichever is later.
- 3.9 Despite section 3.5 and section 3.6, an asymptomatic person is not required to isolate in accordance with Part 3 if:
  - (a) a PCR test indicates the person is negative for COVID-19; or
  - (a) the result of a second rapid test, taken not less than 24 hours from the initial rapid test, is negative for COVID-19.

**Residents of Designated Supportive Living, Auxiliary Hospital, Nursing Home and Hospice facilities**

- 3.10 A person who is a resident of a health care facility, whether fully vaccinated or not, is required to isolate in accordance with Part 3 if the resident is:
  - (a) symptomatic, and is not a confirmed case of COVID-19, then the resident must immediately start isolation and isolate from the first day on which the resident is symptomatic, for a minimum period of ten days, or until the resident's COVID-19 symptoms resolve, whichever is longer;
  - (b) asymptomatic and has taken one rapid test with a positive result, then the resident must immediately start isolation and isolate for a minimum period of ten days from the day on which the asymptomatic resident takes a COVID-19 test that indicates the resident is positive for COVID-19;
  - (c) confirmed case of COVID-19, then the resident must immediately start isolation and isolate for a minimum period of ten days from the day on which the resident takes a COVID-19 test that indicates the resident is positive for COVID-19.
- 3.11 A person who is a resident of a health care facility who is required to isolate in accordance with section 3.10 must:
  - (a) remain at the health care facility, and two metres distant from any other person at all times;
  - (b) not attend social events or any other public gatherings; and
  - (c) not take public transportation.
- 3.12 Despite sections 3.10 and 3.11, a resident of a health care facility is not required to isolate in accordance with Part 3 if the:

- (a) symptomatic resident has taken a PCR test which indicates the resident is negative for COVID-19 and COVID-19 symptoms resolve;
- (b) symptomatic resident has taken two rapid tests, not less than 24 hours of each other, both indicating the resident is negative for COVID-19 and COVID-19 symptoms resolve; or
- (c) asymptomatic resident has taken a second rapid test, not less than 24 hours from the initial rapid test, and the results indicate the resident is negative for COVID-19.

#### **Requirement to wear a mask**

3.13 Despite any other CMOH Order in effect that pertains to masking, every person required to isolate for the isolation periods set out in Part 3 must wear a mask at all times when in a public place or otherwise in the company of other persons for a period of up to five days following the expiry of the applicable isolation period. The period during which a person is required to mask expires ten days from the first day on which the person is:

- (a) symptomatic; or
- (b) asymptomatic and has taken one rapid test with a positive result; or
- (c) a confirmed case of COVID-19.

For greater certainty, none of the masking exceptions set out in any CMOH Order in effect applies to a person required to mask in accordance with this section.

#### **Part 4 – Critical worker exception**

4.1 Despite Part 3 of this Order, and in accordance with Schedule A, a person or class of persons is excepted from the application of this Order where the owner or operator of a business, sector or service determines that a certain person or class of persons:

- (a) is a critical worker; and
- (b) the critical worker's absence would cause a substantive disruption of services that would be harmful to the public.

4.2 The owner or operator seeking an exception must have a plan to accommodate the presence of the critical worker, identified in section 4.1 that, at minimum, meets the criteria in Schedule A to mitigate the risk of the spread of infection by the critical worker who would otherwise be required to isolate pursuant to this Order.

4.3 To mitigate the risk of the spread of infection by the critical worker, the owner or operator must ensure that a critical worker identified in section 4.1 follows the:

- (a) plan developed by the owner or operator pursuant to section 4.2, and

(b) criteria in Schedule A.

4.4 To mitigate the risk of the spread of infection by a critical worker, a critical worker who is excepted from isolation must follow the:

(a) plan developed by the owner or operator pursuant to section 4.2; and

(b) criteria in Schedule A.

For greater certainty, a critical worker is subject to the requirements in Part 3, when not under this exception to complete critical work duties.

#### **Part 5 - General**

5.1 Notwithstanding anything in this Order, the Chief Medical Officer of Health may exempt a person or classes of persons from the application of this Order.

5.2 This Order remains in effect until rescinded by the Chief Medical Officer of Health.

Signed on this 10 day of January, 2022.



Deena Hinshaw, MD  
Chief Medical Officer of Health

## **Schedule A: Critical Worker Isolation Exceptions**

1. This exception is only permitted when:

- (a) services provided by the business or entity are critical for the ongoing operation of services that impact the public interest;
- (b) any substantive service disruption will be detrimental to the public interest;
- (c) the person otherwise required to be in isolation are asymptomatic or mildly symptomatic; and
- (d) all other means of staffing critical worker positions have been exhausted.

### **Critical Worker Eligibility:**

2. The only workers eligible for the isolation exception are those critical workers who are required to be on-site, in-person for critical work duties.

### **Risk Hierarchy for Isolation Exception:**

3. Wherever possible, the owner or operator should implement the isolation exception for critical workers following a least risk to most manner. This prioritizes that the persons who temporarily leave isolation for critical, in-person work duties are the least likely to transmit infection, in conjunction with the public health criteria and controls below. It is strongly recommended that the hierarchy of risk follows:

- (a) A critical worker under this Order will be in one of the following categories, with preference in each category to be given first to a person who has received a booster dose; then a person who is fully immunized; then a person who is partially immunized; and finally a person who is unimmunized:
  - i. a symptomatic person who tests negative for COVID-19 but exhibits mild COVID-19 symptoms;
  - ii. an asymptomatic person who has taken one rapid test with a positive result;
  - iii. an asymptomatic person who is a confirmed case of COVID-19;
  - iv. a symptomatic person who is a confirmed case of COVID-19 but exhibits mild COVID-19 symptoms.

### **Public health criteria and controls:**

4. Attending the business or entity location:

- (a) Access to the work location is limited to only critical workers whose presence is critical to the provision of service, to the extent possible.
- (b) Critical workers are only permitted to attend the work location for the purposes of completing their job duties that require them to be on-site, in-person, to ensure the ongoing functioning of the service.
- (c) All critical workers must travel directly to the work location, and immediately return to their place of residence until the applicable isolation period is complete.

5. Masking Requirements:

- (a) Medical masks are worn to enter and exit the building.
- (b) If there is any possibility of a critical worker under this exception being in the same room as another person, even temporarily, the critical worker under this exception must wear a medical mask at all times during this period of time.

- i. The other persons that may be in the same area as the critical worker should also wear medical face masks, whenever possible
- (c) Critical workers must have access to medical masks in the event that they need to replace their mask on shift.

6. Work spaces:

- (a) Whenever possible, critical workers will be alone in their workspace for the duration of their shift.
- (b) Work spaces for critical workers should include, whenever possible:
  - i. a single office that have been established with doors that can close;
  - ii. located on a separate floor from the general areas and other work spaces in the location;
  - iii. have their own washroom and kitchen facilities which can only be accessed by the critical worker;
  - iv. if work spaces are shared by critical workers on different shifts, the critical worker from the first shift must leave the work space before the critical worker from the second shift arrive;
  - v. in between shifts, rooms are thoroughly sanitized with 70% alcohol.
- (c) The HVAC system must be functioning properly.

7. Additional Requirements:

- (a) The business or entity must develop and implement protocols for COVID-19 that align with this exception and address appropriate hygiene to protect critical workers and other persons from further transmission of COVID-19.
- (b) The business or entity must train staff on the protocols implemented pursuant to section 7(a) above.
- (c) The business or entity, critical workers and any other staff must follow any further public health conditions or requirements that relate to public health and safety that may be provided by Alberta Health or Alberta Health Services.