



SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

HELD VIRTUALLY

ZOOM [HTTPS://ROCKYVIEW.ZOOM.US/J/8528123456](https://rockyview.zoom.us/j/8528123456)

AUGUST 26, 2021

9:00 a.m.

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Superintendent's Report
4. Adjournment

This unofficial agenda is subject to change and is not *official* until approved at the Board meeting.



SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

AUGUST 26, 2021

AGENDA

1. School Operations Related to COVID-19

ACTION

Directive

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Greg Luterbach", with a small star-like mark above the final letter of the last name.

Greg Luterbach
Superintendent of Schools

DIRECTIVE FOR ACTION



TO: THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

FROM: THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Item: School Operations Related to COVID-19

Date of Meeting: August 26, 2021

Background:

The COVID-19 pandemic has been impacting RVS students, staff, families, communities, schools, and sites since March 2020. Over these past 18 months, we have pivoted numerous times between online and in person with enhanced health measures. Like our province, we have had periods of significant cases impacting our families and staff. RVS' approach throughout the pandemic has been to take a measured and thoughtful approach to school operations guided by direction from the province and Chief Medical Officer of Health (CMOH). Detailed operational plans related to the pandemic have been posted and made available for everyone to review. Frequent communication with stakeholders was also a cornerstone of our approach.

Throughout the spring, as vaccinations became more readily available and government started to remove restrictions, they signaled that school operations for the 2021/22 school year would return to a more 'normal' state. On June 30, 2020, Government released the 2021-2022 School Year Plan. It recognized the tremendous efforts of the entire education system over the past year and described a vision for a normal return to school with in-class learning for the majority of students in the fall of 2021. The document described a shift from mandatory health measures to recommended health best practices. The plan also described two contingency scenarios should there be a need to enhance health measures.

Current Status:

On July 28, 2021, the CMOH announced a transition for the province on how it would be handling COVID-19. COVID-19 would be transitioned to how other respiratory viruses are managed. Removal of mandatory close contact quarantining for most, elimination of routine asymptomatic testing for close contacts, elimination of calling close contacts. They scheduled that on August 16th mandatory masking on public transit/taxis would be eliminated and that masking in schools would not likely be required. Universal, legally required isolation for those testing positive would be phased out at that time as well. Testing availability and testing recommendations would be adjusted at that time as well.

On August 13, 2021, Government released an update to their 2021-2022 School Year Plan (see attached 3_1b), health guidance to school divisions (see attached 3_1c), Q&A document for school administration (see attached 3_1d) and a parent guide (see attached 3_1e). At the same time, the CMOH informed that some of the changes scheduled for August 16 would be postponed until September 27.

The CMOH described, "the guidance we are releasing today considers the risks of COVID-19, as well as the risks of public health measures on children's overall health and well-being. It is important that we look at all factors that support physical, mental and emotional health to make sure that precautions are proportionate to overall risk level. It is in this broader context that our provincial

DIRECTIVE FOR ACTION



TO: THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

FROM: THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

guidance has been crafted.” The documents also “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.”

With this guidance, central administration crafted three operational plans. The first plan (see attached 3_1f) is based on the guidance provided by Alberta Education, Alberta Health and the CMOH. The plan includes 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. Use of the daily health checklist and following direction provided remain an important aspect of daily school and work life. While these measures remain from last year, many other aspects will return to pre-pandemic operations. Masking would be voluntary for staff, students, and visitors except on buses where it is mandatory. Other significant measures implemented in 2020/21 (e.g., cohorting, physical distancing) would not be required unless suggested by the CMOH/regional MOH as part of outbreak management.

It recognizes that implementation of our plan is subject to change as the pandemic evolves. We will continue to seek direction from the Chief Medical Officer of Health, Alberta Health Services and Alberta Education as an important part of this process. The Superintendent would have the ability to shift operations within the guidance established by Chief Medical Officer of Health, Alberta Health Services and Alberta Education but should the Superintendent recommend something outside of the guidance from Chief Medical Officer of Health, Alberta Health Services and Alberta Education then it would be brought forward for a Board of Trustees decision.

Recognizing the dynamic nature of the pandemic and in line with guidance provided, RVS has two contingency plans if needed. Contingency 1: In School with Enhanced Health Measures Plan (see attached 3_1g). It outlines the protocols RVS will follow if students remain learning in-class at school, but enhanced health measures are required. It builds on the successful scenario 1 plan operationalized in RVS in 2020/21. The second contingency will be put in place if students are required to move to at-home learning. It is called Contingency 2: At-Home Learning Plan (see attached 3_1h) and blends the successful RVS plan from 2020/21 along with guidance provided from Chief Medical Officer of Health, Alberta Health Services and Alberta Education. Of note, the hours of engagement in learning will increase for younger grades should we need to operate in this contingency mode.

Our two fully online school offerings are full, and we are unable to accommodate additional students into the program for 2021/22. Right from our initial registration, we did tell families that the decision would have to be made in the spring and that we will not be accepting more students in the fall.

Also announced on August 13 would be the opportunity for vaccination clinics to be held in schools across Alberta for students born in 2009 or earlier, with parental consent and for staff. RVS will support these clinics and work with AHS to schedule them.

DIRECTIVE FOR ACTION



TO: THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

FROM: THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

A joint letter was sent to RVS families and staff on August 18th announcing that the operational plans will be considered by the Board on August 26th and that details will be distributed to all stakeholders after that meeting.

Alternatives:

Alternative I

The Board of Trustees approves the 2021/22 Return to School Operational Plan along with the two contingency plans and directs the Superintendent to adjust these plans within the guidance provided by the Chief Medical Officer of Health, Alberta Education and Alberta Health Services.

Alternative II

The Board of Trustees approves the amended 2021/22 Return to School Operational Plan along with the two contingency plans and directs the Superintendent to adjust these plans within the guidance provided by the Chief Medical Officer of Health, Alberta Education and Alberta Health Services.

Alternative III

The Board of Trustees refer the matter to the Board Planning Committee for further discussion.

Recommendation:

The Board of Trustees approves the 2021/22 Return to School Operational Plan along with the two contingency plans and directs the Superintendent to adjust these plans within the guidance provided by the Chief Medical Officer of Health, Alberta Education and Alberta Health Services.

2021–2022 School Year Plan



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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.

With the availability of vaccines, Alberta is entering the recovery phase, which sees the lifting of remaining health restrictions and getting back to normal. The 2021–2022 School Year Plan is based upon a transition to the recovery phase reflecting a corresponding shift from mandatory health measures to recommended health best practices.

Implementation of the 2021–2022 School Year Plan is subject to change with direction from the Chief Medical Officer of Health. Alberta Education will continue to engage with our education partners as part of this important process.

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. Children 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 upcoming 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 in fall 2021 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.

“Thanks to the power of vaccines, I’m pleased that students can return to a normal school year in September. The safety of students and staff remains our number one priority, and we have a detailed plan that includes contingency scenarios for continuing student learning if there is a significant change in the COVID-19 situation. We will continue to follow the expert advice of Alberta’s Chief Medical Officer of Health and are ready to make changes if needed.”

Adriana LaGrange, Minister of Education

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.



Context

With the availability of vaccines, Alberta is lifting health restrictions and safely getting back to normal.

The 2021-2022 School Year Plan is based upon the recovery phase reflecting a corresponding shift from mandatory health measures to recommended health best practices.

This plan is focused on a normal return to school, with in-class learning for the majority of students, in fall 2021. The plan outlines key elements for the resumption of learning. Recognizing the dynamic nature of COVID-19, the Appendix contains two contingency plans in the event that 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/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, and it is an important part of the overall plan to lift health restrictions and safely get back to normal. Albertans who are eligible should get the COVID-19 vaccine. Currently, Albertans born in 2009 or before are eligible for COVID-19 vaccine. By fall 2021, the majority of individuals in this age group will have had the opportunity to be fully vaccinated with two doses of COVID-19 vaccine. This is expected to significantly reduce the operational impacts to schools. At this time, it is not known exactly when younger school age children (Kindergarten to Grade 6) will be eligible to receive the vaccine.

Vaccination is an effective means of protecting Albertans from COVID-19 & an important part of safely getting back to normal.

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.

Within the context of safely getting back to normal, public health measures in place during the 2020–2021 school year will be eased or removed altogether. Examples include the elimination of requirements for students and school staff to wear masks in schools, and no longer recommending all students and school staff remain in strict cohorts.

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. Additional measures may be considered or recommended if a school experiences a COVID-19 outbreak. If a school is experiencing an outbreak, one or more outbreak measures may be implemented. Examples of these outbreak measures include; active health screening with questionnaires, increasing frequency of cleaning and disinfection, maintaining classroom cohorts, mask recommendations, and/or limiting extra-curricular activities. Localized rapid testing may be available for emergent situations that arise.

AHS will continue to manage outbreaks of respiratory illnesses in school settings, similar to the management of influenza or influenza-like illness.

AHS Zone Medical Officers of Health (MOH)/designate and AHS Environmental Public Health Teams will continue to be a resource for and collaborate with school authority/school administration to address any local issues.



Planning

It is recognized that public health measures to date and vaccinations have had a significant positive impact on curtailing the COVID-19 pandemic. For the 2021–22 school year, routine public health practices will continue to be in place for the ECS to Grade 12 Education system to support a healthy and safe normal return to school. The resumption of learning requires the continued dedication and support of school boards, administration, staff, children, students and parents/guardians.

Routine public health best practices for schools were developed by Alberta Health and can be accessed in [Guidance for Respiratory Illness Prevention and Management in Schools](#).

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

In-school learning will resume in September 2021 under normal conditions.

Local school authorities continue to have the autonomy and flexibility to determine the calendar for the upcoming school year, 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 since the end of the 2019–2020 school year 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 will resume and be mandatory in the 2021–2022 school year, as per normal practice. Diploma exams will be offered in every diploma course subject in November, January, April, June and August.

Diploma exam results will continue to constitute 30 per cent of a student's final diploma course mark.

Diploma exams and Provincial Achievement Tests (PATs) will resume as normal practice for the 2021–2022 school year.



Grades 6 and 9 Provincial Achievement Tests (PATs)

The administration of PATs will resume 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.

- Participation is mandatory, except in schools that are piloting the new draft Kindergarten to Grade 6 curriculum.
- PATs will be administered in all subjects—English Language Arts, French Language Arts, Français, Knowledge and Employability, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies.

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.

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:](#) 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.
- [Mental Health Supports—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.
- [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.
- [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.

[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 grade(s) or class(es) 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.
- School authorities can submit a request to Field Services for a short-term shift of an entire school to at-home learning for operational reasons. 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 must 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 for child and student learning and extra-curricular activities for those unable to receive immunization (Kindergarten to Grade 6) such as cohorting.
- Outbreak management will continue to occur and follow similar interventions to influenza outbreak response.



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

- 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"> • Will continue in school. • Learning expectations are as per usual practice. • Student assessment by teachers continues. 	Can continue to access services in-school.	As per usual practice.
K-6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will shift to at-home/online. • 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). • Student assessment by teachers continues. 	At discretion of school authority.	Online, digital and/or paper-based as needed.
Grades 7-12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will shift to at-home/online. • Learning expectations are equivalent to current in school. • Student assessment by teachers continues. 	Equivalent to current in-school hours.	Online, digital and/or paper-based as needed.
Students with Disabilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can continue to access services in school. 	Can continue to access services in-school.	As per unique needs.

Grade 12 Diploma Exams



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

- A return to in-school classes under contingency scenario 1 includes the administration of diploma exams for the 2021–22 school year, which will continue to be mandatory.
- Diploma exam results will continue to constitute 30 per cent of a student’s final diploma course mark.
- Diploma exams will be offered in every subject in all five diploma exam sessions held in November, January, April, June and August. These diploma exam offerings will support students with some school boards shifting their high school programming to a quarter system as part of their COVID-2021–2022 school year plan.
- Diploma exam administrations throughout the year will permit students to access diploma exams to raise their marks and demonstrate provincial standards. Provincial level assessment results for diploma exams in four core subject areas (Language Arts, Mathematics, Social Studies and Science) and diploma exam participation rates will be reported in the ministry annual report and annual report update as supplementary measures. School and jurisdiction level breakdowns will not be made public.



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

- Alberta Education will consider the administration of diploma exams, one session at a time if all schools are shifted to at-home learning under Contingency Scenario 2.
- Alberta Education will continue to provide diploma exams to students who choose to write them.
- Should circumstances in the 2021–2022 school year warrant, some adjustments in reporting results from provincial achievement tests and diploma exams may be warranted. In 2021–2022, Alberta Education will continue to report results from diploma exams at the school, school authority and provincial levels similar to previous years, where results are available.
- Depending on the impacts of COVID-19 on the 2021–2022 school year, results may not be used to evaluate the system or inform curriculum development. Given the anomaly the COVID-19 year represents, results for schools and school authorities may not be publicized. Provincial level diploma exam measures not included as core performance measures in the ministry business plan will continue to be reported as supplementary measures in the ministry annual report and annual report updates.

Grade 6 and 9 Provincial Achievement Tests (PATs)



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

PATs continue to be administered. The PAT schedule provides flexibility for school authorities to administer them within a fixed period of time.

- Participation is mandatory.
- The administration of PATs is limited to foundational subjects—English Language Arts, Mathematics, and French Language Arts/Français.
- School authorities can decide to excuse some or all students from PATs if their learning has fallen behind.



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

- Alberta Education will cancel the January administration of 2021–22 PATs, and decide on the administration of May/June PATs based on the duration of the cancellation of in-school classes. The same principles from scenario 1 would apply.
- Should circumstances in the 2021–2022 school year warrant it, some adjustments in reporting results from PATs may be needed. In 2021–22, Alberta Education will continue to report results from provincial achievement tests at the school, school authority and provincial levels similar to previous years, where results are available.
- Depending on the impacts of COVID-19 on the 2021–2022 school year, results from schools and school authorities may not be publicized. Targets for provincial level assessment results in Language Arts and Mathematics for 2021–2022 have been set in the 2021–24 Business Plan and results will be reported in the 2021–2022 Education Annual Report. Results for other subjects (Social Studies, Science) will be reported as supplementary measure results in the annual report alongside results for First Nations, Métis, and Inuit students. Note that reporting is done for provincial level assessment results only. School and school authority results will not be publicized.

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/cancelled)

- 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/cancelled)

- 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/cancelled)

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 ■



Guidance for Respiratory Illness Prevention and Management in Schools

Overview

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

The guidance provided in this document is intended to support schools and school authority leaders in reducing the risk of transmission of these illnesses and infections among students, staff and visitors by providing options to integrate good public health practices into normal operations under the 2021-22 School Year Plan.

Schools and school authorities are strongly encouraged to use strategies from this guidance to establish their own plans to reduce transmission of COVID-19, influenza as well as other infections in the school setting. Individuals should also assess and manage their personal risk, which may include using additional precautions such as continuing to use a face mask, in order to serve their individual needs. School authorities continue to have the ability and corresponding accountability for any local measures that are put in place, such as physical distancing, cohorting and masking requirements that may exceed provincial guidance.

Alberta Health Services (AHS) Zone Medical Officers of Health (MOHs) and their designates are available to support school authorities throughout the province. Their role is to provide guidance on communicable disease risk as well as risk management. If you have concerns, need specific guidance, or have questions about how to apply the measures in this document, or additional measures based on local context, please contact Environmental Public Health in your Zone for assistance (see Appendix A).

Core Public Health Preventative Measures

Vaccines

- All eligible staff and students should be encouraged to be fully vaccinated for respiratory illnesses, where applicable, such as COVID-19 and influenza.
- The annual influenza vaccine is available to all Albertans six months and older beginning every fall.
- All staff and students born in 2009 or prior are eligible to receive COVID-19 vaccine.
- At this time, children born in 2010 or later are not currently eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine.
- It is important for those who are eligible to get vaccinated to reduce the risk to the broader community and those who are unable to receive the vaccine at this time.

Environmental measures

- HVAC systems should be maintained in accordance with manufacturer operational guidelines.
- Open windows and doors where possible to increase air circulation and encourage outdoor activities, when weather permits.
- Schools should have procedures that outline routine cleaning requirements, including regular cleaning and disinfecting of high touch surfaces.

Staying home when sick

- Before leaving home, staff (including substitute teachers), students (or their caregivers) and visitors, should assess whether they feel well enough to attend school for any reason.
 - Parents/guardians should assess their children daily for any new signs or symptoms of COVID-19 using the [Alberta Health Daily Checklist](#).

- Anyone that reports COVID-19 symptoms is directed to stay home, seek health care advice as appropriate (e.g., call Health Link 811, or their primary health care practitioner), and fill out the [AHS Online Self-Assessment tool](#) to determine if they should be tested.
- For information on isolation for staff and students with symptoms, or for confirmed COVID-19 cases, please see Appendix B.
- Anyone who feels unwell with other symptoms should stay at home until they are well.

Hand hygiene

- Consider ways to promote and facilitate frequent and proper hand hygiene for all students, staff and visitors, such as:
 - Providing soap and running water or hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol.
 - Placing hand sanitizer in convenient locations throughout the school where soap and water may not be available or nearby, such as in entrances, exits and near high touch surfaces.
 - Promoting hand hygiene before/after activities (e.g., entering/leaving school or classroom, boarding/exiting the bus, changing activities, before and after using shared equipment, before and after eating or serving food, after using washrooms, before and after having physical contact with other staff or students, etc.).
 - Giving verbal reminders for hand hygiene and posting signs. Schools can download posters at alberta.ca/returntoschool
 - If parents have questions about their child using alcohol-based hand sanitizer they should contact their school administration to discuss potential alternatives.

Respiratory etiquette

- Encourage students, staff and visitors to use proper respiratory etiquette (e.g., sneezing into the elbow or a tissue, discarding tissues immediately into a lined bin, performing hand hygiene).
 - Have information available (e.g., signs) for individuals on these practices, as needed.
- Schools should support students, staff and visitors in their choice to wear a mask. Students, parents/guardians, staff and visitors should consider their own risk of acquiring COVID-19, influenza and other respiratory illnesses when making decisions on wearing a mask.
- Students, teachers, staff and visitors must follow provincial requirements for masks.
 - Masks remain mandatory for students, teachers, staff members and visitors on school buses and publicly accessible transit, such as municipal buses, taxis and ride-shares.
 - Exceptions to the mask requirement on school buses are listed in CMOH Order 34-2021.

Responding to Illness

Symptomatic students and staff

- Schools are encouraged to have a plan in place if a student or staff member develops any symptoms of illness while at school. This can include:
 - Sending home students or staff who are sick, where possible.
 - Having a separate area for students and staff who are sick.
- A staff member caring for an ill student should consider wearing a mask.
- If a student or staff member begins developing new symptoms of respiratory illness (e.g., cough, fever, sore throat, runny nose, loss of taste or smell, etc.), they should be provided with a mask to wear while waiting to go home.
- For information on isolation for staff and students with symptoms, or for confirmed COVID-19 cases, see Appendix B.
- 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 the school until they are feeling well.

Confirmed cases of COVID-19

- AHS Public Health will not inform school authorities or administrators of individual cases of COVID-19 within their school setting, as notification to the school is not required for the individual's case management.
- Staff, students or parents/guardians may choose to notify school administrators of a positive COVID-19 test result.
 - Individuals are not required to share their COVID-19 test results with school administration.
- School administrators and/or school authorities are not required to contact AHS to report student or staff cases.

- School administrators should continue to monitor their school population for additional cases (e.g., an individual voluntarily shares they are positive for COVID or they start to experience COVID-19 symptoms while at the school) and/or absenteeism due to illness.

Reporting and responding to high rates of absenteeism

- If there is a school-wide absence rate of 10% or greater due to illness OR there are an unusual amount of individuals with similar symptoms, report to AHS Coordinated Early Identification Response (CEIR) team at 1-844-343-0971, regardless of the schools' participation in Alberta Real Time Syndromic Surveillance Network (ARTSSN).
 - The purpose of this reporting is to continue to monitor for clusters of respiratory or gastrointestinal illness and alert AHS to potential disease outbreaks.
- Where absenteeism of 10% or greater has been identified by AHS due to illness, AHS may declare an outbreak and recommend additional voluntary measures to reduce ongoing transmission for the duration of the outbreak, generally 14 days from when the outbreak was declared, unless absenteeism continues to increase.
 - Additional recommendations may include active health screening with questionnaires, increasing frequency of cleaning and disinfection, maintaining cohorts, mask recommendations, and/or limiting group/extra-curricular activities.
 - A Medical Officer of Health (MOH)/designate has the authority under the *Public Health Act* to recommend additional public health measures if they identify an unacceptable risk in a specific circumstance. Please follow all guidance and recommendations provided by the MOH/designate.

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	calgaryzone.environmentalhealth@ahs.ca	Calgary 403-943-2288
Central Zone	centralzone.environmentalhealth@ahs.ca	Red Deer 403-356-6366
Edmonton Zone	edmontonzone.environmentalhealth@ahs.ca	Edmonton 780-735-1800
North Zone	northzone.environmentalhealth@ahs.ca	Grande Prairie 780-513-7517
South Zone	she.southzoneeph@ahs.ca	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

Appendix B: Management of Symptomatic Individuals and Individuals Tested for COVID-19

Symptoms	COVID-19 Test Result:	Management of Individual:
Symptomatic	Positive	Isolate for a minimum 10 days or until symptoms have improved AND no fever for 24 hours, without the use of fever-reducing medications, whichever is longer.
	Negative	Stay home until symptoms resolve.
	Not tested	<p>Student: If symptoms include fever, cough, shortness of breath or loss of sense of taste/smell: Isolate for a minimum for 10 days or until symptoms have improved AND afebrile for 24 hours, without the use of fever-reducing medications, whichever is longer.</p> <p>Adult: If symptoms include fever, cough, shortness of breath, sore throat or runny nose: Isolate for a minimum for 10 days or until symptoms have improved AND afebrile for 24 hours, without the use of fever-reducing medications, whichever is longer.</p> <p>Student: 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"> • ONE symptom: stay home, monitor for 24h. If improves, return when well enough to go (testing not necessary). • TWO symptoms OR ONE symptom that persists or worsens: Stay home until symptom(s) resolve (testing recommended but not required). <p>Adult: If other symptoms, stay home until symptoms resolve.</p>
Asymptomatic	Positive	Isolate for a minimum of 10 days from the collection date of the swab.
	Negative	No isolation required.



Public Health Management of Respiratory Illness in Schools:

Questions and answers for school administrators

Preamble

With current availability and uptake of COVID-19 vaccine, Alberta is shifting from an emergency response for the COVID-19 pandemic to the public health management we use for other viruses, such as influenza, including in schools. Shifting resources used to respond to COVID-19 in Alberta will allow us to respond to other illnesses as we approach fall and winter.

Students in Alberta will return to school for fall 2021, with in-person learning for the majority of students. In order to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19 and other respiratory illnesses, schools will incorporate recommendations that support good public health practices into their normal operations for the 2021-2022 school year. This includes supporting all staff and eligible students to get vaccinated for COVID-19 and influenza, implementing environmental measures such as maintaining ventilation systems and routine cleaning standards, promoting hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette, and staying home when sick. Schools will not be expected to follow all the previous measures used during the 2020-2021 school year. School authorities continue to have the ability and corresponding accountability for any local measures that are put in place, such as physical distancing, cohorting and masking requirements, that may exceed provincial guidance.

All Albertans are encouraged to continue using public health practices such as staying home when sick, good hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette, to reduce the risk of COVID-19 and other respiratory illnesses. They should also assess their personal risk for COVID-19 and other respiratory illnesses, and may choose to take additional precautions such as continuing to use a face mask. Schools should support students, staff and visitors in their choice to wear a mask.

Questions and Answers

What activities no longer have restrictions or specific guidance?

- Many routine school activities and services no longer have any restrictions or specific guidance. Schools may continue with these activities as they normally would. These include activities and services such as, but not limited to:
 - Field trips
 - Performance activities
 - Physical activities
 - Visitors to the schools
 - Food services
 - Student transportation
 - Work experience
 - Ceremonies and celebratory events
 - International student programs
- For routine recommendations that support good public health practices, please see the [Guidance for Respiratory Illness Prevention and Management in Schools](#).

Why are schools returning to in-person learning for the majority of students for 2021-2022?

- Studies have shown that some responses to the COVID-19 pandemic, including the closure of schools to in-person learning and cancellation of extra-curricular events, led to a deterioration in children and youth mental health. It is important to consider the negative impacts of measures when looking at a population that has shown to be at lower risk of severe outcomes. Any additional restrictions for children and youth should be proportionate to their overall risk level.
- All staff and students born in 2009 or earlier are eligible for COVID-19 vaccine. The higher the immunization rate is in a school, the more protection from COVID-19 infections there will be for everyone.

- More information about the COVID-19 vaccine program can be found [here](#).
- Children under 12 years of age have much lower rates of hospitalization, severe disease and death from COVID-19. Based on Alberta's experience in the 2020-2021 school year, schools were not the primary drivers of COVID-19 transmission during that time period.
- We may not be able to entirely eliminate COVID-19, but we can develop a sustainable approach that does not have disproportionate impacts on learning and development opportunities for our children while also preventing serious outcomes, hospitalizations and death due to the disease.

Who is eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine and what is the benefit of getting vaccinated?

- Currently, Albertans born in 2009 or before are eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine (turning 12+).
- Vaccines have shown a significant level of protection against severe outcomes from COVID-19. Two doses of the COVID-19 vaccine have been shown to be highly protective against infection.
- As children born in 2010 or later (11 and under) are currently not eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine, 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.

How can we protect children who are not yet eligible for vaccination?

- It is important for those who are eligible to get vaccinated to reduce the risk to those who are unable to receive the vaccine at this time, such as children born in 2010 or later.
- Promoting and maintaining good public health practices such as staying home when sick, good hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette will reduce the risk of COVID-19 and other respiratory illnesses.
- Students, parents/guardians, staff and visitors are encouraged to assess their personal risk factors and/or the risk factors for their families and take precautions that make sense in their situations. This may include wearing a face mask in certain settings, keeping your social circle small, or leaving space between yourself and others in group settings. Schools should support these personal choices, whenever possible.

Are enhanced measures still needed for cleaning and disinfection of surfaces?

- As part of good public health practices, schools should have procedures that outline routine cleaning requirements, including regular cleaning and disinfecting of high touch surfaces. This will help prevent transmission of respiratory illnesses, gastrointestinal illnesses, and other communicable diseases.

Is physical distancing or maintaining spacing required?

- Physical distancing or maintaining spacing is not required for the 2021-2022 school year.
- It is reasonable that some people may prefer to keep more space between themselves and others in certain situations while we are getting back to normal, and schools should support this, whenever possible.

Is cohorting required?

- Cohorting is not required for the 2021-2022 school year.
- As part of outbreak management, Alberta Health Services (AHS) may recommend cohorting as a temporary enhanced measure to prevent widespread transmission of a respiratory illness (MOH or designate).

Are there any masking requirements or recommendations?

- Masking is required for all students and staff on school buses.
- Masking is not provincially required for any age group in a school setting.
 - As part of outbreak management, AHS (MOH or designate) may recommend masking as a temporary enhanced measure to prevent widespread transmission of a respiratory illness.
- Students, staff, visitors and parents/guardians should consider their own risks and their personal situation when making decisions on wearing a mask. It is reasonable that in some settings, an individual may choose to wear a mask while we are getting back to normal.
- School authorities continue to have the ability and corresponding accountability for any local masking requirements that are put in place that may exceed provincial guidance.

- Schools should support individuals who choose to wear masks.

Should students, staff and visitors screen for COVID-19 symptoms?

- Before leaving home, staff (including substitute teachers), students and visitors, should assess whether they feel well enough to attend the school using the [Alberta Health Daily Checklist](#).
 - If they are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, they must stay home and not attend school.
- Anyone that reports COVID symptoms is must stay home, fill out the [AHS Online Self-Assessment tool](#) to determine if they should be tested and seek health care advice if needed (e.g., call Health Link 811 or call 911 for emergency response).

Should staff and students who have symptoms of illness be sent home?

- Schools are encouraged to have a plan in place if a student or staff member develops any symptoms of illness while at school. This can include sending home students or staff who are sick where possible, or having a separate area for students or staff who are sick and waiting to go home. However, this is up to the school to determine.
- For more information on isolation requirements for people with symptoms, please visit [Alberta.ca/isolation](#).

Where do families go for testing if they have symptoms of COVID-19?

- Anyone who has symptoms of COVID-19 should fill out the [AHS Online Self-Assessment tool](#) to determine if they should be tested and where to access testing.

Is isolation still required?

- Yes, isolation after testing positive for COVID-19 OR if an individual is experiencing COVID-19 symptoms is still required. For more information on isolation requirements, please visit [Alberta.ca/isolation](#).
- Isolating and minimizing interaction is important for Albertans and those around them to limit the spread of COVID-19 and other respiratory illnesses.

Why is individual close contact follow up in schools being discontinued?

- Contact tracing, or the process of identifying close contacts who were exposed to an infected individual, helps to identify potential cases.
- As we move into the fall, there will be many different respiratory viruses circulating in Alberta. It is important to build a sustainable approach to these illnesses that does not have disproportionate impacts on learning and development opportunities, such as with quarantining large groups of students and staff.
- AHS is no longer identifying or following up with individual close contacts, and quarantine for close contacts is no longer universally legally mandatory. All Albertans, including those who may be informed that they are close contact, are asked to routinely monitor for symptoms and stay home and seek testing if they are feeling unwell.
- AHS will continue to manage outbreaks of respiratory illnesses in school settings, similar to the management of influenza or influenza-like illness.

What if there is a case of COVID-19 in a school?

- Staff, students or parents/guardians may choose to notify school administrators of a positive COVID-19 test result.
 - Individuals are not required to share their health information with the school administrators.
- AHS Public Health will not inform school authorities or administrators of individual cases of COVID-19 within the school setting, as notification to the school is not required for the individual's case management.
- School administrators and/or school authorities are not required to contact AHS to report student or staff cases.
 - School administrators should continue to monitor their school population for additional cases and/or absenteeism due to illness, and follow the guidance for reporting and responding to high rates of absenteeism outlined in the Guidance for Respiratory Illness Prevention and Management in Schools.

What if there is a resurgence of COVID-19?

- Alberta will be closely monitoring hospitalizations and severe outcomes, along with monitoring wastewater in many communities for the presence of COVID-19.
 - Wastewater testing is an early indicator of potential rise in disease incidence in a community.
- Additionally, Alberta will review emerging evidence across Canada and around the world. If severe outcomes from COVID-19 are putting pressure on the health care system, additional public health measures may be needed again.
- Alberta will keep watching closely and take whatever actions are needed to manage any high-risk outbreaks, as we do with any communicable disease.

PARENTS' GUIDE

2021–22 SCHOOL YEAR

Information for parents and guardians to prepare for school in September

What to expect

Now that everyone born in 2009 or earlier (12 and over) can get a COVID-19 vaccine, Alberta is shifting from an emergency response for the COVID-19 pandemic to the everyday public health management we use for other viruses, such as influenza. This will allow the province to respond to other respiratory illnesses as we approach fall and winter.



Most Alberta students will return to in-person learning for fall 2021. To reduce the spread of COVID-19 and other respiratory illnesses, schools will use good health practices outlined in the [Guidance for Respiratory Illness Prevention and Management in Schools](#) and follow the [2021–22 School Year Plan](#). This includes:

- Making sure air circulation (HVAC) systems are working properly
- Opening windows and doors, and encourage outdoor activities, when weather permits
- Having procedures on routine cleaning, like regularly wiping down high touch areas and disinfecting
- Encouraging and making it easy for everyone to practice good hand hygiene, like having hand sanitizer stations throughout the school
- Supporting students and staff who want to wear a mask
- Supporting everyone to stay home when sick

Schools will not have to follow previous measures used during the 2020–2021 school year. School authorities continue to have the ability and corresponding accountability to put in place local measures, such as physical distancing, cohorting and masking requirements that may exceed provincial guidance.

School activities

When students return to school, they can look forward to their regular classes and activities such as performances, field trips, sport competitions and celebratory events. Should things change, there are [plans](#) to continue learning with more health measures in place.



For more details: alberta.ca/returntoschool

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 your hands before you touch anything else.

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

If your child has new signs of illness or symptoms, the [Alberta Health Daily Checklist](#) will help you determine how long your child should stay home from school and whether you should use the [AHS Online Assessment Tool](#) or call Health Link 811 to arrange for testing.

Students with fever, cough, shortness of breath or loss of sense of smell or taste, must stay home and isolate for 10 days. They can return to school before 10 days if they have a negative COVID-19 test result.



Vaccines work

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

Everyone born in 2009 or earlier is eligible to get their first and second doses of the COVID-19 vaccine. Two doses of the COVID-19 vaccine have been shown to be very protective against infection. You can [book an appointment](#) today for yourself and your child, if they are eligible.

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

COVID-19 immunization clinics are being planned for grades 7 through 12 schools across the province. Students under 18 will not be vaccinated in schools without parent or guardian consent. It is important that parents or guardians return completed consent forms for their children as quickly as possible. Consent forms will be available to download or can be requested from your child's school.

How we can protect children who cannot get the vaccine yet

Getting vaccinated reduces the risk to those who cannot get the vaccine yet, such as children born in 2010 or later (11 and under).

Staying home when sick, washing hands and covering coughs and sneezes will reduce the risk of COVID-19 and other respiratory illnesses.

Everyone should take precautions that make sense for them. This may include wearing a face mask, keeping your social circle small, or leaving space between yourself and others in group settings. Schools will support these personal choices, whenever possible.

For more details: alberta.ca/returntoschool

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The logo for the Government of Alberta, featuring the word "Alberta" in a stylized, cursive font with a small square icon to the right.



Masks

Masks are required for all students and staff on school buses.

Unless there is a school-specific rule, students and staff don't have to wear a mask in the school, but will be supported if they choose to.

Masks may be recommended for a short period if there is a respiratory illness outbreak in a school. School authorities may have their own rules for masks, so it's important to know the rules in your school.

It's also important to think about personal risk and your own family's situation when deciding to wear a mask, or asking your child to wear one.

Learn more at alberta.ca/masks.

Cleaning and disinfecting surfaces

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.

Physical distancing or maintaining spacing

Physical distancing or maintaining spacing is not required for the 2021–2022 school year. Some people may prefer to keep more space between themselves and others in certain situations and schools should support this, whenever possible.

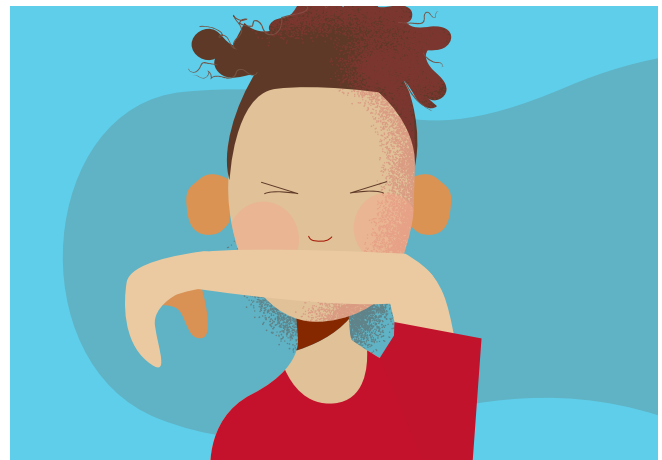
Cohorting

Cohorting is not required for the 2021–2022 school year. Cohorting may be recommended for a short period if there is a respiratory illness outbreak in a school.

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 should have a plan. Schools will contact parents should 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.

The student or staff member should be given a mask 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.

For more details: alberta.ca/returntoschool



If there is an outbreak in your school

Alberta Health Services (AHS) will continue to work with school authorities to manage outbreaks of respiratory illnesses in schools. Schools will let AHS know if 10 per cent of students, or more, are home because they are or might be sick. AHS will investigate and may declare an outbreak of a respiratory illness at school, which may include recommending additional health measures such as:

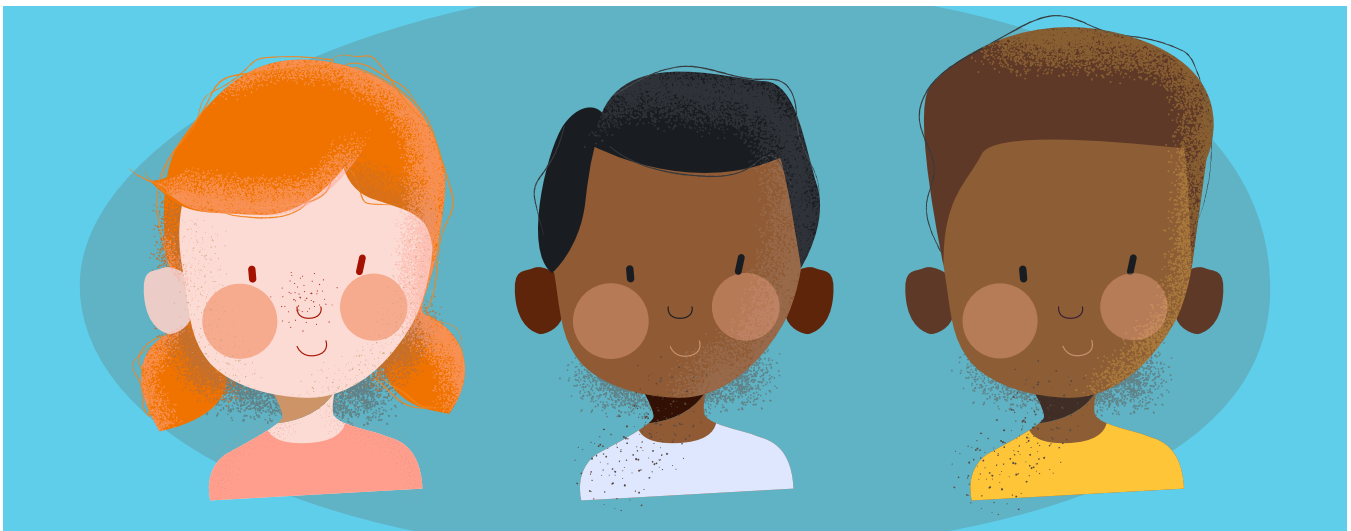
- Daily health checks
- More cleaning and disinfection
- Staying with a cohort (small group), such as a classroom
- Masking
- Limiting large gatherings and/or extracurricular activities

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 three months of supportive text messages written by mental health therapists.



For more details: alberta.ca/returntoschool

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Alberta

Testing for COVID-19

Anyone who has symptoms of COVID-19 should fill out the [AHS Online Assessment Tool](#) to determine if they should be tested and where they can get testing.

If you test positive for COVID-19

Albertans understand that isolating (staying home) and staying away from others is important to limit the spread of COVID-19 and other respiratory illnesses.

Isolation after testing positive for COVID-19 is still required. Cases of COVID-19 are required to isolate for at least 10 days from when their symptoms started, or until their symptoms have improved, whichever is longer.

If you are a close contact

Contact tracing, or the process of identifying close contacts who were exposed to an infected individual, helps to identify potential cases.

As we move into the fall, there will be many different respiratory viruses circulating in Alberta. It is important to build a sustainable approach to these illnesses that does not have disproportionate impacts on learning and

development opportunities, such as with quarantining large groups of students and staff.

AHS is no longer identifying or following up with individual close contacts, and quarantine for close contacts is no longer legally mandatory. All Albertans, including those who may be told that they are close contact, are asked to monitor for symptoms and stay home and get tested if they are feeling unwell.

AHS will continue to manage outbreaks of respiratory illnesses in school settings, similar to the management of influenza or influenza-like illness.

If there is an increase in COVID-19

Alberta will be watching for increases in hospitalizations and severe outcomes. Alberta also has programs to monitor wastewater for COVID-19.

Alberta will review new evidence and research across Canada and around the world. If severe illness from COVID-19 is putting pressure on the health care system, public health measures may be needed again.

Alberta will keep watching closely and take whatever actions are needed to manage any high-risk outbreaks, as we do with any communicable disease.



2021/22 Return to School Operational Plan

Last updated: Aug. 26, 2021

Rocky View Schools (RVS) looks forward to the school year ahead as we continue to create safe, high-quality learning opportunities where all students learn, belong and succeed. The purpose of this plan is to outline the protocols established for the 2021/22 school year. It was informed by the [2021-2022 School Year Plan](#) developed by the Government of Alberta, which anticipates in-school learning will resume in September 2021 under normal conditions.

RVS thanks all families, students and staff for their understanding and cooperation with the health and safety measures in place to limit the spread of COVID-19. We are committed to 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. While these measures remain from last year, many other aspects will return to pre-pandemic operations.

Implementation of our plan is subject to change as the pandemic evolves. We will continue to seek direction from the Chief Medical Officer of Health, Alberta Health Services (AHS) and Alberta Education as an important part of this process.

Recognizing the dynamic nature of the pandemic, RVS has two contingency plans based on guidance in Government's 2021-2022 School Year Plan. Contingency 1: In School with Enhanced Health Measures Plan outlines the protocols RVS will follow if students remain learning in-class at school, but enhanced health measures are required. Contingency 2: At-Home Learning Plan will be put in place if students are required to move to at-home learning.

We appreciate your continued support as we work together to safely return to a more normal school year and operate under [RVS' established calendar](#). Elements of the plan and requirements are categorized below.

School Operations

Health Measures

All students, staff, teachers and visitors are required to follow health measures mandated by, RVS, the Chief Medical Officer of Health and/or measures implemented by an AHS Zone Medical Officer of Health.

Daily Health Checklist Usage

RVS will continue to require all students, staff and visitors to use the [Alberta Daily Health Checklist](#) prior to coming to school. Parents/guardians play an essential role as they support actions in the home (such as keeping children/students home when sick and accessing testing if symptoms develop) that ultimately keep other children, students and staff safe.

Hand Hygiene

Continue to promote routine washing of hands and/or use of sanitizer. Sanitizer will be available in schools with individuals encouraged to sanitize as they enter/exit the school or classroom, before eating or serving food, using shared equipment, etc.

Masking

Not required in schools at this time. Students, staff, visitors and parents/guardians should consider their own risks and their personal situation when making decisions on wearing a mask. Masks are required for anyone on school buses.

Physical Distancing

Return to pre-pandemic operations with physical distancing not required at this time.

Cohorting

Return to pre-pandemic operations with cohorting not required at this time.

	<p>Lunch Routines & School Cafeteria Program & Snack/Breakfast/Lunch Programs Return to pre-pandemic operations.</p> <p>Recess Return to pre-pandemic operations.</p> <p>Transportation Masks are to be worn by all students, drivers and volunteers/guests at all times while riding the bus. Sanitizing of the bus will occur between each group of riders.</p> <p>Before and After School Programs Third-party providers will determine their own protocols and inform families using their services.</p> <p>Visitors/Parents/Volunteers Return to pre-pandemic operations. Any visitors/parents/volunteers are required to use the Alberta Daily Health Checklist prior to entering the school.</p> <p>Illness While at School Students exhibiting signs of illness must be moved to the school's infirmary room and provided a mask to wear if they are not currently wearing a mask. Parents/guardians will be notified and advised to pick up their child within one hour of notification. If the parent 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.</p>
<p>School Facilities</p>	<p>Enhanced High-Touch Cleaning RVS will continue with regular cleaning and disinfecting of high touch surfaces. Daily electrostatic spraying will occur at the end of each school day.</p> <p>Ventilation Ventilation systems are maintained as per the manufacturer's recommendation. Enhanced filters and replacement of filters will continue across RVS.</p> <p>School Arrival/Departure/In-Building Traffic Flow Specific COVID-19 related considerations are not required at this time.</p> <p>Classroom Setup Return to pre-pandemic operations. Staff need to be aware of AP5305 Non-Standard Items in RVS Facilities.</p> <p>Specialty Spaces (e.g., Learning Commons, Gymnasiums, Shared Classrooms, Fitness Facilities) Return to pre-pandemic operations.</p> <p>Water Fountains Return to pre-pandemic operations.</p> <p>Lockers Return to pre-pandemic operations.</p>

	<p>Community Use of RVS Facilities Community use is available in our schools and will return to pre-pandemic operations as of October 1. Any users are required to use the Alberta Daily Health Checklist prior to entering the school.</p> <p>Community Use of RVS Grounds Community use is available in our outdoor spaces.</p>
<p>Assessment</p>	<p>Grade 12 Diploma Exams The administration of Diploma Exams will resume and are mandatory in the 2021/22 school year, as required by Government.</p> <p>Grade 6 and 9 Provincial Achievement Tests (PATs) The administration of PATs will resume and are mandatory in the 2021/22 school year, as required by Government.</p> <p>Grade 3 Student Learning Assessments (SLAs) RVS is considering piloting select Grade 3 classrooms to engage in this new provincial assessment process. Details of which classrooms are participating will be communicated to selected classrooms.</p>
<p>Activities</p>	<p>Extra-Curricular Activities These optional activities will be offered where teacher volunteers and community volunteers are available.</p> <p>Field Trips Field trips within the province of Alberta can be considered under existing RVS procedures. There will be no out-of-province or out-of-country field trips in the 2021/22 school year. Cancellation provisions will be important to review carefully.</p> <p>School Events (e.g., Assemblies, Guest Speakers, Celebratory Events, Graduation) Return to pre-pandemic operations.</p> <p>School Councils Return to pre-pandemic operations. Councils may want to consider online meetings if the council feels they were successful with that mode in 2020/21.</p>
<p>COVID-19 Cases and Outbreaks</p>	<p>Isolations Those who test positive for COVID-19 must isolate as determined by the Chief Medical Officer of Health.</p> <p>Quarantining Close contacts of a positive case are not required to quarantine if they do not have a symptom and/or have not tested positive.</p> <p>Confirmed Cases of COVID-19 RVS will not be informed by AHS should an individual associated with the school test positive. Schools will not be sending out notifications if the school is informed by an individual of a positive test result.</p>

Vaccinations

It is important for Albertans to get vaccinated to protect yourself and others. Everyone born in 2009 or earlier is eligible to get their first and second doses of the COVID-19 vaccine. Two doses of the COVID-19 vaccine have been shown to be very protective against infection. In accordance with Alberta's privacy legislation, RVS staff, parents/guardians, and other students must respect the health privacy of staff and students, including their vaccination status. RVS will not ask for vaccination status of any student or staff member or share that information should it be volunteered.

Vaccination Clinics

RVS will support temporary vaccination clinics to be held this fall in schools for students born in 2009 or earlier and staff. Students must have returned the signed consent form by a parent/legal guardian to the school prior to the vaccination date in order to receive the vaccination. Further details will be sent to families when details are available.

Travel

Individuals must follow out-of-country travel direction established by government prior to returning to an RVS site.

Outbreaks

The government has advised that additional measures may be considered or recommended if a school experiences a COVID-19 outbreak, as determined by AHS. If a school is experiencing an outbreak, one or more outbreak measures may be implemented. Examples of outbreak measures may include active health screening with questionnaires, increasing frequency of cleaning and disinfection, classroom cohorts, masking, and/or limiting extra-curricular activities.

Supporting Learning While Self-Isolating or Ill

Consistent with what happens during non-pandemic times, if a child needs to stay home due to illness, classroom teachers will provide key work for the student to work on while at home. Homework bundles or tasks will be provided to the student by the regular teacher, but they will not be engaging in at-home learning.



Contingency 1: In School with Enhanced Health Measures Plan

Last updated: Aug. 26, 2021

Rocky View Schools (RVS) thanks all families, students and staff for their understanding and cooperation with the health and safety measures in place to limit the spread of COVID-19. RVS has a 2021/22 Return to School Operational Plan outlining protocols to be followed in each school. The plan was informed by the [2021-2022 School Year Plan](#) developed by the Government of Alberta, which anticipates in-school learning will resume in September 2021 under normal conditions. Recognizing the dynamic nature of the pandemic, RVS has two contingency plans if needed. This is **Contingency 1: In School with Enhanced Health Measures Plan**. The following outlines the protocols RVS will follow if students remain learning in-class at school, but enhanced health measures are required. Contingency 2: At-Home Learning Plan will be put in place if students are required to move to at-home learning.

Implementation is subject to change as the pandemic evolves. We will continue to seek direction from the Chief Medical Officer of Health, Alberta Health Services (AHS) and Alberta Education as an important part of this process.

We appreciate your continued support as we work together to safely return to a more normal school year and operate under [RVS' established calendar](#). Elements of the plan and requirements are categorized below.

School Operations

Daily Health Checklist Usage

RVS will continue to require all students, staff and visitors to use the [Alberta Daily Health Checklist](#) prior to coming to school. Parents/guardians play an essential role as they support actions in the home (such as keeping children/students home when sick and accessing testing if symptoms develop) that ultimately keep other children, students and staff safe.

Illness While at School

Students exhibiting signs of illness must be moved to the school's infirmary room and provided a mask to wear if they are not currently wearing a mask. If there is more than one student in the infirmary, they must stay more than two metres apart. Parents/guardians must be notified and advised to pick up their child within one hour of notification. If the parent 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. Within the Alberta Government's pandemic response, this is a responsibility all families must adhere to.

Staff supervising symptomatic students must:

- Keep all other staff out of the infirmary room;
- Provide the student with a face mask;
- Use strict hand hygiene;
- Maintain physical distancing where possible; and
- Wear gloves, mask and face shield while attending to the student.

After the student is picked up, staff will post a sign indicating the room must be cleaned and will contact the appropriate custodial staff. All items the student touched will be cleaned and disinfected as soon as the student has been picked up. Items that cannot be disinfected, i.e., paper, books, cardboard, will be removed from the classroom and stored in a sealed container for 72 hours.

Mask Use

Masks will be mandatory for all staff and teachers, and for students in Grades 4 – 12 where physical distancing is not possible in schools and on buses. RVS encourages mask use for students in Kindergarten – Grade 3.

School administrators should develop a plan to ensure that students who are hearing impaired or may rely on facial cues are able to communicate with others in areas where non-medical face masks are being worn, or have their educational needs met when teachers are wearing non-medical face masks in the classroom. This may include the use of transparent masks. As with other non-medical face masks, it is important that transparent masks cover the nose and mouth, as well as fit securely against the face.

As mask use is not mandatory in Kindergarten – Grade 3, there will be an enhanced focus on cohorting, hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette and enhanced cleaning.

Mask exemptions will be guided by the [Chief Medical Officer of Health](#). In the case of students in Grades 4 – 12 and staff who are unable to wear a mask due to one of the exemptions, the school administration should be informed of the exemption and should ensure adherence to the other public health measures.

Physical Distancing

RVS is working to minimize risk, but given the number of students in the building, it will not be possible to maintain two metres of physical separation between students at all times. For that reason, it is important that anyone showing symptoms stay home, get tested and cleared before returning to school.

Students are not expected to sit at their desks for the duration of the day. We recognize learning can occur during various activities. Additional measures can be implemented when students are not seated in the classroom:

- Consider activities that can take place outdoors or in areas that allow for increased physical distancing and/or increased ventilation;
- Consider limiting the number of students moving within the classroom or throughout the school at one time to promote physical distancing; and
- Consider additional scenarios where non-medical face masks may be appropriate.

Student Arrival and Entry

Schools will communicate their arrival and entry process to students and families.

Parents/guardians must remain off school grounds or in their vehicle when dropping off their children. They must not enter the school unless approved by the principal.

The principal will create a schedule for student entry. Students will enter the building from their assigned meeting spot to minimize physical interactions. The principal will use as many entry doors as possible and assign all students an entry point. Student entry may require staggered times, which do not necessarily align with established bell times. Students should move directly to their designated entry door and wait for permission to enter the building while staying two metres apart where possible. The school will develop a schedule that ensures supervision for each entry door and throughout the building.

All staff and students must use hand sanitizer prior to entering the building and before entering their classroom. Once in the school, students will head directly to their class. Hallway lockers are not to be used. Students will need to hang their jacket and backpack on the back of their chair or designated area within the classroom that supports distancing guidelines.

Student Flow Inside the Building

Inside the school, there will be directional signage in halls and stairwells to reduce physical interaction. The principal will share defined procedures and guidelines that all individuals must follow. Teachers will inform students about the methods being used in the school to minimize risks.

Student Groupings/Cohorting

A cohort is defined as a group of students and staff who remain together. The size of the cohort will depend on the physical space of the classroom or learning setting and the number of students assigned to each teacher. In this scenario, class sizes will be consistent with what RVS has provided in the past. Staff will work to limit cohort/class interactions where possible. Activities that bring together multiple classes or grades are to be limited wherever possible in this scenario. Where possible, teachers will move between learning spaces rather than students.

Student cohorts will be larger in high schools and upper middle school grades due to their courses and schedules.

Eating Lunch

Staff and students will practice physical distancing guidelines while eating lunch to the best of their ability. Common lunchroom areas may be used but must be cleaned after each use. Students and staff must not share food, utensils, dishes, water bottles or drink containers. Students will be asked to wash their hands or use hand sanitizer before and after eating. Students may be asked to help wipe down their own desks or tables used for eating. Use of student-shared microwaves is not allowed.

Recess

Schools will develop a coordinated exit/entry schedule using as many exit/entry doors as possible for grades/cohorts to leave their class/learning space to go outside for recess and to return to class/learning space. Recess breaks may be staggered by the schools to reduce the number of students exiting/playing/entering the school. Supervisors will encourage students to practice physical distancing during recess breaks.

Class Transitions/Breaks

Middle and high schools will have class transition breaks in their daily schedule. This is a challenging time due to the number of students moving throughout the building at the same time. These breaks are for moving to the student's next class, using the washroom or refilling water bottles.

Schools may look to stagger the end of various classes to reduce the volume of students moving in the school at once. Students will be encouraged to practice physical distancing and to follow posted traffic flow protocols during class transitions.

Where possible, teachers will be encouraged to move rather than students.

End of School Day

Your school will communicate its dismissal process to students and families.

Parents/guardians must remain off school grounds or in their vehicle while waiting for their children. They may not enter the school unless approved by the principal. Teachers will ensure all students use hand sanitizer before leaving their last class.

Students will exit the school in an orderly manner with appropriate supervision, maximizing the number of exit doors as practical while adhering to physical distancing guidelines. This may mean schools require classes/learning spaces to have staggered dismissal times while ensuring bus schedules are maintained.

Students waiting for pick up are to wait outside in a supervised designated area while following physical distancing guidelines. During inclement weather, the principal will make alternate arrangements for the waiting area.

Breakfast/Lunch/Snack Programs

Only programs that serve individually packaged food (e.g., vegetables in baggies, wrapped muffins, granola bars, etc.) are permitted to operate. Schools must ensure all food handling protocols from AHS are followed, including wearing of gloves and masks for anyone packaging or delivering the foods. Given no volunteers will be permitted into the building, this will impact the ability to offer these types of programs. No general hot lunch or fundraising food/lunch programs are permitted at this time. Schools considering a breakfast/lunch/snack program must engage their health inspector. Please contact your area director for contact information.

School Cafeteria Curricular Programs

Given the limitation on food handling and concerns for safety, school curricular cafeteria programs (culinary arts) can continue but food sales or serving of foods is not permitted.

Before and After School Programs

Before and after school programs can be operated in RVS sites. Questions about specific programs should be directed to the before and after school program provider.

Washrooms

Washroom capacity will be posted. If the washroom capacity is exceeded, students will be expected to wait while practicing physical distancing. Washrooms will be cleaned regularly. Signage about the importance of washing hands and physical distancing will be posted.

Shared School Technology

Students are encouraged to bring their own device to school. For students without their own device, schools are encouraged to divide devices among cohorts and/or grade levels and to limit the number of students that use the device. Devices are to be cleaned after each use following RVS' device cleaning protocol.

Supporting Learning While Self-Isolating or Ill

Consistent with what happens during non-pandemic times, if a child needs to stay home due to illness, classroom teachers will provide key work for the student to work on while at home. Homework bundles or tasks will be provided to the student by the regular teacher, but they will not be engaging in at-home learning.

Supporting Students Who Require Individual/Specialized Support and Medically Fragile Students

RVS will maintain learning opportunities for students specific to their Individualized Program Plan (IPP) using a variety of approaches. Students with complex or differing learning needs will continue to be intentionally included in the learning of the whole classroom with support from Learning Supports. Where required, a registered nurse and/or licensed practical nurse will be engaged, who will follow guidelines from AHS.

	<p>Divisional supports, such as occupational therapists, speech-language pathologists, psychologists and physical therapists will provide service following their professional association guidelines. Some of these services will be face-to-face but physically distanced where possible; some will be provided online. We expect many of these professionals will need to wear various personal protective equipment to minimize risks.</p>
<p>COVID-19 Cases and Outbreaks</p>	<p>Isolations Those who test positive for COVID-19 must isolate as determined by the Chief Medical Officer of Health.</p> <p>Quarantining Close contacts of a positive case are not required to quarantine if they do not have a symptom and/or have not tested positive.</p> <p>Vaccination The decision to be vaccinated is a personal choice. In accordance with Alberta’s privacy legislation, the <i>Personal Information Protection Act</i> and the <i>Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act</i>, RVS staff, parents/guardians and other students must respect the health privacy of students, including their vaccination status. RVS will not ask for vaccination status of any student or staff member or share that information should it be volunteered.</p> <p>Travel Individuals must follow out-of-country travel direction established by government prior to returning to an RVS site.</p> <p>Confirmed Cases of COVID-19 RVS will not be informed by AHS should an individual associated with the school test positive. Schools will not send notifications if informed by an individual of a positive test result.</p> <p>Outbreaks The government has advised that additional measures may be considered or recommended if a school experiences a COVID-19 outbreak, as determined by AHS. If a school is experiencing an outbreak, one or more outbreak measures may be implemented.</p>
<p>Transportation</p>	<p>Transportation/Bus Service Regular transportation service levels and fees will be maintained. Students must continue to only access their assigned route and must use their electronic pass each time they enter and exit a bus. Students will continue to share seats where necessary. Masks are mandatory for all students, drivers, volunteers and staff.</p> <p>Students must complete the Alberta Daily Health Checklist before coming to the bus stop. Children must stay home if answering “yes” to any symptom listed on the checklist.</p> <p>Drivers will develop a seating plan, keeping siblings together wherever possible. The seating plan should spread out riders as much as possible given the limited space on the bus. Individuals must sit in their assigned seat and cannot move seats to sit with friends. Youngest riders will be seated closer to the front of the bus. Any students not sitting in their assigned seat will be reported to school administration.</p> <p>The bus driver will put on gloves, mask and goggles and use the provided pump sprayer to sanitize the bus between runs. Once the bus is sanitized, the driver may leave the school and start the next run. Gloves and masks should be disposed of and only goggles may be reused between cleanings. The sprayer will be kept in a secure location accessible only by the bus</p>

driver and additional cleaning supplies for the sprayer can be acquired by contacting RVS' Caretaking branch.

Should a child display or bring to the driver's attention concerning symptoms when getting on the bus or while riding, the driver must stop, ensure a mask is being worn by the student, move the student to the reserved row at the front, wipe down the immediate area the student was in and report the student's name and school to RVS' Transportation department. If this occurs on the way to school, the student will be taken to a supervisor, brought to the school's infirmary and the school will notify the parent/guardian.

RVS will provide a box of masks for each bus for emergency use. Drivers can request additional masks by contacting RVS' Caretaking branch.

Contractors are responsible for providing the necessary personal protective equipment for drivers.

Facilities

Cleaning

Schools will be cleaned daily with additional measures put in place throughout the school day. Anyone entering the building must use hand sanitizer. Individuals requiring medical exemptions from using hand sanitizer will be escorted into the building to wash their hands prior to moving about the school. Sanitizer stations will be available at building entrances during school days and outside each room within the school. Sanitizer will be provided centrally; schools can request additional supplies through their head building operator.

Schools will be provided with cleaning wipes for individuals to maintain their learning/work space or wipe down shared devices (e.g., technology, manipulatives, specialized equipment). These wipes will be provided centrally; schools can request additional supplies through their head building operator. If a classroom or space is used by multiple cohorts during the day, individuals in that cohort are asked to disinfect their desk between cohorts. Temporary masks and gloves will also be provided in school spaces.

Caretaking staff will maintain schools following RVS' pandemic cleaning protocol. Kindergarten classrooms will be cleaned between morning and afternoon groups. Caretaking staff will log their additional cleaning activities using the tool provided by the Caretaking branch.

Schools will have multiple electrostatic sanitizers to help with cleaning. These will be used in Kindergarten rooms between the morning and afternoon groups; to clean the infirmary if it is used; to clean a room during the day as identified by school administration; and nightly as part of the deep clean of the school. These units will be provided centrally with schools requesting additional supplies through their head building operator.

Signage about the importance of cleaning will be posted.

Soft Surface Furniture and Equipment

Where soft surface furniture and items can be cleaned using routine protocols, they will remain accessible. If they cannot be cleaned using routine protocols, they will be removed or marked unavailable using identifiable tape.

Lockers

To reduce congestion in the hallways, hallway locker access will be limited. Lockers in gyms can be used for students only while participating in physical education or team practices. If shared lockers are utilized, they must be disinfected between classes/cohorts.

Classroom Set Up

Classrooms, desktops, and countertops must be decluttered of all non-essential items to allow for custodial cleaning. Area rugs and soft furnishings that cannot be easily cleaned and disinfected must be removed. Desks will be separated as much as possible given the size of the classroom and number of students. If desks/tables cannot be spaced two metres apart, students should be arranged so they are not facing each other (e.g., arranged in rows rather than in small groups or a semi-circle). Students will be assigned a specific seat and teachers will provide a copy of each class's seating plan to school administration.

Staff and students are to use their own personal items (e.g., electronic devices, writing instruments, school supplies) and minimize sharing items. Where possible, teachers will organize their curricular content to minimize the need for shared resources at the beginning of the school year.

Students will be asked to help clean shared resources between individual use (e.g., microscopes, electronic devices, manipulatives, etc.).

Each classroom will have its own supply of wipes, hand sanitizer and temporary masks.

Water Fountains, Water Bottles

Water fountains will be covered and unavailable to students and staff. Students and staff are encouraged to bring their own filled water bottle every day. Sinks and water refilling stations can be used to fill personal water bottles.

Shared School Spaces

Learning Commons, gymnasiums and foyers remain available for instructional use to maximize physical distancing where possible. Fitness centres and gymnasiums are only to be used for curricular purposes, with an emphasis on maintaining physical distancing. Playgrounds remain open for student use. Protocols about visiting the school office, whether that be for parents, students or staff, will be established and shared. Schools with common lunchroom areas will ensure physical distancing guidelines are followed and that they are cleaned and disinfected after each use. The school's infirmary is to be designated for COVID-19 quarantining and not for other injuries.

Books returned or used in the Learning Commons must not be recirculated until after they have been stored in a dedicated space for at least 72 hours. Staff handling returned materials should always follow hand hygiene practices. Consider employing the use of a self-serve checkout and return service.

Personal Protective Equipment and Controls

School/site reception areas will use temporary plexiglass screens. These screens are to be cleaned by following the protocol provided.

Each school will be provided with a supply of reusable masks, face shields, gloves and wipes to be distributed internally as required.

Sanitizer stations and supplies will be provided for each room in addition to entrances for buildings. Each room will also have a supply of temporary masks.

Visitors/Parents/Guardians/Volunteers

To minimize risks, volunteers and guest presenters are not permitted. Authorized visitors include parents/guardians (with principal approval), delivery personnel, RVS staff, RCMP and AHS. Prior to a visitor entering the school they will use the self-screening tool posted on the school's door. Visitors will be asked if they have completed the screening tool. If a visitor answers "yes"

	<p>to any of the questions, the individual will not be admitted into the school. All visitors must wear masks unless they are less than two years old. A record of all visitors who remain at the school for more than two minutes must be recorded in the school’s visitor logbook with the iPads/pens to be wiped after each use.</p> <p>Parents will be informed of the process to book a meeting time with school office staff or teachers. These meetings may be face-to-face, while keeping physical distance, or by electronic means.</p> <p>Community Use of RVS Spaces To reduce the number of people in the building, community use of indoor spaces in schools will not be permitted. Use of outdoor spaces by community users may be permitted by following AP5014 Community Use of Outdoor Spaces. Additional fees may apply for outdoor space usage.</p>
Assessment	<p>Provincial Assessments In this contingency, Grade 12 Diploma Exams are required by the province and will count as 30 per cent of the student’s final diploma course mark. Grade 6 and 9 Provincial Achievement Tests continue to be mandatory. Grade 3 Student Learning Assessments will be paused.</p>
Activities	<p>Prohibited Events To reduce interactions between cohorts, multi-classroom/cohort gatherings such as assemblies, whole-grade or whole-school groupings are prohibited.</p> <p>Extra-curricular Activities Extra-curricular athletics and extra-curricular fine arts are permitted in a practice format only with no interschool games or in-person performances allowed until further notice. Clubs that cannot maintain physical distancing are cancelled until further notice. Alberta Government guidelines must be followed.</p> <p>Field Trips Field trips should be restricted to locations within walking distance of the school. All field trips beyond a reasonable walking distance are cancelled.</p>
Other Matters	<p>School Councils School council members and the school principal may choose to meet virtually or face-to-face. If meetings occur face-to-face, they must meet outside the regular school day and follow school and AHS guidelines and protocols around hand sanitizer use, size of meetings, physical distancing and the wiping of surfaces.</p> <p>RVS Adult Education Programming RVS Adult Education programming is encouraged to be provided online but where it must take place face-to-face, the programs must end in time for cleaning to be completed. Participants will be asked to wipe down their own desk spaces.</p>



Contingency 2: At-Home Learning Plan

Last updated: Aug. 26, 2021

Rocky View Schools (RVS) thanks all families, students and staff for their understanding and cooperation with the health and safety measures in place to limit the spread of COVID-19. RVS has a 2021/22 Return to School Operational Plan outlining protocols to be followed in each school. The plan was informed by the [2021-2022 School Year Plan](#) developed by the Government of Alberta, which anticipates in-school learning will resume in September 2021 under normal conditions. Recognizing the dynamic nature of the pandemic, RVS has two contingency plans if needed. This is **Contingency 2: At-Home Learning Plan**. The following outlines the protocols RVS will follow if students are required to move to at-home learning. If students remain learning in-class at school but enhanced health measures are required, Contingency 1: In School with Enhanced Health Measures Plan will be put in place.

Implementation is subject to change as the pandemic evolves. We will continue to seek direction from the Chief Medical Officer of Health, Alberta Health Services (AHS) and Alberta Education as an important part of this process.

We appreciate your continued support as we work together to safely return to a more normal school year and operate under [RVS' established calendar](#). Elements of the plan and requirements are categorized below.

Learning

Delivery of Education

Teachers will evaluate the curricular outcomes not yet covered in class to prioritize the content to be covered based on what is manageable for students working from home. Each week, parents and students will receive a weekly learning plan with specific tasks and activities for students, along with weekly suggestions for physical literacy activities. These weekly learning plans will be emailed each Monday morning using a common template.

Hours of Instruction/Work per Week and Subject Emphasis

Kindergarten – Grade 3 offerings will focus on language and mathematics learning outcomes which strengthen the development of literacy and numeracy. We will also incorporate health curriculum outcomes with a focus on mental health. Kindergarten will average five hours per student per week while Grades 1 – 3 will average 15 hours plus up to two hours of fine arts/physical education activities.

Grade 4 – 6 offerings will focus on language and mathematics learning outcomes which strengthen the development of literacy and numeracy. They will also incorporate science, social studies and wellness (with a focus on mental health) curriculum outcomes into the activities. Students will average 15 hours of work per week plus up to two hours of fine arts/physical education activities.

Grade 7 – 12 offerings will continue with the student's regular schedule as closely as possible, maintaining the same hours of instruction as in-person classes.

Supporting Students with Specialized or Exceptional Needs

RVS will maintain learning opportunities, supports and services through a variety of approaches online and in-person. Students with significant specialized or exceptional needs will continue to be intentionally included in the learning of the whole classroom with support from classroom teachers, learning support teams and divisional supports where appropriate.

Students who may require supports and services in-person at school are those identified with significant specialized or exceptional needs who have a current Individualized Program Plan (IPP), and where interruption to services would be detrimental to their success. This includes students currently enrolled in, or receiving supports from, our enhanced mental health team and students who are receiving supports for augmentative communication.

Divisional supports, such as occupational therapists, speech-language pathologists, psychologists and physical therapists will continue to provide specialized services to support IPP goals through a variety of means. This may include online and in-person at-school activities in collaboration with the school and family.

Electives/Optional Courses

These will proceed where possible. In some rare circumstances, an option may not be able to be delivered online. Students must engage in the course to receive credit for completion.

Teacher Help

Accessibility of teachers is important to support student learning and to remain connected. Teachers will be available to students online, through email and/or by phone. Teachers will provide drop-in online support for all students for periods of time within regular school hours.

Use of Scheduled Online Meetings/Learning Events

Teachers will be delivering some content directly using tools such as Google Meet and Zoom. Students are expected to attend these sessions. Teachers may record and post access to recorded sessions for students to review or for students who were unable to attend the live session.

Teachers will only schedule live classes during the time students would attend that class if they were at school (e.g., a Math 30-1 Zoom session would be scheduled from 8:30 – 9:45 a.m., the same time as when math class would be if they were in face-to-face instruction).

Tasks and activities will also be provided for students to work on outside of these sessions.

Technology Loaner Devices

Schools have a limited number of devices to loan and will try to accommodate families in need. A Loan Agreement will need to be signed upon collection of the device.

Paper-Based Format

Accommodations can be made for families that require their child’s learning materials in a paper-based format. Teachers will communicate directly with these families to identify the process for picking up and returning learning packages from their child’s school.

School Operations

Daily Self-Screening Practices

Parents or students who need to be on school property must assess themselves for COVID-19 symptoms or other infectious respiratory disease by completing the [Alberta Daily Health Checklist](#) prior to arriving on school property. Masks are mandatory while on RVS property.

School Cafeteria Program & Snack/Breakfast/Lunch Programs

Cancelled until further notice.

Before and After School Programs

Before and after school programs offered in RVS sites are cancelled when the school will not have all students in attendance.

Visitors/Parent/Volunteers

Access to school facilities will be by pre-arranged appointments only. Authorized visitors include parents, delivery personnel, RVS staff, RCMP and AHS. Prior to a visitor entering the school they will put on a mask and use the self-screening tool posted on the school’s door. If a visitor answers “yes” to any of the questions, the individual will not be admitted into the school. A record of all visitors who remain within the school for more than five minutes must be recorded in the school’s visitor logbook with the iPads/pens to be wiped after each use. Parents will be

	<p>informed of the process to book a meeting time with school office staff or teachers. These meetings will typically be by electronic means, but exceptions can be made with appropriate physical distancing and hygiene precautions.</p> <p>Student Arrival and Entry Parents/guardians and students must remain off school grounds and must not enter the school unless approved by the principal. Masks are mandatory while on RVS property.</p> <p>Student Groupings/Cohorting Teachers will support their assigned students via at-home weekly learning plans. Some teachers may also be reassigned to help support other classes.</p> <p>Shared School Spaces The entire school facility will be inaccessible to students for instruction.</p>
Transportation	<p>Transportation/Bus Service Service is suspended.</p>
Assessment	<p>Teacher Assessments Students are responsible for actively engaging in learning and diligently pursuing their education. Students will be provided feedback on their learning on an ongoing basis. Formal assessments will be included in the teacher’s weekly learning plan. Assignments will be assessed and graded. Other assessment tasks will be determined by the teacher considering at-home learning. Marks and comments will continue to be posted in RVS’ PowerSchool Parent Portal.</p> <p>Provincial Assessments Alberta Education will determine if/how Diploma Exams and Provincial Achievement Tests will proceed. In this contingency Student Learning Assessments will be cancelled. RVS will communicate Alberta Education’s decision as soon as possible.</p> <p>Graduation Qualifications Students on track to receive 100 or more credits will be eligible to graduate and receive a high school diploma if they demonstrate the necessary outcomes to receive credit for the courses. If Alberta Education approves, principals may have the ability to award up to 20 unassigned credits to students in Grade 12 to address unique graduation qualification circumstances.</p>
Activities	<p>Extra-Curricular Activities Cancelled until further notice.</p> <p>Field Trips Cancelled until further notice.</p> <p>Prohibited Events Any school-related physical gatherings of students are prohibited.</p>
Other Matters	<p>School Councils School Councils may only meet online.</p> <p>RVS Adult Education Programming RVS Adult Education programming will be provided online.</p>

Personal Protective Equipment and Controls

School/site reception areas will use temporary plexiglass screens. These screens are to be cleaned by following the protocol provided.

Each school will be provided with a supply of reusable masks, face shields, gloves and wipes to be distributed internally as required.

Sanitizer stations and supplies will be provided for each room in addition to entrances for buildings. Each room will also have a supply of temporary masks.

Community Use of RVS Spaces

Community use of indoor spaces at RVS will be prohibited.

Cleaning

Schools will be typically cleaned each weekday. Anyone entering the building must be masked and must use hand sanitizer. Individuals requiring medical exemptions from using hand sanitizer will be escorted into the building to wash their hands prior to moving about the school. Sanitizer stations will be available at building entrances during school days and outside each room within the school. Sanitizer will be provided centrally; schools can request additional supplies through their head building operator.

Schools will be provided with cleaning wipes for individuals to maintain their learning/work space or wipe down shared devices (e.g., technology, manipulatives, specialized equipment). These wipes will be provided centrally; schools can request additional supplies through their head building operator. Temporary masks and gloves will also be provided in school spaces.

Caretaking staff will maintain schools following RVS' pandemic cleaning protocol and will log their additional cleaning activities using the tool provided by the Caretaking branch.

Schools will have multiple backpack-style electrostatic sanitizers to help with sanitizing. These will be used to clean a room during the day as identified by school administration and nightly as part of the deep clean of the school. These units will be provided centrally with schools requesting additional supplies through their head building operator.