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Alberta Education – [Planning for a new school year](#)

Updated September 15, 2021 (New Provincial Guidelines)

Health Orders

REVISED – January 2022

- [COVID-19 Information for K-12 Schools and School Buses](#)
- [Alberta Health Daily Checklist](#)

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1.	Daily screening	Parents and caregivers must assess their children daily for symptoms of common cold, influenza, COVID-19, or other infectious respiratory disease before sending them to school. The updated Alberta Health Daily Checklist. (Updated January 2022)
2.	Stay home if sick	Students or staff who have symptoms are required to stay home. AHS provides guidance on isolation if a staff or student has COVID-19 symptoms.
3.	Handwashing	BTPS is providing hand sanitizer at all school entrances and for all classrooms.
4.	Masks	All students on a bus must wear a mask as per the provincial health order. Masks are mandated for students in Grades 4-12 and all staff (Updated September 2021) as per the new provincial health order. Masks and distancing are not required by youth under 18 while engaged in physical activity (Updated September 2021). Parents/guardians and visitors must wear masks when they are in the schools. Dr. Hinshaw has strongly recommended masks for K-3 students in schools. When in the classrooms, all students who are working in groups or unable to physically distance will

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		be asked to wear a mask. Our schools will strongly recommend that K-3 students wear them in busy common areas and hallways. Schools may choose to have additional mask requirements (updated January 2022).
5.	Physical distancing	Physical distancing must occur in hallways, washrooms, and common areas (Updated September 2021) as per the new health order.
6.	Showing symptoms while at school	Staff will need to go home right away. Students will be moved to a school's sickroom, parents/guardians will be called, the student will need to be picked up and taken home. A sick child will not be able to ride a bus.
7.	Confirmed COVID-19 case at school	Anyone with COVID-19 is legally required to isolate as per the guidelines . (Updated January 2022). AHS has indicated that schools will not be informed about individual COVID-19 cases.
8.	Isolate or quarantine with core symptoms	Everyone is legally required to isolate. Please review the core symptom list and Alberta Health Daily Checklist (updated January 2022).
9.	Close contacts or family members of a positive COVID-19 case	If a member of the household has COVID-19, please contact your school. Minimizing the risk of spread through isolation is important to keep our schools open. Isolation and quarantine requirements Alberta Health Daily Checklist (Updated January 2022).

1.	Cohorts	Elementary students will be cohorted for classes and breaks (Updated September 2021). As much as operationally possible, limit the number of classroom cohorts that teachers belong to (updated January 2022).
2.	Lockers	Students will be able to use lockers provided to them at the school.
3.	Cleaning	We are providing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhanced cleaning of high touch areas throughout the day. • Enhanced cleaning of ventilation systems.
4.	Physical distancing	Wherever possible, the division will promote physical distancing in hallways, washrooms, and common areas. This may mean that there is reduced seating in common areas and breaks may be staggered throughout the day. As per Health Order 55-2021, 13.2, students, staff and visitors at a school building must maintain a physical distance of two metres from any other person who is not a member of their cohort as referenced in sections 2.1(e)(i). (Updated January 2022).
5.	Common areas	Seating may be reduced. Schools will have procedures for physical distancing.

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1.	Visitors	<p>Visitors to our schools will be limited (Updated September 2021).</p> <p>All visitors to the school must wear a mask, use proper hand hygiene upon entering, and complete the BTPS daily screening app. Visitors, students, or staff who feel ill or have symptoms of COVID-19 cannot enter the school.</p> <p>In the Guidance for Schools (K-12) and School Buses, it is recommended that at this time, school authorities limit opportunities for spectating at school performances and sporting events to reduce potential exposures to COVID-19 (updated January 2022).</p>
2.	Outbreaks	<p>As of January 2022, Alberta Health is updating the guidance information and procedures that schools will be provided if there is an outbreak. (Updated January 2022)</p>
3.	School activities	<p>Schools will be working with their staff to ensure that students are not in large gatherings and student activities will be virtual (Updated September 2021). (i.e., assemblies).</p>
4.	Staggered start	<p>Schools may choose to have a staggered start schedule for half of the students to attend on September 1 and half on September 2. Watch for information from your student's school.</p>
5.	Water fountains	<p>Water fountains will continue to operate. Students are encouraged to bring and fill water bottles.</p> <p>Water fountains will be cleaned throughout the day.</p>
6.	Shared equipment	<p>Students will use and store their own personal school supplies. Schools will minimize shared equipment, textbooks, and materials. Materials that are shared will be cleaned after use.</p>
7.	School libraries	<p>Schools will cohort or schedule students to use the library at specific times. Spaces will be cleaned throughout the day.</p>
9.	School nutrition programs	<p>Schools will be able to work within the safety guidelines and protocols to maintain their nutrition programs.</p>
10.	Assemblies	<p>School wide events, assemblies and performances will be virtual.</p>
11.	Extra-curricular activities	<p>Masks and distancing are not required by youth under 18 while engaged in physical activity (Updated September 2021).</p> <p>It is recommended that school authorities limit extracurricular sport tournaments and inter-school games at this time, to reduce potential exposures to COVID-19 (updated January 2022). There are no inter-school competitions until the end of January, and we will monitor our situation and wait for more guidance from AB ED</p>

and AHS.

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12.	Field trips	In the Guidance for Schools (K-12) and School Buses , off-site activities (e.g., field trips for group physical activity, performance activities and recreational activities that are part of the curriculum) are not recommended at this time (updated January 2022).
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1.	Masks	Masks are required on school buses. Students will not be allowed on the bus without a mask. Grades 4-12 students and all staff must wear masks (Updated September 2021) as per the new health order.
2.	Seating plans	There will be a seating plan on the bus, but it will not need to be the first on loads at the back.
3.	Cleaning	Busses will be cleaned after each bus run.
4.	Pick up of students	Where possible, students will practice physical distancing (Updated September 2021) as per the new health order.
5.	AHS Guidelines	The government's guidance for school busses is here .

Government Requirements - Symptoms or Testing Positive for COVID-19

Anyone with core symptoms or who tests positive	Anyone with core symptoms or who tests positive is unable to attend school. Everyone must follow the Alberta Health Daily Checklist . (Updated January 2022)
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Masking Exemptions

	<p>Mask Exemptions as per Government Requirements</p>	<p>The mask exemption process is now a provincial CMOH Health Order. Anyone who is unable to wear a mask due to a medical condition as outlined by the Health Order will require a medical exemption letter from an authorized health professional. The form is available from the Alberta Government here. The mandates on medical mask exemptions are provided by the CMOH in CMOH Order 55-2021.</p> <p>Approval of mask exemptions are determined by the ability for a school to adhere to the Health Order and ensure the safety of all students in the school. The Chief Medical Officer recommends that students unable to wear a mask access online school.</p> <p>Please connect with your school principal to work on an accommodation plan.</p>
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	<p>Immunization clinics</p>	<p>Schools will work with AHS to host these clinics. Parent or guardian consent will be required for students who wish to participate.</p> <p>For more information on vaccination policies and requirements, contact Alberta Health Services.</p>

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