

March 15 UPDATE:

As per Alberta Health Services: Effective immediately:

- Student attendance at K to 12 schools is prohibited and in-person post-secondary classes are cancelled.
- All licensed child care facilities, out-of-school care programs and preschool programs are closed indefinitely.

Learn more here: [AHS SCHOOLS](#)

Important notice:

Please do not contact schools tomorrow regarding belongings or other learning needs, unless it is a medical emergency. Sometime on Monday, schools will communicate the process by which medical supplies can be picked up at the school. On Tuesday, individuals who are healthy (no symptoms of COVID-19), will have the opportunity to pick up personal and academically-related items. Schools will set up a schedule for parents/guardians to make this process as orderly as possible. Once Lethbridge School Division staff has had an opportunity to meet at the Division and school levels to determine the next steps regarding learning for your child and how it will be accessed, those steps will be communicated.

An Assessment Guide for Parents has been created. This guide outlines how parents can help stop the spread of COVID-19. It also provides advice for school attendance. The document will be found here: [GUIDE](#)

The Division has also created a COVID-19 question and answer document. The document can be found here: [Q AND A](#)

A graphic which explains social distancing can be found here: [SOCIAL](#)

March 14 UPDATE:

AHS has developed a simple online assessment tool to help you decide whether you need to call 811 to be tested for COVID-19. It'll guide you to answer questions about your symptoms and take you through steps to help determine whether you need testing. <http://ahs.ca/covid>

AHS has also developed a guidelines for schools and child care programs guide, which can be found here: [GUIDELINES](#)

March 13 UPDATE:

Alberta's Chief Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Deena Hinshaw issued the following statement for Albertans on March 13:

"I now want to talk about schools. I know that many parents and teachers are worried about the risk of COVID in schools. We have seen other provinces and countries close schools as a preventive measure. What is important to know is that school closures are not universally agreed on as an effective intervention to prevent spread. In some other provinces that have chosen to close schools, they have not taken the other aggressive measures we announced yesterday.

It should be noted that the World Health Organization does not recommend school closure as the only way to prevent spread in the age group of young children. Instead, they also offer a safe schools checklist which describes the ways that school environments can be kept as safe as possible for students, teachers and staff.

Given the current situation in Alberta, the fact that any school closure would need to be in place for months, not weeks to be effective, and the fact that students may still be at risk of spreading infection in other settings besides schools, I have advised that school closures not be implemented at this time.

To be clear, schools, daycares and post-secondary institutions can remain open.

But steps should be taken to ensure that no more than 250 individuals are in the same room at any given time. This includes limiting whole school activities, and canceling sporting events or after school activities where necessary.

Tomorrow, I will be talking to school authorities to walk them through guidance documents and provide information directly to answer their questions."

March 12 UPDATE:

Lethbridge School Division schools remain open at this time. In terms of school closures, the Division relies on the advice of Alberta Health Services and Alberta Education. The division has enacted its pandemic plan and as a result, student travel outside the city will be restricted, as per the plan. The division is also following the advice of AHS to ensure no more than 250 individuals are in the same room at any given time. This will impact a range of school events throughout the division, until AHS advises otherwise.