

IMPLEMENTING SCHOOL RE-ENTRY GUIDANCE: Additional Considerations

Overview

This document is intended to be used in conjunction with the Guidance for School Re-Entry – Scenario 1 to support school and school authority leaders in the safe launch of in-person classes and to reduce opportunities for transmission of COVID-19 in September 2020 under Scenario 1 of the Re-Entry Plan.

There are measures that school settings in Alberta can take to reduce the risk of transmission of respiratory illnesses, including COVID-19. Such measures include, but are not limited to: hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette, physical distancing, cohorting, use of personal protective equipment, use of non-medical face masks, increased frequency of cleaning and disinfection, daily symptom screening, and having staff and children/students stay home when ill. These are all important steps that can support the health and wellbeing of our children/students, staff and community. School authorities in consultation with their local Medical Officer of Health (MOH) should implement the guidance for schools as applicable to their unique situation.

It is important that schools implement a multi-layered approach that includes each of these measures to the extent possible, recognizing that full implementation of specific measures may not be achievable. The balance of emphasis on varied measures may differ based on age. For example, a school may emphasize cohorting for the early grades, while physical distancing and use of non-medical face masks are emphasized for older grades.

The following information is not meant to be prescriptive, but may provide additional ideas or guidance when completing planning at both the school authority and school administration levels. This document and the content within it is subject to change and will be updated as needed. Current information related to COVID-19 can be found at [Alberta.ca/covid19](https://alberta.ca/covid19).

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GENERAL BUILDING SAFETY	
<p>Differences between cleaning and disinfecting</p> <p>Types of disinfectant</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cleaning refers to the removal of visible dirt, grime and impurities. • Disinfecting refers to using chemical to kill germs on surfaces. • Follow the instructions on the product label. • Please refer to the General relaunch guidance and the Alberta Health Services environmental cleaning document.
<p>Minimum environmental cleaning frequency</p> <p>Frequency of cleaning in high touch areas (e.g., in hallways, etc. in large schools)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The school should determine what is possible for general cleaning of the overall school; ideally the frequency would be greater than normal operations with minimum frequencies outlined below. • Focus should be on high-touch surfaces such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Common area high touch surfaces (e.g., door knobs, handrails, vending machines and washroom taps) should be cleaned frequently throughout the day. ○ Student contact surfaces (e.g., desks and equipment): between each student/user. • Eliminate or restrict sharing of supplies as much as possible.
<p>Student involvement in cleaning and disinfecting their spaces</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider age of students and school policies to determine if this might be appropriate.
<p>Recommended frequency for handwashing or hand sanitizing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Base hand hygiene frequencies more on activity than time: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Entering/leaving school/classroom; ○ Boarding/exiting the bus; ○ Changing activities; ○ Moving spaces; ○ Before and after using manipulatives (e.g., hands-on learning tools); ○ Before and after donning and doffing a mask; and ○ Before and after eating. • Utilize hand sanitizer and/or hand washing depending on age and ability of students, as well as availability of hand washing sinks. • Implement routines to avoid crowding or substantial line ups.
<p>Safety concerns with alcohol based hand sanitizers (e.g., ingestion and fire)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider the age and ability of students when determining whether hand sanitizers are appropriate. • Due to its high alcohol content and the high risk of toxicity with alcohol, hand sanitizer can cause serious harm if ingested. The risk of ingestion is greater for those who may not understand the warning labels and negative effects of ingestion. • Keep out of reach of younger students, supervise them while using

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	<p>hand sanitizer and place hand sanitizer in monitored areas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are non-alcohol based sanitizers that may be considered; see the list of hand sanitizers authorized by Health Canada. Parents who have questions about their child using alcohol-based hand sanitizer should contact their school administration to discuss potential alternatives. • Handwashing with soap and water is very effective and should be a focus when possible.
SCREENING	
<p>Requirements for a staff member if their immediate family member has travelled outside of Canada within the last 14 days</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • According to the Alberta Health Daily Checklist, the staff member is not required to quarantine.
<p>School board requirements for recording and keeping daily health screening forms from students and staff members</p> <p>Record retention</p> <p>Responsibility for ensuring daily assessment is completed</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students and staff are required to self-screen for symptoms each day that they enter the school using the Alberta Health Daily Checklist. • Although health screening of staff and students is required, there is no requirement for verification or the collection and retention of formal records. • Parents/guardians and children/students must be provided a copy of the screening tool upon school registration with the expectation that it will be completed with the parent/guardian on a daily basis, prior to entering the school. • The main purpose of daily screening is to ensure parents/guardians are aware and vigilant in monitoring for potential symptoms. Communication with parents, rather than direct oversight, is key. • Health screening may look different for students and staff (e.g., School Occupational Health & Safety may determine it is appropriate to require recorded screening online or paper from staff). • Records retention would be determined by the school board. • Schools should have paper copies of the daily checklist available for visitors to the school.
<p>Thermometer use in schools</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is no expectation for schools to monitor temperature every day. • Schools should focus on ensuring parents are aware of health screening policies and their responsibilities for daily screening.

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<p>Verifying student/staff temperatures</p> <p>Acceptable temperature range when using a forehead scanning thermometer</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thermometers are available for taking temperature of students who present with symptoms during the school day. However, schools are not required to routinely verify temperatures for any student or staff. • The acceptable temperature range when using a forehead scanning thermometer is generally 36.6°C - 38.0°C. Please refer to the manufacturer’s instructions for product use.
<p>Protection/accommodation of students or staff members who are immune-compromised or have underlying health conditions that place them at higher risk in relation to COVID-19</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students/family members should consult with their primary care provider to consider their personal risk and make a decision on what supports may be needed or what is the best option for learning. • In addition to consulting with a physician, Albertans can assess the risk of experiencing severe health outcomes from COVID-19 using the COVID-19 personal risk severity assessment online. • Parents/guardians can discuss available options for support with their local school/school board. • Teachers/staff should consult with their primary care provider to consider their personal risk. • Teachers/staff can discuss the available options for support with their local school board.
<p>COHORTING</p>	
<p>Cohorting in schools where students move from class to class and there are different students in each class</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • While complete cohorting may not be achievable in older grades, measures should be implemented that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Keep the same groups of students together whenever possible ; ○ Avoid large gatherings of students (e.g., assembly); and ○ Minimize activities that encourage face-to-face interaction and common touch surfaces (e.g., adjust some non-academic classes such as foods, physical education, etc.). • Where cohorting is not achievable, increase focus on other measures, such as physical distancing, hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette and the use of non-medical masks. • Schools may want to consider class scheduling options that would reduce the number of classes in a day/week for each student and assist with traffic flow in busy areas (e.g., one way hallways).
<p>Teacher involvement in a class cohort</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If teachers cannot physically distance from students, they would be considered part of the class cohort. • If teachers interact with more than one group of students without

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	distancing, they would be part of multiple cohorts.
Teacher and staff cohorts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teachers/staff should not be in a cohort with each other, unless it is required for operational purposes (i.e., a teacher and a teacher's assistant who work with the same classroom cohort). If one teacher/staff tests positive for COVID-19 and is in a cohort with other teachers/staff, every teacher/staff in that cohort will be required to quarantine, which may have a significant negative impact on the ability for the school to remain operational for in-person learning.
Cohorting in extracurricular activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> While schools cannot control what happens outside school hours, cohorting or other control measures within a school will still help lessen the risk of spread of COVID-19. Schools can play a big part by educating students on the risk of COVID-19 to themselves and others, and by modelling good practices. Schools should consider limiting the total potential number of cohort groups that a student may be permitted to be part of in the school setting (e.g., limit school-based extracurricular activities and clubs). Cohorts only need to be formed if 2 metres of distancing can not be maintained. For example, a cross country running group that could always keep 2 metres apart while training would not be considered a cohort.
Cohorts in very small schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In very small schools (e.g., equivalent to a single class size), the school may be considered one cohort. Other public health measures, including physical distancing, hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette and use of non-medical face masks for all teachers/staff as well as students in grades 4 - 12 should still be implemented.
Management of substitute teachers or education assistants that visit multiple cohorts and schools Designated substitute list for schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The use of substitute teachers is not restricted at this time. The school should maintain clear records of substitute teachers for contact tracing. Substitute teachers must perform the Alberta Health Daily Checklist before entering the school. Any temporary staff or visiting specialists should practice physical distancing, hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette, wearing a non-medical face mask and staying home when ill.
Students taking courses at another school	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students attending another school for courses should be avoided if possible.

PHYSICAL DISTANCING

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<p>Physical distancing within cohorts</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical distancing is a very effective control measure for COVID-19 and should still be the goal even within a cohort. • If 2 metres of physical distancing is not possible within a cohort, additional strategies can be used (e.g., arranging desks/tables so students do not face each other). • Cohorting will decrease the number of close contacts of a case of COVID-19 and assist public health officials in their efforts in contact tracing and containing an outbreak.
<p>Distancing expectations for students</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students are not expected to sit in their desk for the duration of the day. It is recognized that learning can place during various activities. • Additional measures can be implemented when students are not seated in the classroom: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Considering activities that 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/or ○ Consider additional scenarios where non-medical face masks may be appropriate.
<p>When 2 metres of physical distance is not possible</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Even if physical distancing is not always possible, it should be employed whenever circumstances or space allow for it. • Consider a multi-layered approach that acknowledges emphasis on different control measures in different situations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Increased cleaning and disinfection; ○ Hand and respiratory hygiene; ○ Cohorting; ○ Non-medical face masks for all teachers/staff as well as for students in grades 4-12; and ○ Maintain attendance information (e.g., class lists, seating plans, etc.) for potential contact tracing. • Adjust approach based on age of students and school design.
<p>Play-based curriculum for younger grades</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider a multi-layered approach that acknowledges emphasis on different control measures in different situations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Teachers should encourage frequent hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette; ○ High touch surfaces should be frequently cleaned and disinfected; and ○ School staff can ensure effective cohorting of students so

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	they do not come into contact with other cohorts within the school
How to align with recommendations to have students face forward and not face each other if a school has circular or communal tables	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This design may be more manageable in schools that can more effectively cohort students. • Assign seating so that exposure is limited to small groups of students. • Barriers are acceptable at the school’s discretion but are not required; there are many design, safety and maintenance features to be considered. • Encourage frequent hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette. • Restructure where possible.
NON-MEDICAL FACE MASKS	
Face shield use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A face shield is not a substitute for a face mask from a safety perspective. • To be acceptable, a mask should fit securely over the nose and mouth and not have large gaps between the mask and your chin, cheeks or nose where droplets can escape. Transparent masks should have these same features. • 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. • Face shields may be worn in addition to a mask, at the discretion of the individual.
Non-medical face mask alternatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alternatives to non-medical face masks (e.g., neck gaiters, buffs or bandanas) offer lesser protection than other non-medical face masks, and as such are not recommended in these settings. Although some alternatives may provide similar levels of protection, it will be difficult to assess on a case-by-case basis and therefore are not recommended. • Neck gaiters may pose the risk of improper storage and contamination by pulling on and off over the head.
Mask requirements in the classroom	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-medical face masks are not routinely required while students are seated in the classroom facing forwards with the greatest

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	<p>possible distance between seated persons, however they can be worn.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School boards may choose to have more stringent requirements.
<p>Rationale for mandatory mask use for students in grades 4-12 and not for students in K-3</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is increasing evidence that older students may be more likely to transmit COVID-19 than younger students, and are at a higher risk of significant disease than younger students. • While masks may be considered for students in grades K through 3, they are not routinely recommended due to difficulties with proper fit, compliance, and less virus transmission among younger children.
<p>Guidelines to support special needs students who are unable to wear a mask</p> <p>Mask exceptions for students and staff</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As with younger grades, it may be acceptable to emphasize a strong cohorting arrangement that places less emphasis on masking and more emphasis on hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette and enhanced cleaning. • The exceptions to the mask requirement for all teachers and staff in all school settings and students in grades 4 through 12 are included in the School Re-Entry Guidance. • For all staff, as well as students in grade 4 through 12 who are unable to wear a mask due to one of the exceptions outlined in Order 33-2020, the individual or parent/guardian should contact the school administration to discuss their request for an exception, options available and any requirements that are specific within the school. Adherence to the other public health measures, such as maintaining 2 metres distance from every other person, should be ensured.
<p>Mask use and storage between use</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educate students on how to properly put on and remove a reusable mask, emphasizing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Wash hands or use hand sanitizer before handling; ○ Handle mask by the ties/ear loops/elastics; ○ Avoid touching the mask once it is on; and ○ Change masks when they become wet or soiled • Reusable masks that are not damp or dirty that will be re-worn prior to washing should be stored in a clean, breathable bag or container. • If using a reusable cloth mask, a fresh, clean mask should be used each day. • See mask guidance for more information.

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<p>Mask use for teachers when at the front of the room</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If students are all seated and the teacher is in a designated area at the front of the class with at least 2 metres of physical distance from the closest student, they may remove their mask to teach. • The teacher should be open with students about why they are able to remove the mask to reinforce/model behaviors. • Teachers should continue to physically distance as much as possible even when wearing a mask.
<p>EXPECTATIONS FOR DROP-OFF/PICK-UP AND ENTRY AREAS AT SCHOOLS</p>	
<p>Protocols for drop-off and pick-up</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designated entrances for classes/groups of students. • Signage at doorways regarding physical distance and hand hygiene at entry. • Teachers supervising entryways. • Physical distancing markers in areas that generally become crowded (e.g., line up areas, boot rooms). • One way flow in entries and hallways (with floor markings). • Limited time for entry to reduce congregation. • Restrict parents to outside areas whenever possible. • Stagger drop off/bus arrival times. • Coordinate bus times with entry/exit.
<p>IN PERSON LEARNING</p>	
<p>Band classes and wind instruments</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In a space where band students could be physically distanced on all sides (e.g., gymnasium, outside), band classes may be considered. • Additional precautions are required for instrumental music, including wind instruments. Please see the Guidance for instrumental music for specific recommendations. Chairs and music stands should be cleaned and disinfected between uses.
<p>Mask use during singing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Although certain children may have exceptions from masking during regular school activities, everyone participating in singing should wear a mask, including children in K-3. • As singing is a high risk activity, children who have an exception to masking can be provided with another musical part (e.g., percussion) or if the child will be singing, they should be alone in a dedicated space or room (e.g., a constructed acrylic plastic room) • Please see the Guidance for singing & vocal performance for additional information.
<p>EXPECTATIONS FOR VISITORS & OTHER SERVICE PROVIDERS ENTERING THE SCHOOL</p>	

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<p>Volunteers in the classroom</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visitors should be screened using the Alberta Health Daily Checklist prior to entering the school. • Outdoor environments that allow for physical distancing are lower risk for transmission. • Visitors, including volunteers, are required to follow the school policies, practice strict physical distancing, hand hygiene and wear a non-medical face mask. • Visitor movement within the school should be closely tracked for contact tracing purposes. • Visitor movement within the school should be limited when possible.
<p>RISK MITIGATION FOR HIGH TRAFFIC AREAS IN SCHOOL FACILITIES</p>	
<p>Physical distancing and washroom use</p> <p>Staff monitoring of washrooms</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider designated washrooms for particular groups of classrooms/cohorts. • Post rules for washroom use, including distancing, at washroom entrances. • There are many considerations in determining whether closure of fixtures is appropriate: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Will it result in increased congregation or line ups? ○ How many sinks are available in a particular washroom? Will closing some result in poorer hand hygiene if students are not willing to wait? ○ Are the sinks extremely close together, or are they reasonably close to 2 metres apart? ○ Are students wearing masks in common areas? • There is no expectation for school staff to actively monitor washrooms, but teachers could limit the number of students leaving the classroom at a given time and periodic checks could be considered.
<p>EXPECTATIONS FOR SHARED USE EQUIPMENT</p>	
<p>Storing personal items</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In some classrooms, particularly in lower grades where cohorting is more successfully employed, students should bring what they need for the day and store belongings in the classroom: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ In their backpack under the desk or in a designated space; ○ In an assigned bin; and/or ○ Jackets/boots can be stored in boot rooms with entry procedures in place to minimize crowding
<p>Locker use</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lockers can be used but measures should be in place to minimize crowding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Space lockers out when possible; ○ Assign lockers based on cohort/grade/class; and

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Consider having students bring what they need for the day and keep school supplies and textbooks in their backpack to minimize locker visits.
Common equipment in classrooms or common areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Use of shared equipment/items should be avoided when possible: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Provide individual bags/containers for pencils/coloring tools for younger students; and ○ Avoid shared books when possible ● Encourage hand hygiene before and after use of shared equipment/books. ● Disinfect touch points of equipment between users (e.g., keyboards, printer touchpads). ● For electronic devices, refer to the manufacturer’s instructions for specific recommendations.
Handling paper, library books and other items that cannot be disinfected Handling paper tests and assignments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● For libraries, refer to Guidance for Libraries. ● Items that cannot be cleaned or disinfected can be stored in a sealed container for 24 hours. ● If handling paper tests and assignments, ensure good hand hygiene before and after touching the paper and avoid touching the face prior to performing hand hygiene. Out of an abundance of caution, paper tests and assignments can be stored for 24 hours prior to handling. ● Hard covers of books can be cleaned and disinfected between uses if it does not ruin the books.
Handling play clothes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Assign outfits to a single student at a time. ● If possible, launder clothing between users. If laundering between uses is not possible, store clothing for 24 hours before it is re-used by a different child.
AUXILIARY SPACES	
Locker rooms for physical education programming	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Encourage students to arrive ready to participate in their activity without needing to use a change room if possible. ● Set capacity limits for locker rooms and adjust lockers to support physical distancing. ● Clean and disinfect surfaces, sinks and toilets regularly.
Recommendations or restrictions for use of playground equipment during recess or physical education classes and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Playgrounds are not restricted for student or public use. ● Hand hygiene should be practiced before and after use of equipment. ● Educational signage could be considered, particularly if the playground is accessible to the public.

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<p>public access to playgrounds</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See Guidance for Playgrounds.
<p>Recommended activities for physical education</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refer to the Guidance for sport, physical activity and recreation. • When possible, choose activities that allow for physical distancing between students. • Promote outdoor activities instead of indoor activities where possible. • Teachers are to wear non-medical face masks during the class if unable to maintain 2 metres of physical distance from any students or other staff. • Teachers should also control the number of students participating in activities. Classroom cohorts should be maintained during physical education classes; classroom cohorts should not be combined to make larger cohorts.
<p>School sports teams</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For information on guidance for sports teams, including information on sports that use shared equipment, refer to the Guidance for sport, physical activity and recreation. • Follow your individual school/school board policy for team sports.
<p>FOOD SERVICES</p>	
<p>Food prepared in a food preparation class</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sharing food between students can be allowed if masks were worn while preparing the food. There should be a designated server serving the food, appropriate hand hygiene, and physical distancing during both preparation and while eating.
<p>Self-serve food in nutritional programs (breakfast and/or lunch)?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self-serve is not an option in the current guidelines except with individually packaged items. • Donated foods that arrive in bulk that are to be distributed through a self-serve option should be separated and packaged by staff/volunteers in an area that allows for all control measures and sanitary food preparation. • Any other food options should be distributed by staff to seated children in order to limit congregation of students and line ups.
<p>Parent-provided food</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are no restrictions on parents providing food/treats for a classroom if there is a designated server serving the food and appropriate hand hygiene and physical distancing is followed while eating. Please follow the school policy for parent-provided food.

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<p>School cafeterias</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For schools with full cafeterias or programs that handle and prepare foods, they must follow the Guidance For Restaurants, Cafes, Pubs, and Bars: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Measures should be in place to encourage physical distancing; ○ Stagger lunch times; ○ Space out tables and chairs; ○ Use floor markings for flow and line ups; and ○ Designate additional eating areas as needed (e.g., gyms, band rooms). ○ Cohorts should be maintained during breaks.
<p>Students working or volunteering in food establishments within schools</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is no restriction on students working in food establishments within schools. • Workplace control measures must be in place.
<p>RESPONDING TO ILLNESS</p>	
<p>Where to find more information on the process for symptomatic students/staff, contact-tracing, etc.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please refer to the COVID-19 School Outbreak Resource Guide for information on school actions when individuals at the school are symptomatic or test positive for COVID-19.
<p>If a student gets sick at school</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If a child/student develops symptoms while at the school, please refer to the “symptomatic” section of the COVID-19 School Outbreak Resource Guide for further information.
<p>School role in contact tracing for confirmed cases</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If a student, staff member or visitor is confirmed to be a case of COVID-19 and was at the school while they were infectious and/or could have reasonably acquired the infection from the school, Alberta Health Services (AHS) Public Health will notify the school of the exposure and will work with the school for contact tracing. See the Alert and Outbreak sections of the COVID-19 School Outbreak Resource Guide. • Consider assigning a single responsible person to maintain records for contact tracing, including communication with public health representatives. • Contact tracing records may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Full class lists, including teachers and other staff present in the classroom; ○ Daily attendance records for students and staff, (including substitutes and other temporary staff); ○ Records of students and staff that become symptomatic during the school day;

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Class seating arrangements; ○ Outlines of other school control measures in place; ○ Visitor records; and ○ Any additional information requested by AHS Public Health. ● The school is not responsible for contacting close contacts of the COVID-19 case. AHS Public Health notifies all identified close contacts during their investigation.
<p>Decisions on the need for alternate instructional delivery in the event of a COVID-19 case at a school</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Public Health measures for outbreak management are at the discretion of the zone Medical Officer of Health (MOH). ● Decisions on the need for alternate instructional delivery (e.g., at-home learning) will be made by Government in conjunction with local officials. ● Please refer to the COVID-19 School Outbreak Resource Guide.
<p>School outbreak definition and meaning</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A COVID-19 outbreak within a school setting is defined as “two or more confirmed cases (staff and/or student) within a 14 day period (one incubation period)”. ● Schools are to work collaboratively with AHS Public Health under the authority of the Zone Medical Officer of Health/designate in order to manage their outbreak status and adhere to any recommendations or orders provided by the Medical Officer of Health/designate. ● This includes working with AHS Public Health to provide information required for contact tracing, as outlined in the Alberta Public Health Act. ● For more information on outbreaks in schools, please see the COVID-19 School Outbreak Resource Guide.
<p>Notifying close contacts and parents of close contacts of a COVID-19 case</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The school administration is not responsible for contacting close contacts of a COVID-19 case. ● AHS Public Health will work with the school administration to identify close contacts; AHS Public Health investigators will contact close contacts and the parents/guardians of close contacts. ● If there is a confirmed case of COVID-19 identified in the school, AHS Public Health will direct the school administrator to send a notification to parents/guardians of students. Please see the COVID-19 School Outbreak Resource Guide for more information on this process.
<p>When a child or staff member returns to school</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A student or staff member is not required to have proof of a negative test result or a medical note in order to return to school. As per CMOH Order 05-2020, COVID-19 cases are legally required to

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<p>after isolation or quarantine</p>	<p>isolate for 10 days from the start of their symptoms, or until symptoms resolve, whichever takes longer. Close contacts are legally required to isolate for 14 days from their last exposure to a person who tested positive for COVID-19.</p>
<p>Written confirmation of negative test results</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Email or written confirmation of test results is not part of the current notification process with AHS. • Adults and children 14 years of age or older can access their test results using MyHealth Records and print these results. • As of October 1, 2020, parents/guardians can use their MyHealth Records' account to access their children's COVID-19 test results online. • Individuals/parents/guardians may be offered the option to consent for text message notification of COVID-19 test results when arranging for testing. • Individuals may also choose to contact their primary care providers to access their results.
<p>COVID-19 testing for students and school staff</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alberta teachers and school staff who require testing should use the AHS Online Testing tool. • Work is being done to speed turnaround time to results for all tests.
<p>STUDENT TRANSPORTATION</p>	
<p>Hand sanitizer use when entering and exiting the bus</p> <p>Rural bus systems</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hand hygiene before and after using a shared space is an important measure in COVID-19 prevention. • Masking on buses is required for all students grade 4 and 12 and bus drivers when a 2 metre distance cannot be maintained. • Non-medical face masks may be considered for students in grades K through 3 however they are not routinely recommended. • City buses and other city public transportation are under the jurisdiction of the municipality. Individuals taking city public transportation should comply with their masking guidance and/or bylaws.
<p>Carpooling</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students and staff should be discouraged from carpooling unless they are from the same household, as it has been shown to be a high risk factor. • If carpooling is necessary, take steps to keep all occupants safe: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Limit the number of people in the vehicle where possible, to maintain physical distance of 2 metres); ○ Ensure all occupants wear masks and wash their hands before entering the vehicle; and

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Clean and disinfect commonly touched surfaces such as door handles, seatbelt buckles and arm rests after each trip. ● Please see Guidance for safe transportation.
Non-medical face masks on the bus for students in grades K through 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Non-medical face masks are not mandatory for students in grades K through 3 while on the bus, however they can be worn. ● School boards and/or bus companies may choose to have more stringent requirements.
INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS/PROGRAMS	
International student quarantine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Students can quarantine in a host home, a hotel or in a dormitory. ● Supervisors need to be onsite at a hotel or dormitory. ● Minimizing shared washrooms and meals would be a consideration in dormitories. ● Cohorts of students may be able to quarantine together when arriving at the same time, although this increases the risk of spread within this group, and is not a preferred option. ● Host families do not have to quarantine unless the international student tests positive for COVID-19.
Dormitory safety measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Limit the number of students sharing a washroom. ● Shared washrooms should be cleaned and disinfected regularly. ● Consider designating washroom stalls and showers when possible for specific groups to use. ● Employ a schedule for laundry access. ● Common areas (e.g., shared kitchens, lounges, dining spaces) should be organized to promote physical distancing. ● Cleaning and disinfecting frequencies should be increased. ● Limit storage of personal items (including food) in common areas. ● Match classroom/school cohorts to dormitory cohorts when possible.
COMPLIANCE	
Course of action if an individual does not comply with protocols at the school	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Concerns should be directed to school principal, school authority central office, or Alberta Education.
Course of action if a school does not comply with the guidance, or if they are unable to comply	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Schools are required to provide a safe environment and to follow the health guidelines, education guidelines and their local school board guidelines. ● Parents can contact their schools if they have concerns.

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with the guidance, what is the course of action?

- School administrators and school authorities who have concerns, need specific guidance or have questions about how to apply the measures outlined in the guidance document may contact AHS Environmental Public Health in their zone for assistance (see Appendix B) or contact AHS Environmental Public Health using the web portal.
- Concerns identified by AHS should be discussed with the school administration. Concerns that cannot be resolved through this process should be directed to Alberta Health, who may bring forward to Alberta Education as required.

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Appendix A: Indigenous Services Canada – First Nations and Inuit Health Branch ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES Contacts

ISC-First Nations and Inuit Health Branch Environmental Public Health Services	REGULAR BUSINESS HOURS 8:00 am – 4:00 pm	
Edmonton Office	Environmental Public Health	780-495-4409
Tsuut'ina Office	Environmental Public Health	403-299-3939

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Appendix B: AHS Zone Environmental Public Health Contacts

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