



2021/2022 RE-ENTRY PLAN

NOV. 1, 2021



**Lethbridge
SCHOOL DIVISION**

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2021/2022 School Year



MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

Welcome back to a new school year!

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I am pleased to present to you the 2021/2022 Re-Entry Plan for Lethbridge School Division. This document is a collaborative effort that reflects both the Guiding Principles and Guiding Documents which serve as the cornerstone to the decisions made for our path forward. It also reflects and has taken into consideration the valuable insights and perspectives received from our community partners.

This school year has been anticipated with both expectation and hesitation. Expectation because we have longed to fill the hallways again with students and have yearned for the ability to have 'all the things' that make school an exciting place of learning and discovery. Hesitation because the past 17 months have taught us that the ground below our feet can shift, and time and time again we have been called to be malleable with our expectations, leaving us to grieve the pieces we have lost.

As a community, amid our creativity, drive forward and encouragement to each other to 'keep going,' we have become weary, frustrated and cautious. We have seen the mental wellness of our students, staff and families suffer through this difficult season.

COVID protocols - masking and cohorts in particular - have been a divisive force within our community. The Board has heard various perspectives on these matters throughout the pandemic, and as we near the start-up of this school year, advocacy for these varying perspectives has been communicated strongly. We thank each person who reached out to us to convey their concerns and ideas.

At the end of the day, no matter the dividing factor, there is one common link between each of us - we want what is best for kids. It is for each student that we are here - to support their intellectual, physical, social, emotional and spiritual needs. We believe in growing learners to be innovative thinkers who are successful, confident, respectful and caring. As a Board, we believe the 2021/2022 Re-Entry Plan sets us on course to be able to do just this.

We encourage you to review this Re-Entry Plan and would appreciate hearing any feedback you may have. We believe each person has a voice and perspective that is valuable, and the mental wellness of our Division Family is paramount. As such, the Board will reach out to you, our community, in the coming weeks to hear your story and ensure we are doing all we can to support students, staff and families. We are proud of each of you for your tireless efforts to ensure that students not only endure but thrive.

**Thank you again for viewing
our plan and supporting
Lethbridge School Division**



Christine Light
Board Chair
Lethbridge School Division

GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR PLANNING

- The safety and well-being of students and staff is a priority.
- The School Division will attend to the protocols and recommendations established by Alberta Health Services.
- The Board believes that education is a shared responsibility and fully supports parents' role as outlined in Section 32 of the Education Act:

A parent has the prior right to choose the kind of education that shall be provided to the parent's child, and as a partner in education, has the responsibility to:

- (a) act as the primary guide and decision-maker with respect to the child's education,
 - (b) take an active role in the child's educational success, including assisting the child in complying with section 31,
 - (c) ensure that the child attends school regularly,
 - (d) ensure that the parent's conduct contributes to a welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environment,
 - (e) co-operate and collaborate with school staff to support the delivery of supports and services to the child,
 - (f) encourage, foster and advance collaborative, positive and respectful relationships with teachers, principals, other school staff and professionals providing supports and services in the school, and
 - (g) engage in the child's school community.
- Children and staff who are vulnerable may require attention to accommodations.
 - Students will have quality learning opportunities that are guided by Alberta Education mandates and the provincial Programs of Study.
 - Staff will have access to the professional learning, collaboration and support they need to grow instructional practice in all potential methods of delivery.
 - Consistency of program delivery over time is important for sound allocation of staffing and resources.

PROVINCIAL BACKGROUND AND OVERVIEW

- March 15, 2020, Alberta's K-12 schools were closed for in-school classes due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. The primary mode of delivery was online learning, although some students who did not have access to technology were accessing learning with hard-copy resources.
- The 2020-2021 school year started with in-school delivery of learning with a number of safety protocols in place (e.g. masks, cohorts, hygiene focus, sanitization, extra cleaning, restrictions on co-curricular and extra-curricular to maintain integrity of cohorts). Lethbridge School Division also provided the option of "at-home learning" for students with three pivot points (students could change from in-school to at-home learning and visa versa).
- On May 26, 2021, Alberta government announced an "Open for Summer Plan." This plan followed a year of varying restrictions across all sectors. The stages for the "Open for Summer Plan" are based on immunization percentages of eligible Albertans (age 12+) and hospitalization rates. Stage 1 of the reopening plan started June 1 (two weeks following 50% of eligible Albertans receiving one dose of a vaccine and less than 800 hospitalizations). Stage 2 started on June 10 (60% of eligible Albertans receiving one dose of a vaccine and less than 500 hospitalizations).

PROVINCIAL BACKGROUND AND OVERVIEW

- Stage 3 started July 1 (two weeks after 70% of eligible Albertans receiving at least one dose of a vaccination). All restrictions were lifted, including a ban on indoor social gatherings. Isolation requirements for confirmed cases of COVID-19 and some protective measures in continuing care settings remained. The general indoor provincial mask mandate was lifted with the statement that masking may still be required in limited and specific settings.

GOVERNMENT OF ALBERTA'S 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR PLAN

On August 13, 2021, Alberta Government released the "2021-2022 School Year Plan" [2021-2022 School Year Plan](https://www.alberta.ca/2021-2022-school-year-plan) ([alberta.ca](https://www.alberta.ca)). This plan serves as the primary guide for Lethbridge School Division "2021-22 School Re-entry Plan."

The Government of Alberta has two contingency scenarios in case the COVID-19 pandemic impacts the education system:

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

- School authorities must implement routine measures to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19 and other respiratory illnesses
- Additional public health recommendations for student learning and extracurricular activities for those unable to receive immunizations
- Outbreak management and interventions similar to influenza outbreak response

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

- School authorities will offer at-home learning opportunities to students
- Schools will work with families to ensure student learning continues
- Teachers will continue to assess student progress
- Continue to follow the public health measures in place

Immunization Clinics

As part of the Re-entry Plan communication from Alberta Government, it was announced that COVID-19 immunization clinics are being planned for grades 7 through 12 schools across the province. AHS has indicated that students under 18 will not be vaccinated without parent or guardian consent. When available, consent forms will be accessible online or from the school.

September 3 Provincial Update

On Sept. 3, the Government of Alberta announced further actions to protect the health system from COVID-19. The province made masks mandatory for all indoor public spaces and workplaces starting Sept. 4. Schools were not required to implement masking but the government added school boards will continue to set COVID-19 management policies as they deem appropriate. More information can be found here: [COVID](#)

September 15 Provincial Update

On Sept. 15, the Government of Alberta announced new temporary health measures to help slow the spread of COVID-19. For schools, that included mandatory masking for students in grades 4 and up, plus staff and teachers in all grades.

September 20 Provincial Update

The province implemented a Restriction Exemption Program (REP) for businesses in the province. School jurisdictions can implement the REP for activities that are non-curricular.

October 5 Provincial Update

Minister of Health and Minister of Education wrote all school boards strongly encourage all school authorities to develop policies for vaccination of staff. Stated in press conference with Chief Medical Officer of Health.

October 12 Provincial Update

Alberta Health implemented new protocol for reporting COVID contacts. School jurisdictions work with Alberta Health Services to provide notification to parents if their child may have been exposed to a COVID-19 case who was infectious while at school. Alberta government to report alerts and outbreaks on the Alberta COVID website (map).

October 27 Provincial Update

Minister of Education announced that diploma examinations will be weighted at 10% of a student's final grade rather than 30%.

GUIDING DOCUMENTS

1	Parents' Guide 2021-22 School Year	<u>Parent Guide 2021-2022 (alberta.ca)</u>
2	Parent Letter from Dr. Hinshaw	<u>ADMINSA3975 (alberta.ca)</u>
3	Guidance for Respiratory Illness Prevention and Management in Schools	<u>Guidance for Respiratory Illness Prevention and Management in Schools (alberta.ca)</u>
4	Public Health Management of Respiratory Illness in Schools: Q & A for school administrators	<u>Public Health Management of Respiratory Illness in Schools: QA for School Administrators (alberta.ca)</u>
5	2021-2022 School Year Plan	<u>2021-2022 School Year Plan (alberta.ca)</u>
6	Daily Health Checklist Children under 18 and Adults	<u>COVID-19 Alberta Health Daily Checklist</u>
7	Attending School Safely Alberta	<u>Preparing for a new school year Alberta.ca</u>
8	Provincial Assessment	<u>Preparing for a new school year Alberta.ca</u>
9	Alberta COVID Youth Mental Health Hub	<u>Jack.org - COVID-19 Hub</u>
10	Guidance for Schools (K-12) and School Buses - Scenario 1	<u>COVID-19 Guidance for Schools and School Buses - Scenario 1 (alberta.ca)</u>
11	Alberta Restriction Exemption Program	<u>COVID-19 public health actions</u>
12	Resource Guide for Managing COVID-19 Cases in School (K-12) Settings	<u>Resource Guide</u>

The Lethbridge School Division “2021/2022 School Re-entry Plan” is subject to change. The Board of Trustees will continue to monitor local context as well as recommendations and protocol mandates from Alberta Education, the Chief Medical Officer of Health and municipal government.

IN-SCHOOL DELIVERY OF LEARNING

The Re-entry Plan for Lethbridge School Division is guided by the provincial “2021-2022 School Year Plan,” other provincial support documents, and consideration of local context. In circumstances where this plan exceeds provincial requirements, schools will adhere to this document understanding that School Boards have been given the authority to exceed provincial protocols where they feel it is important to keep students safe and healthy. In instances where this plan exceeds the minimum requirements, the trustees recognize this and assume accountability for the decision.

ENVIRONMENTAL MEASURES

HVAC Systems

HVAC systems maintained in accordance with manufacturer operational guidelines. Ongoing monitoring occurs and filters changed on a regular basis to ensure fresh air is brought into the buildings at prescribed rates.

Outdoor Activities

Outdoor activities are encouraged.

Enhanced Cleaning

Schools will continue to have the enhanced cleaning protocols put in place for the 2021-2022 school year. Lethbridge School Division works to sanitize, wash and provide clean conditions with floors, walls, doors, fixtures, cupboards, counters, desks and instructional resources every day. High-touch surfaces sanitized on a regular basis throughout the day.

SCREENING FOR ILLNESS AND STAYING HOME WHEN SICK

Screening

Before coming to school each day, parents/guardians should assess their children daily for any new signs or symptoms of COVID-19 using the Alberta Health Daily Checklist. [COVID-19 Alberta Health Daily Checklist](#) (Note – scroll past the adult checklist to find the children checklist). Staff must complete the Alberta Health Daily Checklist for adults before coming to work. [COVID-19 Alberta Health Daily Checklist](#)

Families and staff are not required to submit the checklist to the school. It is a tool to assess wellness.

If a student or staff member has symptoms, they are directed to stay at home, seek health care advice as appropriate, and fill out the AHS Online Self-Assessment tool to determine if they should be tested ([COVID-19 Testing / Online Booking | Alberta Health Services](#)) or call Health Link 811.

Alberta Isolation Requirements

Students, staff or visitors who feel ill or have any symptoms of COVID-19 cannot enter the school. Anyone who tests positive or has symptoms of COVID-19 must follow Alberta’s isolation requirements ([Isolation and quarantine requirements | Alberta.ca](#)).

SEPTEMBER DAILY CHECKLIST UPDATE

In September, an update was made to the daily symptom screening checklist, which recommends that when someone tests positive, any unvaccinated and partially vaccinated household contacts should quarantine for 14 days after an exposure to a COVID case in their household. This applies to household contacts only, and does not apply to close contacts such as classmates in school or a workplace. To view Dr. Hinshaw’s clarification regarding the updated checklist, please click the following link: [CHECKLIST](#)

MANAGEMENT OF SYMPTOMATIC INDIVIDUALS AND INDIVIDUALS TESTED FOR COVID-19

Current as of September 7, 2021

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 (without fever) 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 10 days or until symptoms have improved AND afebrile (without fever) 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

HAND HYGIENE AND RESPIRATORY ETIQUETTE

Hand Hygiene	<p>Hand sanitizer available in common areas and instructional spaces.</p> <p>Students encouraged to wash hands with soap and running water.</p> <p>Promotion of hand hygiene before and 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.).</p> <p>Giving verbal reminders for hand hygiene and posting signs as reminders.</p> <p>Schools can download posters at Preparing for a new school year Alberta.ca</p>
Respiratory Etiquette	<p>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.</p>

RESPONDING TO ILLNESS AT SCHOOL

In-School Actions	<p>Schools will have a plan in place if a student or staff member develops any symptoms of illness as described in the screening tool while at school including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Having a separate area for students and staff who are sick; staff to go home immediately and parents/guardians of sick children called to pick up the student. • Any individual who is symptomatic and waiting for departure will be provided with a mask. • Any staff caring for a symptomatic child will wear a mask. • Sanitizing of area with symptomatic individual.
School Division Case Notification	<p>Alberta Health Services will advise school authorities of cases that are Positive COVID-19 and confirmed as infectious while at school. School authorities will advise parents and staff at a school the exposed cohort group(s) that has positive COVID-19 cases. Cohort groups include classes, any team, club, or group, as well as any group of students that ride on a bus.</p>
Exclusion for Exposed Students (K-6 Only)	<p>If it is identified through Contact Notification from Alberta Health Services that there are three COVID-19 cases in one class (kindergarten through Grade 6) who attended school while infectious within a five day period, the class cohort will be excluded from school (students cannot attend school in-person for 10 days from the last date they were exposed to an infectious COVID-19 case).</p> <p>During an exclusion period, it is strongly recommended excluded individuals do not participate in any activities outside of their home, including sports, clubs, worship or attending any other public place. Students will receive instruction using at-home learning delivery (Microsoft Teams).</p>
Outbreak Management	<p>AHS Public Health will initiate an outbreak investigation once there are TEN or more confirmed cases in the school setting (students and staff members) within a 14-day period who were present at the school while infectious. If an outbreak has been declared, AHS Public Health will draft a letter specific to the school, including what actions are being taken and any relevant health advice. The letter is provided to the school division for distribution to parents and staff.</p>
Provincial Public Reporting of cases	<p>COVID-19 School Status Map: Includes any school that has two or more infectious cases of COVID-19 within a 14 day period: MAP</p> <p>REPORTING ALERTS</p> <p>If there are TWO to NINE confirmed cases in a school setting who were present at the school while infectious within a 14 day period, the school will be publicly reported as having an Alert.</p> <p>If there are 10 or MORE confirmed cases in a school setting who were present at the school while infectious within a 14 day period, the school will be publicly reported as having an Outbreak (10+)</p>

TRANSPORTATION

Masks on buses	<p>CMOH Order 34-2021 of the Chief Medical Officer - Masks remain mandatory for students, drivers, staff members and visitors on school buses, public transit, taxis and ride-sharing.</p>
Additional School Bus Protocols	<p>Drivers will assign seating by household. Drivers will take attendance.</p> <p>Drivers will follow screening and COVID-19 Management protocols.</p> <p>Southland (provider) will continue to implement the same cleaning protocols that were in place for the 2020-2021 school year, including increased frequency of cleaning and disinfection of high-touch surfaces during the day and thorough cleaning each evening.</p>

VISITORS TO THE SCHOOL

Managing Visitor Contacts	<p>As was the case in 2020-2021, schools will be secure at the beginning of the school year. Visitors will be required to access schools using the outside bell (connected to the office), confirm they have reviewed the Alberta Health Daily Checklist (posted at sign-in), sign in, sanitize and wear a mask.</p>
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LARGE GROUP GATHERINGS

Gatherings

At the start of the school year and until further notice, large group gatherings of students inside the building as part of the school day (e.g. assemblies) is restricted. This will be monitored and restrictions lifted if data supports that we are at the point where large gatherings are not putting students at a heightened level of risk. Outdoor large group gatherings of students as part of the school day is restricted at all levels, expect in cohorts with social distancing. Approval must to obtained from the Associate Superintendent of Instructional Services.

MASKS

Masks are an important way to mitigate the risk of spreading COVID-19, especially now as Alberta is still working toward all eligible individuals being fully vaccinated and children under 12 cannot yet be vaccinated. Recognizing that children under 12 cannot yet be vaccinated, there are different mask requirements at the different levels. In areas where masks are encouraged and supported, but not required, the decision to have a student wear a mask is a choice made by parents and students. Schools will focus on ensuring there is an inclusive spirit that supports the choice of wearing masks in areas where they are not required.

Elementary, Middle School and High School

STUDENTS:

Students will be required to wear masks entering the school, leaving the school, and in common gathering spaces inside the school (e.g. hallways, washrooms).

CLASSROOM PROTOCOLS:

1. When students are out of their assigned seating plan engaged in close-contact interactive activities, they will be asked to wear a mask.
2. When students are working independently in their assigned seating, they are permitted to remove masks.

Wearing masks in outdoor spaces will not be required.

Students will wear masks in mixed cohort groups at all times in middle school when students are combined from multiple groups (e.g. middle school option classes).

STAFF:

In support of the Division's perspective that masks are a mitigation strategy, all staff will be role models and wear masks entering and exiting the building and in common gathering spaces in schools and other Division buildings (e.g. hallways, washrooms, cafeteria). Staff must wear marks when in close contact with students or other staff. Staff are permitted to remove masks when at their own work station, physically distanced from students and/or co-workers.

Visitors

All visitors are required to wear masks in all school spaces.

STAFF:

Visitors include staff who operate out of other facilities (eg. the Education Centre and Attwell Building.)

PHYSICAL DISTANCING

Schools will continue to physically distance students wherever possible. This may include strategies such as:

- removing and rearranging seating in common areas
- staggering the times that classes start and end to prevent crowded hallways
- assigning specific doors to students for entry and exit
- managing hallways to promote the flow of foot traffic and physical distancing

COHORTS

A cohort is a group of students and staff who remain together. We will approach structures at the elementary level and grade 6 cautiously at the beginning of the school year because children under the age of 12 cannot be vaccinated at this time.

Elementary Schools	Elementary classes are in natural cohort groups by class. Students will have physical education, music and other activities in their cohort. Schools may choose to have two cohort groups to a maximum of 50 students combined for some activities (maximum cohort size recommended for this age group by AHS). Schools will schedule recesses, lunch, entry and exit from the school in a manner that avoids large numbers of students or adults mingling. This will look different at each school given different sizes and configurations. Your school will provide more details. Levels of absenteeism as well as COVID cases in the community and school (as reported by AHS) will be monitored before implementing regular clubs and activities with school cohorts at the elementary level.
Middle Schools	Middle schools will be operating a regular class schedule. There are some natural cohort limits by grade and core subject configuration (the same group of students take core subjects together). Grade 6 will be monitored closely with respect to absenteeism with potential shifts regarding access to option courses.
High Schools	High schools will be operating a regular class schedule.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR AND CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Elementary Schools	The school year will begin with restrictions on after-school activities such as clubs and sports at the beginning of the school year. This decision will be reviewed on an ongoing basis recognizing that opportunity for these activities are important for students.
Middle and High Schools	Middle school and high school activities will follow the “ Extra-curricular and Co-curricular Phase-in Plan ” that was developed in the spring by secondary administrators and approved by the Board in June. The plan is fluid and responsive to provincial plans as well as local context.

STAYING UPDATED WITH HEALTH PROTOCOLS AND GUIDELINES

Updated health protocols and guidelines can be found on Lethbridge School Division website at this link [COVID-19 Information](#) as well as Alberta government website at this link [Alberta COVID-19 Updates](#)

OUT-OF-SCHOOL LEARNING: DIVISION E-LEARNING

In the spring of 2021, the school division promoted an “E-learning” program as a program of choice for students from grades 1 to 12. Any student from within or external to the division had the opportunity to register for this program. Those interested in E-Learning through Lethbridge School Division are encouraged to contact Dr. Robert Plaxton Elementary School, Senator Joyce Fairbairn Middle School or Lethbridge Collegiate Institute for more information on the application process. Further details regarding the E-learning program can be found under Programs on the Division website: [E-Learning](#)

PROVINCIAL SCENARIO 2: AT-HOME LEARNING

The provincial “2021-2022 School Year Plan” outlines expected response to the potential of what is referred to as “Contingency Scenario 2: At-home learning (in-school classes are suspended/cancelled).”

Under this contingency, the school division will ensure the following is in place:

- The school will work with families to ensure that learning will continue, and that the needs of students are met.
- Schools will have structures in place to deliver at-home learning using the online platform of Teams (Office 365). Most students received portions of delivery last school year by accessing Teams during class quarantine or during periods of time when the province mandated that all students learn at home.
- High school students - 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 will continue to be responsible for instruction, assessment and reporting.
- Students continue to be responsible to actively engage in learning and diligently pursue their education.

PROVINCIAL ASSESSMENT

At the start of the school year, Alberta Education’s communication was that the provincial testing program will resume fully for the 2021-2022 school year, including the high school Diploma Examination programs and the Provincial Achievement Testing program for grade.

On October 27, Alberta Education communicated that the Diploma Examinations will count for 10% of a student’s final grade rather than 30%.

PROVINCIAL RESOURCES

The province has produced a variety of resources that schools may access (posters, information). Link is as follows: [School Resources](#)

WELLNESS

Wellness in Schools

Our Division Wellness Work Plan 2020-2023 is focused on building an inclusive, positive school culture that embraces diversity and facilitates access to learning for all. Lethbridge School Division recognizes returning to school post-COVID-19 will present with heightened levels of stress for staff, students and families. In recent conversations with parents we have heard common themes of concern. These themes involve the desire to receive communication around “what is certain” in the fall, what social emotional supports will be in place in the fall for their children, and how will our Division address curricular/learning gaps moving forward.

As per Policy 504.2- Wellness In Schools, we aim to support social (connection), physical (activity), emotional, spiritual and intellectual needs in our schools. We will continue to frame success through a trauma-informed lens when we return to learning in September.

Alberta Health Services has worked diligently to provide our community with several resources supporting Wellness that can be found at <https://www.alberta.ca/coronavirus-info-for-albertans.aspx>. We will continue to follow Alberta Health Services Guidelines and Recommendations to best serve and support our schools in keeping students and staff safe. At this AHS site, you will find helpful tips and guidance/documents that provide supports in response to COVID-19.

Wellness grants in schools for the 2021-2022 school year will support enhancing physical activity and outdoor learning. Through current research we know that mental health is positively impacted by being physically active and being in nature ([The Impact of COVID-19 on Physical Activity Behavior and Well-Being of Canadians \(nih.gov\)](#), [Nature and mental health: An ecosystem service perspective | Science Advances \(sciencemag.org\)](#)). Students will benefit from movement opportunities and being outside regularly as we recalibrate from the difficult year we have had.

In order to best serve and support Wellness in our Division, we know that a coordinated multi-agency and multi-tiered approach supporting all individuals in our system is paramount. While ensuring community is part of our return, we also recognize the classroom is the first line of universal support provided to students. Relationships are the foundation of robust instruction. The School Division works closely with various agencies within the Lethbridge community, recognizing that we cannot “do it all” for staff and students.

Returning to school in September will bring many Wellness challenges to the surface that students, staff and families experienced during the height of the pandemic. It is also understood that a focus on Wellness is at the foundation of a healthy learner and staff member. Endorsing a system that “takes care of each other” ensures that we all are responsible and are accountable for the positive and healthy culture that we co-create.

Our Wellness Teams work closely with Administrators, Learning Support teachers, family members and classroom teachers to best support students who are struggling to function within the educational context. Teachers understand the importance of universal teaching strategies such as self-regulation opportunities in the classroom, assessment to guide instruction, accommodations/adaptations and visuals (i.e. schedules, if then statements), behaviour plans, ISP/IPPs, classroom expectations, peer mentoring/support) that help all learners to be successful. If students continue to present with social emotional concerns that impact learning, referrals are made to the school Wellness Team.

HAZARD ASSESSMENT AND CONTROL

- Hazard assessments and controls help build safe and healthy workplaces.
- They are at the core of Lethbridge School Division's occupational health and safety management system.
- COVID-19 is a biological hazard. There are four factors that will contribute to how this hazard impacts schools:
 - o People
 - o Equipment
 - o Materials
 - o Environment
- When hazards related to COVID-19 cannot be completely eliminated, the following hierarchy of controls are required:
 - o Engineering controls - These control the hazard at the source. Examples include:
 - Placing barriers or partitions between staff, removing seats from lunchrooms and dining areas, rearranging classroom desks, reassigning lockers, isolating staff from virus via clear plastic barrier, increasing ventilation rates where possible, isolation rooms for sick.
 - o Administrative controls - These controls change the way workers, volunteers and patrons interact. Examples include:
 - Policies for physical distancing, limiting hours of operations, providing adequate supplies, requiring hand and respiratory hygiene, visual reminders for hand hygiene, visual reminders of social distancing, increased frequency of cleaning, practices and procedures such as staying home if sick, minimize non-essential travel and travel between schools, training and supervision.
 - o PPE (Personal Protective Equipment)
 - PPE may be needed depending on the context of the worker. Face masks are not required in the provincial re-entry plan. There may be some situations where a worker is at higher risk and chooses to use PPE.
 - For example, if an employee is working with a student with exceptionalities and has specific health or safety concerns, the employee would speak directly with the school supervisor regarding equipment concerns. The supervisor, in turn, will work with Inclusive Education if specific equipment is deemed necessary.
 - Examples of PPE include gloves, face protections and includes training.
 - o When a hazard cannot be controlled by a single control method, a combination of these controls should be implemented to provide an acceptable level of safety.
 - If following a hazard assessment, it is determined that the risk of transmission cannot be reasonably controlled, employers should be prepared to suspend specific work tasks.
 - Employers and employees have a responsibility to undertake a risk assessment as part of OH&S requirements to see if any risk mitigation strategies need to be undertaken. The school division has the responsibility to ensure the "measures to reduce risk" outlined in the provincial re-entry plan are implemented.
 - Staff have a right to:
 - o Know about safety hazards to which they may be exposed.
 - o Know about reasonably anticipated contact.
 - o Respect for privacy concerns (e.g. medical info); confidentiality must be maintained when working with a staff member who may require accommodations.

HAZARD ASSESSMENT AND CONTROL

COVID-19 Vaccine Status Procedures

As a result of our responsibilities to those we serve and employ, including our students under the age of 12 who are unable to be immunized at this point in time, the Division put three Vaccine Status Procedures in place. These Vaccine Status Procedures can be accessed on the Division website.

Procedure 700.3.2 - Hazard Control - COVID-19 Vaccine Status Procedure [369424 \(lethsd.ab.ca\)](https://lethsd.ab.ca/369424)

Procedure 700.3.3 - Hazard Control - Substitute and Casual Personnel COVID-19 Vaccine Status Procedure [369954 \(lethsd.ab.ca\)](https://lethsd.ab.ca/369954)

Procedure 700.3.4 - Hazard Control - Independent Contractors, Tenants, Practicum Students, Guests - COVID-19 Vaccine Status Procedure [369603 \(lethsd.ab.ca\)](https://lethsd.ab.ca/369603)

