



GYPSD FAQ: Re-Entry 2021/2022

Consistent with the extended timelines for easing COVID-19 measures in effect, Alberta Education has indicated the following actions will continue:

- students, staff and visitors to the school are asked to screen daily for symptoms using the [Alberta Health Daily Checklist](#)
- [isolate](#) if they have core COVID-19 symptoms or test positive
- follow **Health Best Practices** to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19 and other respiratory illnesses:
 - promotion and facilitation of hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette
 - staying home when sick
 - maintaining ventilation
 - ensuring regular cleaning and disinfection of high touch areas
 - getting vaccinated when eligible
- all staff and students are **legally required** to wear a mask when on a school bus

GYPSD's Re-Entry Requirements

The Board of Trustees for Grande Yellowhead Public School Division (GYPSD) has implemented these health and safety measures for the 2021-2022 Return to School Plan:

- continue cohorting students to support *contact tracing*
- follow the recommended Health Best Practices
- continue to use of the [Alberta Health Daily checklist](#)

The Board strongly encourages the use of masks:



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> in common areas and situations where physical distancing cannot be maintained to minimize the transmission of COVID-19 virus within the Division's schools. <p>Anyone who wishes to wear a mask is supported to do so.</p> <p>The Board will closely monitor the most current situation in our respective communities to update and revise our use of masks.</p> <p>Visitors wishing to speak to a staff member will need to make an appointment.</p>
Masking Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Masking is a legal requirement for all students and staff on school buses. The Board strongly encourages the use of masks in common areas and situations where physical distancing cannot be maintained to minimize the transmission of COVID-19 within Division schools. Masking is not provincially required for any age group in a school setting. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 getting back to normal. Schools will support individuals who choose to wear masks.
Where can I locate accurate information about Alberta Education's directions that inform school jurisdictions?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2021-22 School Year Plan Guidance for Respiratory Illness Prevention and Management in Schools



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COVID-19 Public Health Measures • Chief Medical Officer of Health Letter to Parents and Guardians August 2021
Parents' Guide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information for parents and guardians to prepare for the 2021-2022 school year. • Alberta Health Daily Screen
Province-Wide Public Health Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re-Opening Stages
Isolation Requirements for positive COVID 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You are legally required to isolate for 10 days minimum if you have tested positive for COVID-19. • Isolation period is for 10 days from the start of symptoms, or until symptoms resolve, whichever takes longer. • Proof of a negative COVID-19 test and/or a medical note is not required to return to school, work, or activities once the isolation period is complete.
Close Contact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As of July 29, you are no longer legally required to quarantine if you are a close contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19. • If you are not fully immunized and have been exposed to COVID-19, AHS recommends you avoid high-risk locations such as continuing care facilities and crowded indoor spaces. If you develop symptoms, you must isolate and should get tested.
Where is the Alberta Health Daily Screen tool for adults and children?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alberta Daily Health Checklist
Where can I locate accurate information about the COVID 19 pandemic?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alberta Health Services COVID-19 Information
How do I book a COVID test?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alberta Health Services Booking Test Online



Where do I access advice if I test positive for COVID 19?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alberta Health Services Advice for People Tested
Where can I access a FAQ about COVID 19?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alberta Health Services Frequently Asked Questions
Is there an online COVID 19 Self-Assessment?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alberta Health Services Online Self-Assessment
What is the illness policy for staff and students?	<p>If staff or students feel ill, they are asked to remain home.</p> <p>Then, take the AHS Online Self-Assessment tool to determine if they should be tested for COVID 19.</p>
What if there is a case of COVID 19 in school?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff, students, or parents/guardians may choose to notify school administrators of a positive COVID-19 test result. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 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. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 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.



<p>Can my child learn at home this year (Distance Learning)?</p>	<p>Yes.</p> <p>GYPSPD will continue to support distance learning through the Learn-at-Home option.</p> <p>Parents wishing for a Learn-at-Home option for the 2021/2022 school year need to contact their school principal. GYPSPD supports online and paper-based options.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prior to deciding on this option, parents are asked to carefully consider their ability to support and collaborate with the supervising teacher, and their child's ability to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ use technology effectively, ○ self-motivate, ○ work independently, ○ problem-solve, and ○ meet deadlines. • Please contact your school principal to discuss the Learn at Home option and make the arrangements.
<p>Home Education</p>	<p>Yes. GYPSPD is an official Home Education provider.</p>
<p>Will you be reinforcing hand washing in schools and workplaces?</p>	<p>Yes.</p> <p>Hand hygiene with plain soap and warm water is preferred in schools. The mechanical action of hand washing is effective at removing visible soil as well as microbes. In instances where hand-washing sinks are not available, supervised use of alcohol-based hand sanitizers containing at least 60% alcohol may be considered. If hands are visibly soiled, alcohol based hand sanitizers may not be effective at eliminating respiratory viruses.</p> <p>Students/children and adults should clean their hands:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ before leaving home and on arrival at school ▪ after using the toilet ▪ after breaks and sporting activities ▪ before food preparation ▪ before eating any food, including snacks



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ after contact with saliva or nasal secretions after diapering a child ▪ before using shared materials such as arts and craft supplies ▪ before leaving school and on arrival at home <p>GYPSPD is also reinforcing respiratory etiquette, which includes covering the mouth and nose during coughing or sneezing with a tissue or a flexed elbow and disposing of used tissues in a plastic-lined waste container, followed by hand hygiene.</p>
<p>How will GYPSPD prevent the transmission of COVID-19 at school?</p>	<p>There is no way to completely prevent transmission, but good health practices established during the pandemic will remain in place in schools to minimize the possibility of transmission within schools:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ if students or staff are showing COVID symptoms, they are asked to stay at home and arrange for a COVID-19 test. ▪ if a student becomes sick at school, parents will be called, asked to come and take their child home, and arrange for a COVID-19 test. ▪ emphasize hand hygiene, including frequent hand washing. ▪ emphasize respiratory etiquette such as covering coughs and sneezes. ▪ regular cleaning and disinfecting of high touch surfaces. ▪ strongly encourage eligible staff and students to get vaccinated ▪ encouraged mask use.
<p>What should parents and students do before leaving home for the bus stop?</p>	<p>Parents are asked to continue to complete the Alberta Health Daily Checklist with their children.</p> <p>All students who experience COVID 19 symptoms are asked to stay home and arrange for a test.</p>



	Parents and students should not be in the pickup area or enter the bus if they have symptoms of COVID-19.
Are provincial exams occurring this year?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Diploma exams and Provincial Achievement Tests (PATs) will resume as normal practice for the 2021-2022 school year.• Diploma exam results will continue to constitute 30 per cent of a student's final diploma course mark.

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