



## GYPSD FAQ: Re-Entry 2020-21

<b>Where can I locate accurate information about the COVID 19 pandemic?</b>	<p>Alberta Health Services:  <a href="https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/topics/Page16944.aspx">https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/topics/Page16944.aspx</a>  <a href="https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/topics/Page16997.aspx">https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/topics/Page16997.aspx</a></p>
<b>Where can I locate accurate information about Alberta's isolation requirements?</b>	<p>Alberta Government:  <a href="https://www.alberta.ca/isolation.aspx">https://www.alberta.ca/isolation.aspx</a></p>
<b>Where can I locate accurate information about Alberta Education's directions and mandates that school jurisdictions have to follow?</b>	<p>K-12 School Re-entry:  <a href="https://www.alberta.ca/k-to-12-school-re-entry-2020-21-school-year.aspx">https://www.alberta.ca/k-to-12-school-re-entry-2020-21-school-year.aspx</a></p> <p>Guidance for School Re-Entry Scenario 1:  <a href="https://open.alberta.ca/dataset/3bc9f561-36aa-4ac8-8e73-afce55227c05/resource/1b341a44-1906-4c62-8acf-6f0500cc0102/download/edc-covid-guidance-school-re-entry-scenario-1-update-2020-07-21.pdf">https://open.alberta.ca/dataset/3bc9f561-36aa-4ac8-8e73-afce55227c05/resource/1b341a44-1906-4c62-8acf-6f0500cc0102/download/edc-covid-guidance-school-re-entry-scenario-1-update-2020-07-21.pdf</a></p>
<b>How do I book a COVID test?</b>	<p>Alberta Health Services:  <a href="https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/topics/Page17058.aspx">https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/topics/Page17058.aspx</a></p>
<b>Where do I access advice if I test positive for COVID 19?</b>	<p>Alberta Health Services:  <a href="https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/topics/Page17034.aspx">https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/topics/Page17034.aspx</a></p>
<b>Where can I access a FAQ about COVID 19?</b>	<p>Alberta Health Services:  <a href="https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/assets/info/ppih/if-ppih-ncov-2019-public-faq.pdf">https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/assets/info/ppih/if-ppih-ncov-2019-public-faq.pdf</a></p>
<b>Do I have to complete the screening assessment every morning?</b>	<p>Yes.</p>

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	The screening <a href="#">assessment</a> is posted on each school website and is required <b>daily</b> for all GYPSD staff, students, and visitors approved to come into schools.
<b>Is there an online COVID 19 Self-Assessment?</b>	Yes.  <a href="https://myhealth.alberta.ca/journey/covid-19/Pages/COVID-Self-Assessment.aspx">https://myhealth.alberta.ca/journey/covid-19/Pages/COVID-Self-Assessment.aspx</a>
<b>Can I walk my child to their classroom?</b>	No.  If you need to speak to a staff member, please make an appointment.
<b>What can I do to help prepare my child for school re-entry?</b>	Parents and caregivers have key role in keeping schools safe.  Please review the Alberta government's <b>Parents' Guide</b> : <a href="https://open.alberta.ca/dataset/ee687c03-af4e-4e08-9a5c-2b913ebdf31b/resource/b843cc75-d224-4cb3-b9b6-5e6eebad7bbb/download/edc-covid-parents-guide-2020-21-school-year.pdf">https://open.alberta.ca/dataset/ee687c03-af4e-4e08-9a5c-2b913ebdf31b/resource/b843cc75-d224-4cb3-b9b6-5e6eebad7bbb/download/edc-covid-parents-guide-2020-21-school-year.pdf</a>
<b>Will my child have to wear a mask at school?</b>	<b>Masks are mandatory for staff and teachers in all settings where physical distancing cannot be maintained.</b>  Students in Grades 4-12 will be required to wear masks in all shared and common areas such as hallways and on buses.  Teachers may use their discretion to allow students to remove their masks when seated in the classroom.  Exemptions will be made for students and staff who are unable to wear a mask due to medical or other needs.  The province will provide two reusable masks to every GYPSD student and staff member.

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	<p>Mask use for kindergarten to Grade 3 students is optional as of August 14, 2020.</p>
<p><b>What is the illness policy for staff and students?</b></p>	<p>Students and staff must assess their health daily via the <a href="#">screening questionnaire</a>.</p> <p>If they feel ill, they must stay home, and take the AHS Online Self-Assessment tool to determine if they should be tested:</p> <p><a href="https://myhealth.alberta.ca/journey/covid-19/Pages/COVID-Self-Assessment.aspx">https://myhealth.alberta.ca/journey/covid-19/Pages/COVID-Self-Assessment.aspx</a></p>
<p><b>What happens if my child's teacher gets sick?</b></p>	<p>If a teacher must stay home, a substitute teacher will be assigned for the class.</p> <p>Any staff member who feels ill must take the AHS Online Self-Assessment tool to determine if they need to book a COVID test:</p> <p><a href="https://myhealth.alberta.ca/journey/covid-19/Pages/COVID-Self-Assessment.aspx">https://myhealth.alberta.ca/journey/covid-19/Pages/COVID-Self-Assessment.aspx</a></p>
<p><b>Will a school be closed if there is a positive COVID-19 test at a school?</b></p>	<p>The decision to send a cohort/class home or the recommendation to close a school will be made by the local <b>Medical Officer of Health</b>.</p> <p>A COVID-19 case will not automatically lead to school closure.</p> <p>Students and staff will be supported to learn or work from home if they are required to remain at home due to a school, cohort, or class closure.</p>
<p><b>Can my child learn at home next year?</b></p>	<p>Yes.</p> <p>Parents wishing for an at-home learning option for the 2020-21 school year need to <b>contact their school principal</b>.</p>



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	<p>Families may decide at any point during the school year to change to an at-home learning option. Please <b>contact the school principal</b> to make the arrangements.</p>
<p><b>Can my child return to in-class learning if at-home learning is not working?</b></p>	<p>Yes.</p> <p>Parents who decide to return their child to in-school learning at any point during the school year may do so. A week's notice is required to the principal to make the arrangements.</p> <p>School Re-Entries will take place on the following Monday (or Tuesday if Monday is a holiday).</p>
<p><b>Where can I find the Re-entry Plan for my child's school?</b></p>	<p>School principals are posting their individual Re-Entry Plans on their websites after August 24 and sharing those plans with families prior to the start of the school year.</p> <p>GYPSPD continuously aligns all COVID 19 health and safety protocols to the guidelines of the province.</p> <p>The Division's current <a href="#">Re-Entry Plan</a> and relevant documentation is also posted on the website.</p>
<p><b>Will you be reinforcing hand washing in schools and workplaces?</b></p>	<p>Alberta Health has provided the following <i>Hand Hygiene and Respiratory Etiquette</i> which GYPSPD is reinforcing with staff and students:</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"> <li>▪ before leaving home and on arrival at school</li> <li>▪ after using the toilet</li> <li>▪ after breaks and sporting activities</li> <li>▪ before food preparation</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ before eating any food, including snacks</li> <li>▪ after contact with saliva or nasal secretions after diapering a child</li> <li>▪ before using shared materials such as arts and craft supplies</li> <li>▪ before leaving school and on arrival at home</li> </ul> <p>GYPSD 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><b>How will GYPSD prevent the transmission of COVID-19 at school?</b></p>	<p>There is no way to completely prevent transmission, but many health measures will be in place in schools to minimize the possibility of transmission within schools:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <a href="#">Daily health monitoring</a> – if students or staff feel ill, they must stay home. Anyone who reports symptoms must seek health care advice as appropriate and fill out the AHS Online Self-Assessment tool to determine if they should be tested</li> <li>▪ Keeping groups of students and staff together and assigning seating in classrooms and on buses to decrease the number of close contacts (referred to as cohorting)</li> <li>▪ Directional signage in high-traffic areas</li> <li>▪ Emphasis upon hand hygiene, including frequent hand washing</li> <li>▪ Respiratory etiquette such as covering coughs and sneezes</li> <li>▪ More frequent cleaning of high-touch surfaces like desks, chairs, door handles and stair railings</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Encouraging students to bring refillable water bottles, rather than drinking directly from water fountains</li> <li>▪ Staggering lunch and recess times to reduce congestion at peak times</li> <li>▪ Physically distancing wherever possible</li> </ul>
<p><b>How can students physically distance while at school or on the school bus?</b></p>	<p>It is not possible to maintain a two metre or six-foot distance at all times while in school or on the bus.</p> <p>However, measures will be in place to reduce direct contact with others. While in classrooms or on buses, students will have assigned seating. Lunch and recess times will be staggered to mitigate congestion. Signs will be in place to remind students and staff to physically distance wherever possible.</p> <p>As outlined in the Alberta Guidance for School Re-Entry in situations where physical distancing is not possible, extra emphasis on masks, hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette, not participating when sick, and cleaning and disinfecting on a regular basis.</p>
<p><b>What if my child has COVID-19 like symptoms at school?</b></p>	<p>If your child begins to feel sick at school, they will be taken to a supervised infirmary room or designated isolated space and given a disposable mask to wear.</p> <p>Parents/guardians will be contacted and must pick their child up within the hour. If a parent/guardian cannot be reached, emergency contacts will be notified.</p> <p>Parents will be required to have their child(ren) tested for COVID-19.</p>
<p><b>If one of my children has any kind of illness symptoms, will their siblings also be sent home?</b></p>	<p>Yes, and all will have to get a COVID test if they are demonstrating symptoms.</p> <p>All school jurisdiction are required to follow the directives of the government. If a parent refuses to test we will be required to report to the Zone Medical Officer. The matter will then become an Alberta Health Services (AHS) issue.</p>

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<b>Will I know if there is a positive test at my school?</b>	<b>AHS</b> will notify parents if their child may have been exposed to a confirmed case of COVID-19 at school, and <b>public health officials</b> will contact those who were in close contact with the person.
<b>How will students physically distance on a bus?</b>	<p>The Division will only transport <b>eligible</b> students during the 2020-21 school year.</p> <p>Because physical distancing cannot be maintained on a bus, the focus will be on cleaning and health measures, including the use of masks where possible.</p> <p>There will be an assigned seating plan. Cohorting of siblings on buses will only occur where siblings are on the same route.</p>
<b>What should parents and students do before leaving home for the bus stop?</b>	<p>Parents must complete the screening tool with their children.</p> <p>All students who experience symptoms must stay home.</p> <p>Parents and students must not be in the pickup area or enter the bus if they have symptoms of COVID-19.</p>
<b>If my child gets sick while at school, can they take the bus home?</b>	<p>No.</p> <p>Parents or guardians must pick up their child if they get sick while at school. Parents must designate an emergency contact in case they are unable to pick up their child within the hour.</p> <p>Please ensure your school has current emergency contact information.</p>
<b>What happens if a child displays COVID-19 symptoms while at the bus stop and no parent / caregiver is present?</b>	<p>The student will be assigned a seat at the front of the bus, with no other students, and given a mask.</p> <p>Parents/guardians must pick their child up at school as soon as possible.</p>

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<p><b>Are there at-home learning options for junior kindergarten and/or kindergarten?</b></p>	<p>No.</p> <p>Kindergarten education in Alberta is not mandatory. Early Learning and Kindergarten programs are play-based and focused on socialization. Kindergarten students have the option for on-site learning or to start school in Grade 1.</p>
<p><b>Is there at-home learning for French Immersion?</b></p>	<p>Yes.</p> <p>Please discuss with your school principal.</p>
<p><b>How will teachers support students due to the disruption in learning that occurred last spring when learning at home?</b></p>	<p>Teachers know that some students may need more support to address gaps from the spring and will design learning tasks accordingly.</p> <p>Teachers will construct lessons and assessment opportunities based on students' current level of achievement.</p>

Created August 14, 2020. This FAQ document will be updated as required.