



GYPSD FAQ: Re-Entry 2020/2021

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| <p>Where can I locate accurate information about Alberta Education's directions and mandates that school jurisdictions have to follow?</p> | <p>Alberta K-12 School Re-entry - includes update as of November 24, 2020</p> <p>Guidance for School Re-Entry Scenario 1 - as of January 2021</p> <p>Implementing School Re-Entry Guidance - as of January 2021</p> <p>Based on new COVID-19 measures announced November 24, 2020</p> |
| <p>Variant COVID-19</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You are legally required to quarantine for 14 days from the time you were exposed and monitor for symptoms if you are a close contact of a person who tested positive for variant COVID-19. • You should get tested if you are a close contact of a confirmed case of variant COVID-19. • Book a first test as soon as you receive confirmation that you are a close contact of someone who tested positive for the variant COVID 19. • Book a second test 10 days or later after your last exposure to the confirmed variant COVID 19 case. • It is strongly recommended that immediate household members of close contacts of variant COVID-19 cases also quarantine until the close contact receives a negative COVID-19 test result on or after 10 days from the exposure date or their 14 day quarantine is over, whichever is sooner. |
| <p>Variant Close Contact</p> | <p>For household close contacts living with a confirmed variant COVID-19 case:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Even if the case can isolate at home in a separate room with access to a separate bathroom, this is may not be enough to prevent transmission to other members of the household. Every day the case is isolating at home is considered a new exposure to the household contacts. |



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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Household contacts of variant cases must quarantine during the case's isolation period (10 days) plus an additional 14 days after the case's isolation period ends: 24 days in total. • Call 211 if you need to access isolation hotels. |
| <p>Variant COVID 19 Isolation</p> | <p>Variant COVID-19</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AHS will call you if you are confirmed to be positive for a variant strain of COVID-19. • Isolating in the same household is not considered adequate to prevent transmission of variant COVID-19 to other people in the household. • If you are confirmed to have a case of variant COVID-19, you should isolate in a different location if possible, such as an isolation hotel. • If the case is a child, consider moving other family members not required for child care to a hotel for their quarantine period. • Call 211 if you need to access isolation hotels. |
| <p>What happens if there is a confirmed case of COVID-19 in a school?</p> | <p>Alberta Health Services (AHS) contacts the school principal to inform him/her there is a confirmed COVID-19 case.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Principal informs staff and families there is a confirmed case of COVID-19 within the school; ● AHS begins the contact-tracing process; ● A deep clean of the facility occurs <p>All parents will be notified when:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● one confirmed COVID-19 case is identified at the school ● an Outbreak (5+ positive cases at the school) is declared |
| <p>Where is the Student Daily Screen tool?</p> | <p>Alberta Daily Health Checklist for Children Under 18</p> |

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| <p>Where can I locate accurate information about Alberta's mandatory isolation requirements?</p> | <p>If you are a CLOSE CONTACT to a confirmed COVID-19 case, you are required to isolate for 14 days.</p> <p>Alberta Isolation and Quarantine Requirements</p> |
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| | <p>Albertans are legally required to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● isolate for 10 days if they have any core symptoms that are not related to a pre-existing illness or health condition ● quarantine for 14 days if they are a close contact of someone with COVID-19 or if they travelled outside Canada |
| <p>Variant Isolation</p> | <p>Variant COVID-19</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AHS will call you if you are confirmed to be positive for a variant strain of COVID-19. • Isolating in the same household is not considered adequate to prevent transmission of variant COVID-19 to other people in the household. • If you are confirmed to have a case of variant COVID-19, you should isolate in a different location if possible, such as an isolation hotel. • If the case is a child, consider moving other family members not required for child care to a hotel for their quarantine period. • Call 211 if you need to access isolation hotels. |
| <p>What do I do if a student shows core COVID 19 symptoms?</p> | <p>Alberta How Long to Stay Home from School</p> |

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| <p>Where can I locate accurate information about the COVID 19 pandemic?</p> | <p>Alberta Health Services COVID-19 Information Alberta Health Services - COVID Info for Albertans</p> <p>Government of Alberta COVID -19 Orders and Legislation</p> <p>Letter to Parents from Chief Medical Officer – September 3, 2020</p> |
| <p>What about siblings?</p> | <p>If a sibling is not sick or showing symptoms of COVID 19, they can attend school.</p> <p>They only need to isolate if they have come into close contact with a person who has tested positive for COVID.</p> <p>As per AHS, students do not have to isolate if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● they are awaiting asymptomatic test results ● they have no symptoms of illness |



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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● they have symptoms of illness that are related to a pre-existing illness or health condition |
| <p>Where can I locate accurate information about what happens if a COVID case occurs at the school?</p> | <p>Government of Alberta:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● One confirmed case = <i>Alert Status</i> (see pages 13 – 14 in the linked document) ● Five or more confirmed cases = <i>Outbreak Status</i> (see pages 15 – 17 in the linked document) ● Notification Flow Diagram – Appendix A (see page 23 in the linked document) <p>Resource Guide for COVID-19 outbreaks in schools. - Update as of January 2021</p> |

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| <p>How do I book a COVID test?</p> | <p>Alberta Health Services Booking Test Online</p> |
| <p>Where do I access advice if I test positive for COVID 19?</p> | <p>Alberta Health Services Advice for People Tested</p> |
| <p>Where can I access a FAQ about COVID 19?</p> | <p>Alberta Health Services Frequently Asked Questions Updated February 2, 2021</p> |
| <p>Do I have to complete the screening assessment every morning?</p> | <p>Yes.</p> <p>The screening assessment is posted on each school website and is required daily for all GYPSD staff, students, and visitors approved to come into schools.</p> |
| <p>Is there an online COVID 19 Self-Assessment?</p> | <p>Alberta Health Services Online Self-Assessment</p> |
| <p>Can I walk my child to their classroom?</p> | <p>No. If you need to speak to a staff member, please make an appointment.</p> |
| <p>What can I do to help prepare my child for school re-entry?</p> | <p>Parents and caregivers have a key role in keeping schools safe. Please review the Alberta government's Parents' Guide and</p> |



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| | <p>Alberta Health Services Help Prevent the Spread</p> |
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| <p>Will my child have to wear a mask at school?</p> | <p><u>Public Health Order 33-2020 Mask Requirements in School</u></p> <p>Masks are mandatory for staff and teachers in all settings where physical distancing cannot be maintained.</p> <p>Students in Grades 4-12 will be required to wear masks in all shared and common areas such as hallways and on buses.</p> <p>Teachers may use their discretion to allow students to remove their masks when seated in the classroom.</p> <p>Exemptions will be made for students and staff who are unable to wear a mask due to medical or other needs.</p> <p>The province will provide two reusable masks to every GYPSD student and staff member.</p> <p>Mask use for kindergarten to Grade 3 students is optional as of August 14, 2020.</p> |
| <p>What is the illness policy for staff and students?</p> | <p>Students and staff must assess their health daily via the <u>screening questionnaire</u>.</p> <p>If they feel ill, they must stay home, and take the <u>AHS Online Self Assessment tool</u> to determine if they should be tested.</p> |
| <p>What happens if my child's teacher gets sick?</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 <u>AHS Online Self Assessment tool</u> to determine if they need to book a COVID test.</p> |
| <p>Will a school be closed if there is a positive COVID-19 test at a school?</p> | <p>The decision to send a cohort/class home or the recommendation to close a school will be made by the local Medical Officer of Health.</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> |



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| <p>Can my child learn at home this year?</p> | <p>Yes.</p> <p>Parents wishing for an at-home learning option for the 2020/2021 school year need to contact their school principal.</p> <p>Families may decide at any point during the school year to change to an at-home learning option. Please contact the school principal to make the arrangements.</p> <p>Students in high school courses may be required to wait until the beginning of a new semester or quarter to move; all decisions will be made in collaboration with the high school principal.</p> |
| <p>Can my child return to in-class learning if at home learning is not working?</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>Where can I find the Re Entry Plan for my child's school?</p> | <p>Re-Entry Plans are located on the school's website.</p> <p>GYPSPD continuously aligns all COVID 19 health and safety protocols to the guidelines of the province.</p> <p>The Division's current Re-Entry Plan and relevant documentation is also posted on the website.</p> |
| <p>Will you be reinforcing hand washing in schools and workplaces?</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> |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• before leaving home and on arrival at school |
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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• after using the toilet• after breaks and sporting activities• before food preparation• before eating any food, including snacks• 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 |
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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.

How will GYPSD prevent the transmission of COVID-19 at school?

There is no way to completely prevent transmission, but many health measures are in place in schools to minimize the possibility of transmission within schools:

- [Daily health checklist](#) – 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
- 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)
- Directional signage in high-traffic areas
- Emphasis upon hand hygiene, including frequent hand washing
- Respiratory etiquette such as covering coughs and sneezes
- More frequent cleaning of high-touch surfaces like desks, chairs, door handles and stair railings
- Encouraging students to bring refillable water bottles, rather than drinking directly from water fountains



- Staggering lunch and recess times to reduce congestion at peak times
- Physically distancing wherever possible

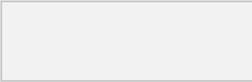
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| <p>How can students physically distance while at school or on the school bus?</p> | <p>It is not possible to maintain a two metre or six-foot distance at all times while in school or on the bus.</p> <p>However, measures will be in place to reduce 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>What if my child has COVID-19 like symptoms at school?</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>Will I know if there is a positive case at my school?</p> | <p>AHS will notify parents if their child may have been exposed to a confirmed case of COVID-19 at school, and public health officials will contact those who were in close contact with the person.</p> |
| <p>How will students physically distance on a bus?</p> | <p>The Division will only transport eligible students during the 2020/2021 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> |





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| | <p>There will be an assigned seating plan. Cohorting of siblings on buses will only occur where siblings are on the same route.</p> |
| <p>What should parents and students do before leaving home for the bus stop?</p> | <p>Parents must complete the screening tool with their children. 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> |
| <p>If my child gets sick while at school, can they take the bus home?</p> | <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> |
| <p>What happens if a child displays COVID-19 symptoms while at the bus stop and no parent / caregiver is present?</p> | <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> |
| <p>Are there at-home learning options for junior kindergarten and/or kindergarten?</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>Are there at-home learning supports for French Immersion?</p> | <p>Yes. French language conversation supports are available. Please discuss with your school principal.</p> |

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| <p>How will teachers support students due to the disruption in learning that occurred last spring when learning at home?</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> |
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| <p>Are provincial exams occurring this year?</p> | <p>All 2020/2021 Diploma Exams are optional this school year due to COVID-19. Visit diploma exams to learn more.</p> <p>All Provincial Achievement Tests (PATs) are cancelled.</p> |
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