

Returning for the 2020-2021 School Year



**Information and Guidance
for Families**



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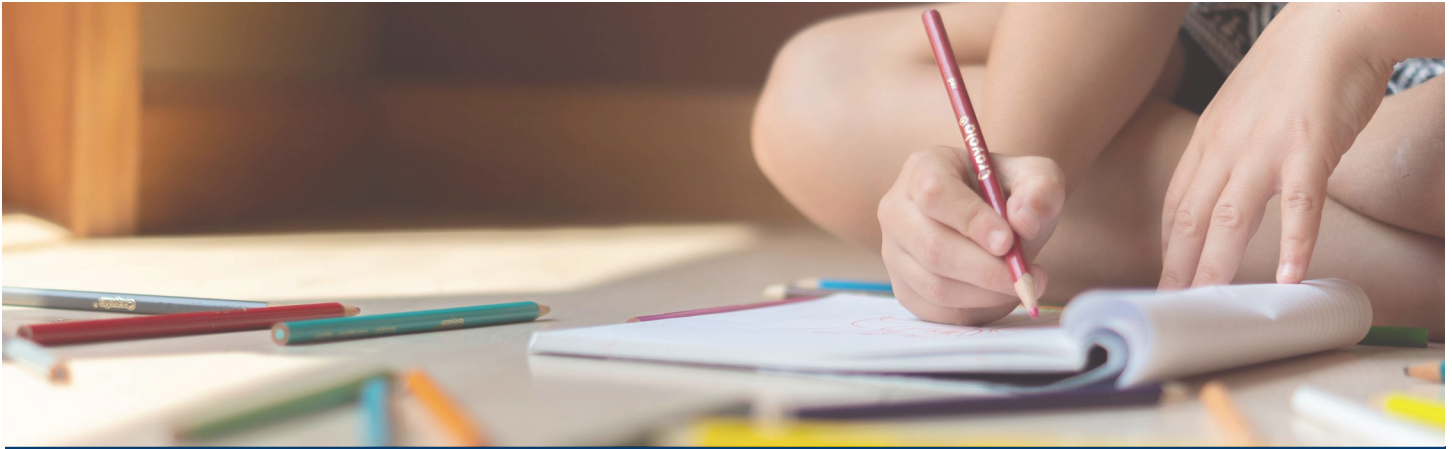
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Find more re-entry information and the answers to other commonly asked questions on our [website](#).



Back to school: information and guidance for families



Before the school day begins

Every day before leaving home, all students and staff must complete the Government of Alberta's [self-screening tool](#) to determine if they may enter the school. Children and youth will need a parent or guardian to help them complete the screening tool.

If a person answers “YES” to any of the questions, they will not be allowed to enter the school.

An English self-screening tool is included in this document. The tool is also available in:

[French](#) | [Arabic](#) | [Traditional Chinese](#) | [Simplified Chinese](#)
[Hindi](#) | [Punjabi](#) | [Spanish](#) | [Tagalog](#) | [Urdu](#) | [Vietnamese](#)

Please pack a water bottle

Water fountains will remain open and will be cleaned and disinfected regularly.

Students are strongly encouraged to bring their own refillable water bottles for use throughout the school day.

Other items parents/guardians may consider packing for their children to bring to school are individual hand sanitizers and spare masks in case one gets dirty or lost.



Screening Questionnaire

COVID-19 ALBERTA HEALTH DAILY CHECKLIST

PARENTS/GUARDIANS/STUDENTS MUST USE THIS QUESTIONNAIRE DAILY TO DECIDE IF THE STUDENT SHOULD ATTEND SCHOOL

The tool is meant to be used to assist with assessing attendees who may be symptomatic, or who may have been exposed to someone who is ill or has confirmed COVID-19.

Attendees should fill out this checklist prior entering school daily. If an individual answers YES to any of the questions, they must not be allowed to attend school. Children and youth will need a parent to assist them to complete this screening tool.

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to evolve, this screening tool will be updated as required.

Screening Questions

		CIRCLE ONE	
1.	Does the attendee have any new onset (or worsening) of any of the following	YES	NO
	• Fever	YES	NO
	• Cough	YES	NO
	• Shortness of Breath / Difficulty Breathing	YES	NO
	• Sore throat	YES	NO
	• Chills	YES	NO
	• Painful swallowing	YES	NO
	• Runny Nose / Nasal Congestion	YES	NO
	• Feeling unwell / Fatigued	YES	NO
	• Nausea / Vomiting / Diarrhea	YES	NO
	• Unexplained loss of appetite	YES	NO
	• Loss of sense of taste or smell	YES	NO
	• Muscle/ Joint aches	YES	NO
	• Headache	YES	NO
	• Conjunctivitis (Pink Eye)	YES	NO
2.	Has the attendee travelled outside of Canada in the last 14 days?	YES	NO
3.	Has the attendee had close contact* with a confirmed case of COVID-19 in the last 14 days?	YES	NO
4.	Has the attendee had close contact with a symptomatic** close contact of a confirmed case of COVID-19 in the last 14 days?	YES	NO

* Face-to-face contact within 2 metres. A health care worker in a occupational setting wearing the recommended personal protective equipment is not considered to be a close contact.

** 'Ill/symptomatic' means someone with COVID-19 symptoms on the list above

Guidance for wearing non-medical face masks at school



The Chief Medical Officer of Health has issued a public health order making the wearing of non-medical face masks mandatory for students in grades 4 through 12, staff, and visitors, while on buses or in areas outside of the classroom.

Why wear a mask at school?

Wearing a mask is an extra step we can take to protect those around us by preventing the droplets created when we breath, talk, and laugh from contaminating other people, surfaces, and objects.

Masks complement — not replace — health measures such as physical distancing and should be worn when it's difficult to keep physically apart. It's also important to know how to wear, take care of, and dispose of masks correctly. The following guidance is provided by the Government of Alberta.

What's the correct way to put on a mask?

- Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer before putting on your mask.
- Ensure your hair is away from your face.
- Check the mask for damage; discard the mask in a lined garbage bin if it is damaged.
- Open mask fully so it covers from your nose to below your chin.
- Place the mask over your nose and mouth and secure with tie or ear loops.
- If the mask has a nose wire, pinch it around your nose to close gaps between your face and mask.
- Adjust if needed to make sure your nose and mouth are fully covered.

Guidance for wearing non-medical face masks at school



When should a mask not be worn?

- If it is dirty, ripped, or damaged in any way
- By anyone that has trouble breathing
- By children under 2 years of age

What's the correct way to remove a mask?

- Remove masks that have become wet, torn, dirty, or damaged.
- Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer before taking off your mask.
- Do not touch the front of the mask; remove it using the ties or ear loops.
- Discard disposable masks in a lined garbage bin. Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer after disposing of your mask.

What should you not do while wearing a mask?

- Don't touch your face under your mask.
- Don't wear a ripped, dirty, wet, or damaged mask.
- Don't wear the same mask for very long periods of time; it must be changed when it's damp.
- Don't share masks with someone else.
- Don't wear the mask below your nose or chin.
- Don't forget to continue handwashing and practice physical distancing wherever possible.

Guidance for wearing non-medical face masks at school



What should you look for when buying a mask?

- Choose a mask with multiple layers of tightly woven fabric. Four layers and a combination of fabrics (such as high thread count cotton with polyester) are ideal.
- Look for masks with different fabrics or colours on each side; this will help you know which side faces your mouth and which side faces out.
- Masks should fit securely on your face, allow for clear breathing, and withstand frequent cycles through washing and drying machines.
- Bandanas and scarves are acceptable face coverings. The effectiveness of neck buffs and gaiters are not known; these should not be worn at school.

How should you take care of your mask?

- Put the masks directly into a washing machine or in a bag that can be emptied into the washing machine. Throw away bags that have been used to store used masks.
- Wash masks with other clothing on a hot cycle. Ensure they are dried thoroughly.
- Before reusing a mask you have washed, inspect it carefully to ensure it has maintained its shape and did not get torn during the washing and drying.
- Wash your hands or use hand sanitizer immediately after handling a used mask.
- Store masks in a dry area of your home where they won't get dirty or damaged, such as in a sealed clean storage bag. A paper bag is preferred over plastic because it won't retain as much moisture.
- Label mask storage bags so they aren't used by others accidentally.

Guidance for wearing non-medical face masks at school



Frequently asked questions about masks

Q: My child has special needs or a medical health condition that makes them difficult or impossible for them to wear a mask. Will they be accommodated?

A: Schools will accommodate our diverse student population, including those with special needs or conditions. In these situations, communication between families, schools, and teachers will be vital. Families are encouraged to reach out to their school Principal to discuss their child's needs.

Q: Are bandanas/scarves/buffs/neck gaiters appropriate face coverings?

A: The Division strongly encourages parents and guardians to purchase masks that align with the [recommendations from the Government of Alberta](#), which have multiple layers of fabric and are worn with loops behind the ears. Bandanas and scarves are acceptable face coverings but do not have as many layers of fabric. The effectiveness of neck buffs and gaiters is not known; these should not be worn at school.

Q: What happens if my child forgets or loses their mask?

A: Schools will have a supply of disposable masks for students who forget or misplace their own masks. Students may also bring spare masks to school to keep in their backpacks in case of these situations.

Q: Do masks have to be worn in common areas where physical distancing is possible?

A: If a school wishes to allow students in grades 4 through 12, staff, or visitors to not wear a mask in an area outside of the classroom (even if 2 meter distancing is observed), the Division will submit a plan explaining how physical distancing will be maintained to the Chief Medical Officer of Health and must receive approval before proceeding.