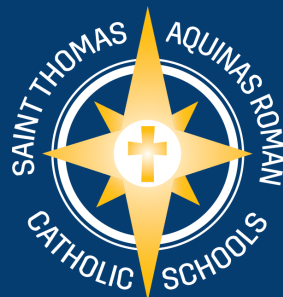


Back to School for 2021-2022



Information and Guidance for Families



Back to school: information and guidance for families



Provincial guidance

STAR Catholic School Division continues to follow health guidance provided by the Government of Alberta. The province has shifted from an emergency response to COVID-19 to a regular health management stance. As such, students will return to normal classes and activities for the upcoming school year.

Schools will no longer follow all the same measures as last year, but will continue to use good health practices to prevent the spread of illness and keep students and staff safe. There will be no additional measures at the school level outside of provincial guidance. At any point during the year, additional health measures may be recommended to address outbreaks at school.

[See the Government of Alberta's Parent Guide to the 2021-2022 School Year.](#)

Before going to school

Every day before leaving home, all students and staff must continue to complete the [Alberta Health Daily Checklist](#) (which is also included on the following pages). Anyone with symptoms of COVID-19 **must stay home from school** and call Health Link 811 or use the [AHS Online Assessment Tool](#) for more information about isolation requirements or testing.



COVID-19 INFORMATION

COVID-19 ALBERTA HEALTH DAILY CHECKLIST (FOR CHILDREN UNDER 18)

Overview

This checklist applies for all children, as well as all students who attend kindergarten through Grade 12, including high school students over 18. Children should be screened every day by completing this checklist before going to school, childcare or other activities. Children may need a parent or guardian to assist them to complete this screening tool.

If your child has traveled outside Canada in the last 14 days, follow the [Government of Canada Travel, Testing, Quarantine and Borders](#) instructions, including any requirements for exempt travelers related to attending high-risk environments.

Screening Questions for Children under 18:

1.	Does the child have any new onset (or worsening) of the following core symptoms:		
	Fever Temperature of 38 degrees Celsius or higher	YES	NO
	Cough Continuous, more than usual, not related to other known causes or conditions such as asthma	YES	NO
	Shortness of breath Continuous, unable to breathe deeply, not related to other known causes or conditions such as asthma	YES	NO
	Loss of sense of smell or taste Not related to other known causes or conditions like allergies or neurological disorders	YES	NO
If the child answered "YES" to any symptom in question 1:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none">The child is required to isolate for 10 days from onset of symptoms as per CMOH Order 39-2021 OR receive a negative COVID-19 test and feel better before returning to activitiesUse the AHS Online Assessment Tool or call Health Link 811 to arrange for testing and to receive additional information on isolation.			
If the child answered "NO" to all of the symptoms in question 1, proceed to question 2.			

2.	Does the child have any new onset (or worsening) of the following other symptoms:		
	Chills Without fever, not related to being outside in cold weather	YES	NO
	Sore throat/painful swallowing Not related to other known causes/conditions, such as seasonal allergies or reflux	YES	NO
	Runny nose/congestion Not related to other known causes/conditions, such as seasonal allergies or being outside in cold weather	YES	NO
	Feeling unwell/fatigued Lack of energy, poor feeding in infants, not related to other known causes or conditions, such as depression, insomnia, thyroid dysfunction or sudden injury	YES	NO
	Nausea, vomiting and/or diarrhea Not related to other known causes/conditions, such as anxiety, medication or irritable bowel syndrome	YES	NO
	Unexplained loss of appetite Not related to other known causes/conditions, such as anxiety or medication	YES	NO
	Muscle/joint aches Not related to other known causes/conditions, such as arthritis or injury	YES	NO
	Headache Not related to other known causes/conditions, such as tension-type headaches or chronic migraines	YES	NO
	Conjunctivitis (commonly known as pink eye)	YES	NO
<p>If the child answered “YES” to ONE symptom in question 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep your child home and monitor for 24 hours. If their symptom is improving after 24 hours, they can return to school and activities when they feel well enough to go. Testing is not necessary. If the symptom does not improve or worsens after 24 hours (or if additional symptoms emerge), use the AHS Online Assessment Tool or call Health Link 811 to check if testing is recommended. <p>If the child answered “YES” to TWO OR MORE symptoms in question 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep your child home. Use the AHS Online Assessment Tool or call Health Link 811 to determine if testing is recommended. Your child can return to school and activities once their symptoms go away as long as it has been at least 24 hours since their symptoms started. <p>If the child answered “NO” to all questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Your child may attend school, childcare and/or other activities. 			

Please note: If your child is experiencing any symptoms from the lists above, do not bring them to visit a continuing care or acute care facility for 10 days from when symptoms started or until symptoms resolve (whichever is longer), unless they receive a negative COVID-19 test result and feel better.

Back to school: information and guidance for families



General information

School activities will resume near-normal in the fall, including:

- Field trips, extra-curricular activities, assemblies, celebrations, etc.
- Regular classroom and recess activities.
- Diploma and Provincial Achievement exams will proceed as normal.

Masks at school

Students and staff will not be required to wear a mask while in school, however, may choose to if they feel more comfortable doing so. As per provincial transport guidelines, all students and staff will be required to wear masks on school buses until at least September 27. All efforts will be made to support individuals who choose to wear masks at school and to ensure everyone is treated with respect no matter their decision.



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Risk mitigation strategies

Although many measures from last year will no longer be in place, schools and the Division will continue to follow good health and safety practices, including:

- **Vaccines:** Alberta Health Services is planning COVID-19 immunization clinics for schools across the province beginning on September 7. As always, parent consent will be required for the immunization of any student under the age of 18.
- **HVAC & Ventilation:** Division maintenance staff will ensure systems are operating and functioning well. Doors and windows to classrooms will be opened wherever possible.
- **Enhanced Cleaning:** High-touch surfaces will continue to receive regular and thorough cleaning.
- **Hand Hygiene:** Students will continue to be encouraged to practice regular hand hygiene using soap and water. Hand sanitizer will continue to be available in classrooms and at school entrances/exits.
- **Staying Home When Sick:** Students who become symptomatic at school will be asked to go home where possible. If a student develops new symptoms while at school (cough, fever, sore throat, runny nose, loss of taste/smell), the student will be provided with a mask. Please refer to Daily Health Check List above for information regarding return to school.
- **Reporting Levels of High Absenteeism:** If absenteeism reaches 10% or higher, the Division will notify Alberta Health Services. In these situations, an outbreak may be declared and additional voluntary health measures may be recommended.
- **Isolation of Positive Cases:** Isolation after testing positive for COVID-19 is still required. Individuals who test positive must isolate for at least 10 days from when their symptoms started, or until their symptoms have improved, whichever takes longer.

