

## COVID-19 INFORMATION

# GUIDANCE FOR SCHOOLS (K-12) AND SCHOOL BUSES – SCENARIO 1

## Overview

The guidance provided in this document is intended to support school and school authority leaders in the safe operation of in-person classes and to reduce opportunities for transmission of COVID-19 in schools under Scenario 1 of the Re-Entry Plan.

Section 4 of Chief Medical Officer of Health (CMOH) Order 25-2020 requires schools to:

- a) Implement practices to minimize the risk of transmission of infection among attendees;
- b) provide procedures for rapid response if an attendee develops symptoms of illness;
- c) ensure that attendees maintain high levels of sanitation and personal hygiene;
- d) comply, to the extent possible, with the COVID-19 General Relaunch Guidance and any other applicable Alberta Health guidance found at: [alberta.ca/bizconnect](https://alberta.ca/bizconnect).

All schools are required by law to follow this guidance to the extent possible. Schools/School authorities should establish their own COVID-19 plans based on this guidance. Where any part of this guidance is inconsistent or in conflict with enhanced or stronger public health restrictions set out in another CMOH Order, the enhanced or stronger public health measures would prevail.

Schools refers to public, separate, francophone, charter schools, independent (private) school authorities, independent (private) Early Childhood Services (ECS), online/distance education programs, home education programs and First Nations education authorities, from kindergarten through grade twelve. School-based and curriculum-based activities which may be impacted by this guidance include sports, music and field trips into the community or to other schools, and professional development/activity days.

This information is relevant to all schools in Alberta including those on reserve, recognizing that First Nation schools on reserve are a federal responsibility. For public health information, COVID-19 questions or for reporting purposes, First Nation schools should contact their local Health Centre or Indigenous Services Canada-First Nations and Inuit Health Branch Environmental Public Health Services (ISC-FNIHB) office (see Appendix A), in accordance with normal practice.

In all settings, it is important that measures are implemented to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19. This includes, but is not limited to ensuring: physical distancing, masking, barrier use (where appropriate), proper hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette, enhanced cleaning and disinfecting, records management and building maintenance. Schools and school authorities must also follow the requirements set out in the [General Relaunch Guidance](#) and [CMOH orders in effect](#).

Zone Medical Officers of Health (MOHs) and their designates are available to support school authorities throughout the province. Their role is to provide guidance on communicable disease risk as well as risk management. If you have concerns, need specific guidance, or have questions about how to apply the measures in this document, please contact Environmental Public Health in your Zone for assistance (see Appendix B).

School administrators are expected to follow the guidance provided in the [Resource Guide for COVID-19 Cases in School Settings](#) when working with situations when a student, teacher, staff member or visitor has symptoms of COVID-19 or tests positive for COVID-19. This guidance outlines the specific

## COVID-19 INFORMATION

# GUIDANCE FOR SCHOOLS (K-12) AND SCHOOL BUSES – SCENARIO 1

roles and responsibilities of school administrators, Alberta Health Services (AHS) and Alberta Health, as well as provides templates for the school administrators to use when notifying parents/guardians of COVID-19 cases at the school.

Any school authority/school connected to a confirmed or probable case of COVID-19 will be contacted by Alberta Health Services (AHS). Public health measures for outbreak management are at the discretion of the Zone Medical Officer of Health; decisions on the need for alternate instructional delivery (e.g., at-home learning) will be made by Government in conjunction with local officials.

Out of date

# GUIDANCE FOR SCHOOLS (K-12) AND SCHOOL BUSES – SCENARIO 1

## COVID-19 Risk Mitigation

### General Building Safety

- HVAC systems should be maintained in accordance with manufacturer operational guidelines. Please refer to the [general relaunch](#) guidance for additional information on building ventilation.
- Schools must have procedures that outline hand hygiene requirements:
  - Hand hygiene frequency should be based on activity (e.g., entering/leaving school or classroom, boarding/exiting the bus, changing activities, before and after using shared equipment, before and after eating, putting on/removing a mask, after using washrooms, etc.)
  - Handwashing with soap and water where possible is very effective.
  - Hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol should be placed in convenient locations throughout the school where soap and water may not be available, such as in entrances, exits and near high touch surfaces. If parents have questions about their child using alcohol-based hand sanitizer they should contact their school administration to discuss potential alternatives.
  - Hand sanitizer can cause serious harm if ingested. Keep out of reach of younger children/students, supervise them during use and place hand sanitizer in monitored areas.
- Schools must have procedures that outline cleaning requirements:
  - Increase frequency of cleaning (removing visible dirt) and disinfection (killing germs) of high-touch areas and equipment (e.g., desks, doorknobs, handrails, microwave ovens, vending machines, etc.) inside and outside classrooms.
  - Common area surfaces should be cleaned and disinfected frequently throughout the day.
  - Student contact surfaces (e.g., desks and equipment) should be cleaned and disinfected between each student/user. Restrict sharing of supplies as much as possible.
  - Students should be provided with an area to store personal items. Individual assigned lockers may be used. Follow general guidance for cleaning and minimize crowding around lockers.
  - Disinfectants used must have a Drug Information Number (DIN) and a broad-spectrum virucidal claim OR a virucidal claim against non-enveloped viruses or coronaviruses. Alternatively, 1000 ppm bleach solution can be used.
  - Follow the instructions on the product label to disinfect effectively.

## COVID-19 INFORMATION

# GUIDANCE FOR SCHOOLS (K-12) AND SCHOOL BUSES – SCENARIO 1

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ More information on cleaning and disinfection can be accessed in the <a href="#">General relaunch guidance</a>. Further recommendations are available in the <a href="#">AHS COVID-19 public health recommendations for environmental cleaning of public facilities</a>.</li><li>● Water fountains can remain open. Mouthpieces of drinking fountains are not a major source of virus transmission and require regular cleaning according to manufacturer recommendations.</li><li>● Practice good hand hygiene when handling paper tests and assignments.</li><li>● Items that cannot be cleaned or disinfected between routine use (e.g., paper books) can be stored for 24 hours. For more information on libraries, refer to <a href="#">Guidance for Libraries</a>.</li><li>● Additional Alberta Health Services resources:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ AHS Infection Prevention &amp; Control <a href="#">posters</a></li><li>○ Hand Washing Posters (AHS)<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ <a href="#">Poster 1</a></li><li>▪ <a href="#">Poster 2</a></li></ul></li><li>○ How to Hand Wash (AHS) <a href="#">poster</a></li><li>○ How to use alcohol-based hand rub/sanitizer (AHS) <a href="#">poster</a></li></ul></li></ul>
<b>Screening</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Before leaving home, staff (including substitute teachers), children/students, visitors, and volunteers who will access the school for work or education, must self-screen for symptoms each day that they enter the school using the applicable checklist for their age group (<a href="#">Child Alberta Health Daily Checklist</a> or <a href="#">Adult Alberta Health Daily Checklist</a>).</li><li>● Parents and children/students must be provided a copy of the screening tool upon school registration.</li><li>● Schools should have copies of the daily checklists available for visitors to the school.</li><li>● Although health screening of staff, students and visitors is required, there is no requirement for verification or the collection and retention of formal records.</li><li>● Schools must keep records of children’s known pre-existing conditions. If a child develops symptoms that could be caused by either COVID-19 or by a known pre-existing condition (e.g., allergies), the child should be tested at least once for COVID-19 to confirm that it is not the source of their symptoms before entering or returning to school. This will be considered the student’s baseline health. Written confirmation by a physician that a student or staff member’s symptoms are due to a</li></ul>

# GUIDANCE FOR SCHOOLS (K-12) AND SCHOOL BUSES – SCENARIO 1

	<p>chronic illness is not necessary. Repeat testing is not indicated unless the nature of the symptom changes (e.g., a chronic cough worsens).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anyone that reports symptoms should be directed to stay home, seek health care advice as appropriate (e.g., call Health Link 811, or their primary health care practitioner, or 911 for emergency response), and fill out the <a href="#">AHS Online Self-Assessment tool</a> to determine if they should be tested.</li> <li>• <a href="#">Signs</a> must be posted reminding persons not to enter if they have COVID-19 symptoms, even if symptoms resemble a mild cold.</li> <li>• There is no expectation for schools to monitor student/staff temperatures every day. Each school was provided with two thermometers at the start of the school year, which can be available for taking temperatures for students who present with symptoms during the school day. The acceptable range when using a forehead scanning thermometer is generally 36.6°C to 38.0°C. Please refer to the manufacturer’s instructions for product use.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Cohorting</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A cohort is defined as a group of students and/or staff who remain together. The size of the cohort will depend on the physical space of the classroom or learning setting. In very small schools (e.g., equivalent to a single class size), the school may be considered one cohort.</li> <li>• Cohorting decreases the number of close contacts that a case of COVID-19 would have in a school and will assist public health officials in their efforts to trace contacts and contain an outbreak. For the purposes of minimizing exposure, consider limiting capacity of rooms to a number that allows for physical distancing (i.e., fewer students in a smaller room and more students in a larger room).</li> <li>• Typically a cohort in a school will be a class. Students in high school may be in multiple classes and therefore may belong to multiple cohorts.</li> <li>• Keep the same group of students together wherever possible. Consider limiting the number of classroom cohorts that students and teachers belong to.</li> <li>• Where cohorting is not achievable, increase focus on other measures such as physical distancing, hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette and the use of masks.</li> <li>• Students should avoid attending courses at another school.</li> <li>• Cohorting should be maintained during activities outside the classroom, such as recess and lunch breaks. The cohort concept encourages individuals who cannot maintain 2 metre physical distance when in group settings to interact with the same people within their</li> </ul>

# GUIDANCE FOR SCHOOLS (K-12) AND SCHOOL BUSES – SCENARIO 1

	<p>own cohort group. If students from two different cohorts wish to socialize, they should remain 2 metres apart.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If two or more people from different cohorts are required to come within 2 metres of one another for the purposes of instruction, practice or undertaking examinations, additional protections should be instituted. Consider using engineering controls such as plexiglass barriers or partitions that extend across breathing zones and are made of materials that can be cleaned and disinfected between users, or administrative controls such as adapting the activity to minimize or eliminate close contacts.</li> <li>• Teachers who regularly interact within 2 metres of students in their class are considered part of the cohort. If there was a case of COVID-19 in the classroom cohort, the teacher would therefore be considered a close contact and would be required to quarantine. If teachers interact with more than one group of students without distancing, they are part of multiple cohorts.</li> <li>• If a teacher or staff member does not interact within 2 metres of students in their classes, they would not be considered part of the cohort and would not automatically be considered a close contact if a student became a case of COVID-19.</li> <li>• Teachers/staff must not be in a cohort with each other, unless it is required for operational purposes (i.e., a teacher and a teacher’s assistant who work with the same classroom cohort). If one teacher/staff tests positive for COVID-19 and is in a cohort with other teachers/staff, every teacher/staff in that cohort will be required to quarantine, which may have a significant negative impact on the ability for the school to remain operational for in-person learning.</li> <li>• Avoid large gatherings of students and staff (e.g., assemblies, in-person group professional development day activities). Offer virtual options instead of in person gatherings where possible.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Physical Distancing</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Schools should institute controls to promote physical distancing as much as possible between all students/staff in areas inside and outside of the classroom, including hallways, washrooms and common areas. This may include:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Staggering start and end times for classes to avoid crowded entrances or exits and hallways.</li> <li>○ Posting signs and marking floors with arrows to control the flow of traffic.</li> <li>○ Removing and restaging seating in public areas to prevent gathering.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

# GUIDANCE FOR SCHOOLS (K-12) AND SCHOOL BUSES – SCENARIO 1

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Considering limiting bathroom occupancy to support physical distancing.</li> <li>● It is still recommended to maintain physical distancing within a cohort whenever possible to minimize the risk for disease transmission (i.e., spacing between desks). Students are not expected to sit in their desks for the duration of the day.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ If 2 metres spacing cannot be arranged between desks/tables, the greatest possible spacing is recommended. Students should be arranged so they are not facing each other (e.g., arranged in rows rather than in small groups of 4 or a semi-circle). This way, if a student coughs or sneezes, they are not likely to cough or sneeze directly on the face of another student.</li> <li>○ Consider removing additional items or pieces of equipment that are not in use from classrooms to allow more space to spread out.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● In situations where physical distancing is not possible (e.g., on the bus, in classrooms and while participating in some sporting activities), or for younger grades with play-based curricula, there should be extra emphasis on hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette, not attending school when ill and cleaning and disinfecting on a regular basis before and after activities.</li> <li>● Schools should develop procedures for drop-off that support physical distancing where possible between all persons (except household members). Consider strategies to support physical distancing or utilize other protocols to limit contact between staff/parents/guardians/children/students as much as possible:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Designate entrances for classes/groups of students.</li> <li>○ Physical distancing markers in crowded areas.</li> <li>○ Stagger drop off/bus arrival times, coordinated with entry/exit.</li> <li>○ Encourage parents/guardians to remain outside during drop-off and pick-up.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Masks</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Students, teachers, staff and visitors must follow provincial requirements for <a href="#">masks</a>.</li> <li>● All students attending grades 4 through 12, staff members and visitors are required to wear a mask while in indoor shared areas of school, outside the classroom, and on a school bus. Please see <a href="#">CMOH Order 33-2020</a> for additional information.</li> <li>● Masks are not required while students are seated in the classroom during instruction if students are working quietly and desks are arranged so students are not facing each other. If close contact between students, or students and teachers/staff is going to occur as a</li> </ul>

# GUIDANCE FOR SCHOOLS (K-12) AND SCHOOL BUSES – SCENARIO 1

View the current version of this publication at <https://open.alberta.ca/publications/covid-19-information-guidance-school-re-entry-scenario-1>

	<p>result of classroom activities, non-medical masks should be used for the duration of this activity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Face shields are not considered to be equivalent to non-medical face masks. Other alternatives (e.g., neck gaiters, buffs or bandanas) offer less protection than masks and are not recommended.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Face shields may be worn in addition to a mask, at the discretion of the individual. Staff may elect to wear a face shield or eye protection in addition to a mask when completing personal care of students or when staff are in close contact with students where droplets may be a risk factor (i.e., symptomatic students awaiting pick up by parents/guardians).</li></ul></li><li>• A very small number of individuals may not be able to wear masks due to sensory or health issues. It is important to comply with other personal preventative practices such as frequent hand hygiene, physical distancing and strict cohorting as much as possible.</li><li>• Persons seeking a mask exception at a school should discuss their request with the school administration.</li><li>• Exceptions to the mask requirement for students in grades 4 through 12, staff and all visitors include:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Persons who are unable to place, use or remove a non-medical face mask without assistance;</li><li>○ Persons unable to wear a non-medical face mask due to a mental or physical concern or limitation;</li><li>○ Persons consuming food or drink in designated areas;</li><li>○ Persons engaged in physical exercise;</li><li>○ Persons seated at a desk or table within a classroom or place where instruction is taking place and where the desks, tables and chairs are arranged in a manner to prevent persons who are seated from facing each other, and to allow the greatest possible distance between seated persons;</li><li>○ Persons providing or receiving care or assistance where a non-medical face mask would hinder that caregiving or assistance, and</li><li>○ Persons separated from every other person by a physical barrier.</li></ul></li><li>• Masks may be considered but are not required for younger students in grades Kindergarten through grade 3. Whether or not masks are worn, these students should adhere to the other public health strategies that mitigate the risk of transmission of COVID-19, such as cohorting, hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette.</li><li>• Parents/guardians who are considering masks for their child in grades Kindergarten through 3 should make their choice based on a mask correctly and safely during the day, which may be dependent on</li></ul>
--	--



# GUIDANCE FOR SCHOOLS (K-12) AND SCHOOL BUSES – SCENARIO 1

	<p>various factors such as age, maturity, physical ability and comprehension.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some school boards may have implemented more stringent masking requirements.</li> <li>• Individuals wearing masks are still considered to be close contacts if they are exposed to a case of COVID-19.</li> <li>• School administrators should develop a plan to ensure that students who are hearing impaired or who rely on facial cues are able to communicate with others in areas where masks are being worn, or have their educational needs met when teachers are wearing masks in the classroom. This may include the use of transparent masks. As with other masks, it is important that transparent masks cover the nose and mouth, as well as fit securely against the face.</li> <li>• School staff should monitor for and address any discrimination or bullying associated with a student either wearing or not wearing a mask.</li> <li>• Parents/guardians should be encouraged to help their children become comfortable with wearing a mask. Masks should not be worn by anyone who is unable to remove the mask without assistance (e.g., due to age, ability or developmental status).</li> <li>• Schools should consult their designated Occupational Health and Safety department for mask-wearing policies and other personal protective equipment policies for their staff.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Field Trips</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Off-site activities (e.g., field trips for group physical activity, performance activities and recreational activities that are part of the curriculum) must follow the school guidance, as well as any sector-specific guidance relevant to the location of the field trip, including physical distancing, use of non-medical face masks, cohorting, hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette and enhanced cleaning and disinfection.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Individual classroom cohorts should be maintained during transportation to and from any external field trip site, as well as at the location of the field trip site.</li> <li>○ Organizations providing off-site activities should comply with the general relaunch guidance and sector-specific guidance.</li> <li>○ An organization or facility should only host one classroom cohort at a time, or should take clear steps to separate multiple groups to ensure they do not use shared areas (e.g., lunch rooms).</li> <li>○ Staff at the off-site activity must maintain physical distancing of at least 2 metres from the students and staff in the classroom cohort.</li> <li>○ Hold activities outdoors as much as possible.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

View the current version of this publication at <https://open.alberta.ca/publications/covid-19-information-guidance-school-re-entry-scenario-1>

# GUIDANCE FOR SCHOOLS (K-12) AND SCHOOL BUSES – SCENARIO 1

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Schools must develop procedures to address students or staff developing symptoms during the field trip; plans should include a designated area to isolate the ill individual, what extra supplies may be needed (e.g., mask for the child, mask/face shield for the individual attending to the child, etc.), how to notify a parent/guardian and how the ill child will be transported home from the off-site activity.</li> <li>● Schools must follow the CMOH orders as they relate to curriculum-based educational activities and extra-curricular activities. For more information about current restrictions, see the webpage for <a href="#">Stronger public health measures</a>.</li> <li>● In-school field trips may also occur. All visitors to the school are expected to follow the public health measures that are in place for the school.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Performance Activity</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Students are able to participate in a group performance activity (i.e., singing, dancing, playing instruments, theatre) as part of their education program curriculum where participation in the activity is limited to students undertaking the education program at the school.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Singers and wind instrument musicians must keep 2 metres away from other performers and individuals at all times.</li> <li>○ Wind instruments must be equipped with a cover intended to prevent droplet transmission.</li> <li>○ In indoor settings, groups should not sing or play wind instruments for more than 30 minutes at a time, with a 10 minute break afterwards to allow for air exchange in the room.</li> <li>○ In a space where band students could be physically distanced on all sides (e.g., gymnasium, outside), band classes may be considered.</li> <li>○ When performance activities involve singing, all singers, including students in Kindergarten through grade 3, must wear masks when singing indoors.</li> <li>○ As singing is a high-risk activity, children who have an exception to masking can be provided with another musical part (e.g., percussion) or if the child will be singing, they should be alone in a dedicated space or room (e.g., a different classroom, using a virtual video participation option).</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Students are able to participate in an extracurricular performance activity following the CMOH orders for general performance activities. For more information about current restrictions, see the webpage for <a href="#">Stronger public health measures</a>.</li> <li>● For additional information on performance activities, please see guidance for <a href="#">Instrumental music</a> and <a href="#">Singing and vocal performance</a>.</li> </ul>

# GUIDANCE FOR SCHOOLS (K-12) AND SCHOOL BUSES – SCENARIO 1

<p><b>Physical Activity</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students are permitted to participate in group physical activity as part of an education program curriculum where participation in the activity is limited to the students undertaking the education program at the school (i.e., physical education class and sports academy classes may occur). Participants must continue to follow the school guidance regarding cohorting, physical distancing, hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette, and use of non-medical masks when students are not physically active.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ When possible, physical education should be done outside instead of inside as the risk of transmission is more likely to occur indoors rather than outdoors.</li> <li>○ For physical education classes, administrators and teachers should, where possible, choose activities or sports that support physical distancing and limit face-to-face activities (e.g., badminton over wrestling).</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Students are able to participate in an extracurricular physical activity following the current CMOH orders for general physical activity. For more information about current restrictions, see the webpage for <a href="#">Stronger public health measures</a>.</li> <li>• For additional information on sports, please refer to the <a href="#">Guidance for sport, physical activity and recreation</a>.</li> <li>• Individual schools/school boards or organizations may have policies that set limits on the number of extra-curricular school-related activity cohorts that participants belong to.</li> <li>• Sports cohorts should be maintained during transportation to and from any external site. Combining cohorts for the purpose of transportation is not recommended (e.g., avoid having two teams or two classes share the same bus).</li> </ul>
<p><b>Expectations for Visitors and Other Service Providers Entering the School</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visitors and volunteers are required to follow the school policies such as physical distancing, hand hygiene, staying home when ill and wearing a mask.</li> <li>• Parents/guardians can attend the school if they are required (e.g., parents/guardians may drop off student lunches or other necessary items as required).</li> <li>• A record of all visitors should be kept.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ When a visitor or service provider (including delivery drivers and independent contractors) enters the school they should be asked to use the applicable checklist for their age group (<a href="#">Child Alberta Health Daily Checklist</a> or <a href="#">Adult Alberta Health Daily Checklist</a>) before they enter the school.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

# GUIDANCE FOR SCHOOLS (K-12) AND SCHOOL BUSES – SCENARIO 1

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ If a visitor or service provider answers YES to any of the questions, the individual must not be admitted into the school.</li> <li>○ In the case of a delivery driver answering YES, the driver/school will make alternate delivery arrangements.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Food Services</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Classes that teach food preparation may occur as long as students follow general precautions, such as ensuring hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette, wearing non-medical face masks, maintaining 2 metres physical distancing and avoiding handling common or shared serving utensils or cookware.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Any food prepared during a class that teaches food preparation should be served by a designated person. Students should follow physical distancing measures while eating and during food preparation.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Activities that involve the sharing of food items between students or staff should not occur (e.g., pot luck, buffet-style service).</li> <li>● Parents/teachers can provide food/treats for a classroom if there is a designated person serving the food and appropriate hand hygiene is followed before and after eating. Please follow the school's policy for parent-provided food.</li> <li>● For classroom meals and snacks:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ No self-serve or family-style meal service can occur. Instead, switch to pre-packaged meals or meals served by designated staff.</li> <li>○ There should be no common food items (e.g., salt and pepper shakers, ketchup bottle).</li> <li>○ Designated staff should serve food items using utensils (not fingers).</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Food service program (e.g., cafeteria) establishments should follow the <a href="#">Guidance for restaurants</a>.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Group students in their cohorts for meal breaks. Use alternate processes to reduce the numbers of people dining together at one time.</li> <li>○ If a school is using a common lunchroom and staggering lunch times, ensure that all surfaces of the tables and chairs (including the underneath edge of the chair seat) are cleaned and disinfected after each use.</li> <li>○ Adapt other areas to serve as additional dining space to increase spacing among persons in the same room.</li> <li>○ Do not use buffets. Instead, switch to pre-packaged meals or meals served by staff.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

## COVID-19 INFORMATION

# GUIDANCE FOR SCHOOLS (K-12) AND SCHOOL BUSES – SCENARIO 1

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Dispense cutlery, napkins and other items to students/children, rather than allowing them to pick up their own items.</li></ul>
<b>Responding to Illness</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Schools should have detailed plans for a rapid response if a student, teacher, staff member or visitor becomes symptomatic while at school. For more information on what this should include, see the <a href="#">Resource Guide for COVID-19 Cases in School Settings</a>.</li><li>● Anyone with symptoms should be encouraged to access COVID-19 testing by accessing the <a href="#">AHS Online Testing tool</a>.</li><li>● Please see Appendix D for management of adults and children who are symptomatic and/or tested for COVID-19, as well as management of their close contacts.</li><li>● If a COVID-19 case is identified in the school population, Alberta Health Services Public Health will determine if the case was at school while infectious or acquired infection at school. If so, AHS will notify the superintendent who will assist in contacting the school administration. For additional information on COVID-19 in school settings, including information on alerts, outbreaks and contact tracing processes, please refer to the <a href="#">Resource Guide for COVID-19 Cases in School Settings</a>.</li><li>● Proof of a negative COVID-19 test result is not necessary for a student, teacher or staff member to return to school.</li><li>● If school authorities and/or school administrations have questions regarding COVID-19 planning, prevention and response, or have concerns about high rates of absenteeism due to illness, please refer to Appendix C for information on the AHS Coordinated Early Identification and Response Team for Schools.</li></ul>
<b>Student Transportation (Including School Buses)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Parents and children/students should not be in the pick-up area or enter the bus if they have symptoms of COVID-19.</li><li>● Bus drivers should be provided with a protective zone, which may include:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ 2 metre physical distance;</li><li>○ Physical barrier;</li><li>○ Mask; or</li><li>○ Other.</li></ul></li><li>● Students should be assigned seats and a record of this seating plan should be maintained in order to assist with contact tracing in the event of a student being a case of COVID-19. Students who live in the same household should be seated together.</li><li>● Masks are required for students in grades 4 through 12.</li></ul>

# GUIDANCE FOR SCHOOLS (K-12) AND SCHOOL BUSES – SCENARIO 1

- Masks may be recommended for students in grades Kindergarten through 3, however they are not required. School boards and/or bus companies may choose to have more stringent masking requirements.
- Schools/bus companies should develop procedures for student loading, unloading and transfers that support physical distancing of 2 metres between all persons (except household members), when possible and may include:
  - Children/students start loading from the back seats to the front of bus.
  - Where feasible, limit the number of students per bench unless from the same household.
  - Students from the same household may share seats.
  - Students start unloading from the front seats to the back of bus.
  - If there are students from two schools on the same bus, it is recommended to keep students from each school separated by 2 metres (3 rows) if possible.
- A child who becomes symptomatic during the bus trip should be provided a mask if they are not already wearing one. The driver will contact the school to make the appropriate arrangements to pick up the child/student (see Responding to Illness above).
- School bus cleaning and records:
  - Choose a disinfectant that has a Drug Identification Number (DIN) and a broad-spectrum virucidal claim OR a virucidal claim against non-enveloped viruses or coronaviruses and use it according to the manufacturer's instructions. More information is available in the [AHS COVID-19 public health recommendations for environmental cleaning of public facilities](#).
  - Increase frequency of cleaning and disinfection of high-touch surfaces, such as door handles, window areas, rails, steering wheel, mobile devices and GPS prior to each run.
  - It is recommended that vehicle cleaning logs be kept.
- City buses and other city public transportation are under the jurisdiction of the municipality. Individuals taking city public transportation must comply with their masking guidance and/or bylaws. See [Guidance for public transit](#).
- Students and staff should be discouraged from carpooling unless they are from the same household. If carpooling is necessary, limit the number of people in the vehicle to maintain as much physical distance as possible and ensure all occupants wear masks and practice hand hygiene.

## COVID-19 INFORMATION

# GUIDANCE FOR SCHOOLS (K-12) AND SCHOOL BUSES – SCENARIO 1

<b>Work Experience</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Work experience is permitted as long as the risk of infection is mitigated for all participants.</li><li>• If the work experience placement is in a workplace, the child/student is expected to follow health rules set out by the workplace which should comply with the <a href="#">Workplace Guidance for Business Owners</a>.</li></ul>
<b>Ceremonies and Celebratory Events</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Graduation ceremonies that occur outside of the school and/or outside of normal school hours must follow the Guidance for Celebratory Events and the Guidance for Performing Arts, including restrictions on attendance and audiences.</li><li>• A school may host a graduation ceremony on school property, during regular school hours, following the measures below:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ The graduation ceremony must occur on school property during normal school hours.</li><li>○ All graduating students must be from the same school.</li><li>○ All graduating students must stay with their classroom cohorts with a minimum 2 metre distance from all individuals who are not part of their classroom cohort.</li><li>○ Attendance at in-school graduation ceremonies must be limited to graduating students and school staff (e.g., no in-person audience allowed).</li><li>○ The graduation event does not include performance activities.</li></ul></li><li>• Virtual graduation ceremony options should be considered.</li><li>• For more information on other in-school ceremonies, please refer to: <a href="#">Tips for Hosting Cultural, Spiritual and Ceremonial Events in School</a>.</li></ul>
<b>International Students/Programs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• International travel programs and international education programs in Alberta must follow current <a href="#">public health orders and local restrictions</a>.</li></ul>
<b>Compliance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Concerns with individuals not complying with school protocols should be directed to the school principal, the school authority central office or Alberta Education.</li><li>• School administrators and school authorities who have concerns, need specific guidance or have questions about how to apply the measures outlined in the guidance document may contact AHS Environmental Public Health in their zone for assistance.</li><li>• Concerns identified by AHS should be discussed with the school administration. Concerns that cannot be resolved through this process should be directed to Alberta Health, who may bring forward to Alberta Education as appropriate.</li></ul>

# GUIDANCE FOR SCHOOLS (K-12) AND SCHOOL BUSES – SCENARIO 1

## Appendix A: Indigenous Services Canada – First Nations and Inuit Health Branch ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES Contacts

ISC-First Nations and Inuit Health Branch Environmental Public Health Services	REGULAR BUSINESS HOURS 8:00 am – 4:00 pm	
	Edmonton Office	Environmental Public Health
Tsuut'ina Office	Environmental Public Health	403-299-3939



COVID-19 INFORMATION

# GUIDANCE FOR SCHOOLS (K-12) AND SCHOOL BUSES – SCENARIO 1

## Appendix B: AHS Zone Environmental Public Health Contacts

Portal link: <https://ephisahs.albertahealthservices.ca/create-case/>

ZONE	CONTACT EMAIL ADDRESS	PHONE NUMBERS FOR MAIN OFFICE
Calgary Zone	<a href="mailto:calgaryzone.environmentalhealth@ahs.ca">calgaryzone.environmentalhealth@ahs.ca</a>	Calgary 403-943-2288
Central Zone	<a href="mailto:centralzone.environmentalhealth@ahs.ca">centralzone.environmentalhealth@ahs.ca</a>	Red Deer 403-356-6366
Edmonton Zone	<a href="mailto:edmontonzone.environmentalhealth@ahs.ca">edmontonzone.environmentalhealth@ahs.ca</a>	Edmonton 780-735-1800
North Zone	<a href="mailto:northzone.environmentalhealth@ahs.ca">northzone.environmentalhealth@ahs.ca</a>	Grande Prairie 780-513-7517
South Zone	<a href="mailto:she.southzoneeph@ahs.ca">she.southzoneeph@ahs.ca</a>	Lethbridge 403-388-6689

# GUIDANCE FOR SCHOOLS (K-12) AND SCHOOL BUSES – SCENARIO 1

## Appendix C: AHS Coordinated Early Identification and Response Team for Schools Contact Information

The AHS Coordinated Early Identification and Response (CEIR) team is available to school administrators and school authorities who want to reach AHS for guidance or decision making support. If schools do not have an AHS contact who they are currently working with, or are unsure of who to call, the team can be reached at:

ZONE	CONTACT PHONE NUMBER
All Zones	1-844-343-0971

**Please note:** this phone number is **only to be used by school administrators and school authorities** for guidance or decision making support. This number is not to be distributed to be used by parents/guardians, students or staff. **For individual health advice, parents/guardians, students and staff can be directed to call Health Link at 811.**

View the current version of this publication at <https://open.alberta.ca/publications/covid-19-information-guidance-school-re-entry-scenario-1>

# GUIDANCE FOR SCHOOLS (K-12) AND SCHOOL BUSES – SCENARIO 1

## Appendix D: Management of children who are tested for COVID-19

Symptoms	COVID-19 Test Result:	Management of Individual:	Management of Individual's Close Contacts*:
Symptomatic	Positive	Isolate for a minimum 10 days or until symptoms have improved AND no fever for 24 hours, without the use of fever-reducing medications, whichever is longer.	Quarantine for 14 days from last exposure.
	Negative	Stay home until symptoms resolve. <b>Except</b> if identified as a close contact of a confirmed case: Quarantine for 14 days since the last exposure (even with negative result).	No quarantine required.
	Not tested	If symptoms include fever, cough, shortness of breath or loss of sense of taste/smell: Isolate for a minimum for 10 days or until symptoms have improved AND afebrile for 24 hours, without the use of fever-reducing medications, whichever is longer. <b>Except</b> if identified as a close contact of a confirmed case: Quarantine for 14 days since the last exposure.  If other symptoms (chills, sore throat/painful swallowing, runny nose/congestion, feeling unwell/fatigued, nausea/vomiting/diarrhea, unexplained loss of appetite, muscle/joint aches, headache or conjunctivitis): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ONE symptom: stay home, monitor for 24h. If improves, return when well enough to go (testing not necessary).</li> <li>• TWO symptoms OR ONE symptom that persists or worsens: Stay home until symptom(s) resolve (testing recommended but not required).</li> </ul> <b>Except</b> if identified as a close contact of a confirmed case: Quarantine for 14 days since the last exposure.	No quarantine required. <b>Except</b> if symptomatic individual identified as a close contact of a confirmed case: Close contacts of this individual should quarantine for 14 days from last exposure to this individual.
Asymptomatic	Positive	Isolate for a minimum of 10 days from the collection date of the swab.	Quarantine for 14 days from last exposure.
	Negative	No isolation required. <b>Except</b> if identified as a close contact of a confirmed case: Quarantine for 14 days since the last exposure (even with negative result).	No quarantine required.

# GUIDANCE FOR SCHOOLS (K-12) AND SCHOOL BUSES – SCENARIO 1

## Management of adults who are tested for COVID-19

Symptoms	COVID-19 Test Result:	Management of Individual:	Management of Individual's Close Contacts*:
Symptomatic	Positive	Isolate for a minimum 10 days or until symptoms have improved AND no fever for 24 hours, without the use of fever-reducing medications, whichever is longer.	Quarantine for 14 days from last exposure.
	Negative	Stay home until symptoms resolve. <b>Except</b> if identified as a close contact of a confirmed case: Quarantine for 14 days since the last exposure (even with a negative result).	No quarantine required.
	Not tested	If symptoms include fever, cough, shortness of breath, sore throat or runny nose: Isolate for a minimum for 10 days or until symptoms have improved AND afebrile for 24 hours, without the use of fever-reducing medications, whichever is longer. <b>Except</b> if identified as a close contact of a confirmed case: Quarantine for 14 days since the last exposure.	No quarantine required. <b>Except</b> if symptomatic individual identified as a close contact of a confirmed case: Close contacts of this individual should quarantine for 14 days from last exposure to this individual.
		If other symptoms, stay home until symptoms resolve. <b>Except</b> if identified as a close contact of a confirmed case: Quarantine for 14 days since the last exposure.	No quarantine required.
Asymptomatic	Positive	Isolate for a minimum of 10 days from the collection date of the swab.	Quarantine for 14 days from last exposure.
	Negative	No isolation required. <b>Except</b> if identified as a close contact of a confirmed case: Quarantine for 14 days since the last exposure (even with a negative result).	No quarantine required.

\*Close Contacts:

Provide direct care for an individual with COVID-19 or who had similar close physical contact OR had close prolonged contact OR had direct contact with infectious body fluids of an individual with COVID-19 (i.e., coughed or sneezed on). The entire classroom cohort may be considered to be close contacts of the case, based on the AHS Public Health investigation. This is a cautious approach to identifying close contacts in order to minimize the risk of transmission. Teachers/staff are assessed on a case-by-case basis.