

Taking your child to school

If your child normally takes the bus, consider taking them directly to school if your personal situation allows for it. This would help with physical distancing on the bus for students who do not have other options besides taking the bus.

WHAT STUDENTS NEED TO KNOW

Cohort

A cohort—or bubble—is a group of students and staff who remain together. The size of the cohort will depend on the physical space of the classroom.

The risk of COVID-19 is reduced by limiting exposure to others. Staying in a cohort also makes contact tracing easier and faster if there is a suspected case of COVID-19.

Talk to your child about some of the new health measures to help them prepare for the first day of school:

- Sanitize hands before entering school and classroom
- Keep a distance between others and follow marks on hallways
- Do not share food or personal items
- Cover coughs and sneezes
- Tell staff if feeling sick at school
- Lunch and recess time may change to allow for more physical distancing
- Students may be asked to stay in their own cohort to decrease contact with others
- Students who take the bus will have to sit in the same seat every day.

Your child may feel nervous about what school will be like. While there will be changes, the key school experience will be the same as before—they will learn in class with their teacher and see friends.



HEALTH MEASURES AT SCHOOLS

Schools will follow detailed health guidelines to prepare for the return of students, for example:

- More cleaning and disinfection of high touch areas and shared equipment
- Allow for physical distancing when possible, which may include:
 - Stagger pick-up and drop-off times
 - One-way or marked hallways and designated entrance and exit doors
 - Leave space between desks and tables
 - Stagger start and end-times for classes and lunchtime to avoid crowded hallways and lunchrooms
 - Limiting bathroom occupancy
- When physical distancing is not possible, extra emphasis will be on hand hygiene, covering coughs and sneezes, and cleaning.
- Students, where possible, will be cohorted by class.

For more details: alberta.ca/returntoschool