

## Re-Entry FAQs and Answers



We understand the importance of providing parents, guardians and residential supervisors with more detail on what return to school will be like. We are working hard to provide this clarity as quickly as possible. Here are some answers to some pressing questions.

### 1. What do I need to do before my child comes to school?

Parents need to monitor their child for symptoms. **Please know it is your responsibility if your child is ill, they cannot be sent to school.** Before leaving home each day, parents are expected to screen their child using the [Daily Screening Questionnaire](#). Anyone who reports symptoms should stay home, seek health care advice as appropriate (eg. Call Health Link 8-1-1, your primary health care practitioner, or 9-1-1 for emergency response), and fill out the [AHS Online Self-Assessment tool](#) to determine if the child should be tested.

Ensure your child has sanitized their hands before arrival. If you are dropping off your child, please do not enter the building(s). Your child's staff will meet you at the door to take them to their classroom.

### 2. Will staff and students be expected to wear masks?

Current Alberta Education & Alberta Health guidance states that masks must be worn on buses, in common areas, and in classrooms when physical distancing can not be achieved. With this in mind masks will be mandatory in classrooms, hallways, common areas, and busses as school begins. If and when physical distancing can happen in a classroom, masks will not need to be worn when students are seated facing forward. Teachers will work with students that are struggling with wearing their masks for prolonged periods.

When teachers are teaching and can maintain a 2m distance from the nearest student they will not be required to wear a mask. In all other circumstances they will be expected to.

Students outside at recess, will be asked to try to maintain a distance of 2m from other students and will not be required to wear their masks.

Exemptions to mask requirement for students & staff include:

- Persons who are unable to place, use or remove a non-medical face mask without assistance;
- Persons unable to wear a non-medical face mask due to a mental or physical concern or limitation;
- Persons consuming food or drink in designated areas;
- Persons engaged in physical exercise;

- Persons providing care or assistance to a person with a disability where a non-medical face mask would hinder that caregiving or assistance;
- Persons engaging in services that require the temporary removal of the non-medical face mask
- Spaces where physical barriers have been installed between persons.

Parents are not required to provide schools with written documentation of mental and physical concerns around mask wearing. Instead a conversation with the teacher or administration about the concerns should be had. Parents should continue to work with their kids as much as possible in getting them to wear masks.

Two reusable non-medical masks will be provided to each student on their first day of school. Parents should familiarize themselves with the [guidance on mask use](#). The laundering of masks will take place at the school at the end of each school day and will be given back out the next morning.

### 3. What happens if my child exhibits symptoms during the school day?

Should a student exhibit symptoms during the school day, that student will be taken to a designated room for isolation. Parents and guardians will be notified that they need to pick their child up immediately. Return to school will be dictated by Alberta Health Services guidelines.

It is also important to note, as per [AHS guidelines](#), anyone who may have been exposed to COVID-19 must self-isolate, contact Health Link (811), and self-isolate for 10 days following the onset of symptoms.

### 4. My child has allergies or a pre-existing condition that mimics the symptoms of COVID-19, can I send them to school?

We recognize that many of our students have allergies or ongoing health issues that are similar to COVID-19. If this is the case for your child, **the individual must be tested at least once according to the Alberta Education's re-entry guidelines**. This test will establish a baseline for the individual. If symptoms change (worsen, additional symptoms, change in baseline) the individual must stay home and be tested and cleared. Parents can then let the school know the list of symptoms that are typical for their child to be kept on file at the school.

### 5. What happens if there is a positive case of COVID-19 in the school?

If there are cases of COVID-19 identified within the school setting, the Zone Medical Officer of Health will work directly with the jurisdiction and school administration to provide follow-up recommendations and messaging for staff, parents/guardians and students.

In the event of an active case, AHS may request the school close in-person classes to allow a public health investigation to take place. The decision to send a cohort/class home or to close a

school will be made by the **Zone Medical Officer of Health**. If this were to occur, the school will support students and staff to learn or work at home if they are required to self-isolate.

#### **6. What measures are in place in the event of a second wave of the pandemic?**

Parkland School will continue to work closely with AHS and Alberta Education throughout the re-entry to school process, and in dealing with confirmed cases, regardless of scenario.

Students who present with symptoms will be sent home, with a recommendation for testing. Parents of students who may have come in contact with the symptomatic student will be advised by letter. If AHS confirms it is indeed a case of COVID-19, the school will work with AHS to implement steps to ensure staff and student safety. Possible responses could include moving to a learning from home environment for a period of time, several classes moving to a learning from home environment or the entire school moving to a learning from home environment.

Every school official wants to do what is right to ensure the safety of students and staff. Parents please ensure that we have the most up-to-date contact information on file in the event we need to suspend classes. It is vital that we also have your most current email address on file.

#### **7. What is the time frame for picking up my child 'immediately' if they are sick?**

When students require a pick up from school, should COVID-19 symptoms be detected, it is expected that the parent/guardian or emergency contact will arrive **within 60 minutes**.

#### **8. What measures are in line for children with allergies and minor symptoms if they should arise. If my child has a minor cough do we need a doctor's note to say they don't have COVID-19 and can continue to come to school?**

The student should be tested at least once before returning to school and have a negative COVID-19 test result. These symptoms would then be their baseline health status. As long as the cough or runny nose is always the same and does not get worse, the student can attend school. Talk to the administration about your child's pre-existing medical condition so the school may keep a confidential record of this condition. Please see the provincial government's [screening measures](#).

#### **9. If your child misses school due to feeling unwell from pre-existing ailments/conditions what protocols or procedures need to be followed? Do they need to be cleared by the Zone Medical Officer?**

Use the [COVID-19 Assessment tool](#) to determine if testing is needed. Students return if a test has been done and the student is negative or when symptoms have disappeared.

**10. Do students need to provide a negative swab result before school begins?**

At this time no. If Alberta Education guidelines change on this, we will advise.

**11. If one of my children doesn't feel well - even if it's a stomach ache or headache or anything does my other child have to stay home too? Even if the second child feels 100%? If they both have to stay home do they both need a COVID-19 test? What if they feel better the next day? Do they still need a test in order to come back to school?**

The second child would not need to stay home if they were symptom free. The [COVID-19 Assessment tool](#) should be used to decide who needs a COVID-19 test.

**12. Are there any plans in place to provide students with priority access to COVID-19 testing?**

Alberta Health and Alberta Health Services are working to expand testing capacity and reduce turnaround times for testing school staff, teachers and students. [Source](#)

**13. If a student must go for a COVID-19 test, the results are called back to the parents. How will the results be given to the school?**

Parents/guardians will phone the results into the school. Students may only return to school with a negative test result. If the result is positive, the Zone Medical Officer will advise the family on how to proceed.

**14. My son has asthma and cannot wear a mask for long periods. Can a face shield be used in place of masks or can he swap back and forth?**

Alberta Education's guidelines on re-entry states that masks must still be worn with face shields. The rules stipulate that exemptions will be made for those unable to wear a mask for medical or other reasons. Parents and students should speak with school administration to review the reasons why their child can't wear a mask.

**15. Can my children interact with their classmates or friends?**

Students will be asked to physically distance and wear masks (if possible) when interacting with their friends anywhere on the school grounds.

**16. Are parents and visitors permitted in the school?**

We value our relationships with our families, but buildings will be very limited to parents and other visitors to ensure we abide by regulations such as appropriate social distancing and safety. We will be conducting all parent/guardian inquiries via phone or online conferencing wherever possible. If an appointment must be in person, all visitors must make an appointment ahead of time, complete a health screening beforehand, and adhere to wearing a mask and sanitizing hands while inside the building at all times.

**17. What happens if my child's regular support staff is sick or unable to attend school for a period of time?**

Due to the nature of our designated staff to student "pairings" within our cohorts, if the staff of a pairing is away, the student will be asked to stay home until the staff can return. This ensures safety protocols can be upheld at school in regards to:

- a) Visitors entering the school (we have had to limit our sub list)
- b) Safety protocols
- c) Adequate social distancing measures

If this becomes the case, a member of the administration team will call and tell you if your child's staff will not be able to attend work. We have asked all staff to make appointments for after work hours and pre-determined days off to avoid them needing to take time off work.