School re-entry

Bannerman
Re-entry Strategy 2020–2021
Revised: August 10, 2020

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Message from the Superintendent

Parents, families and guardians,

On July 21, 2020 the Government of Alberta announced that students would return to in-person classes in September, at near-normal operations, with health measures in place.

As we prepare to welcome our 107,000 students and our staff back to school, we have been working on a strategy that focuses on three key themes:

- mitigation of risk through safety strategies
- family choice
- continuity of learning

This school year will be unlike any before. However, we remain unwavering in our focus on high-quality teaching and learning in environments that keep our students, staff and families as safe as possible.

To keep everyone as safe as possible, we have made a number of changes to school routines and practices that we will all need to adjust to. And as the situation with COVID-19 continues to evolve, so, too, will our approach and our strategies. We look forward to connecting with students in September to welcome them back and help them adjust to the new changes.

Safety first

The changes we’re making are based on provincial requirements and direction to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. These changes include:

- requiring staff and students to conduct daily health checks prior to coming to school
- strict stay-at-home protocols for those who are feeling unwell
- enhanced cleaning and disinfecting in schools and on buses
- encouraging physical distancing where possible
- creating cohorts of students
- mandatory masks for students from Grade 4–12 and for all staff in settings where physical distancing cannot be maintained, as outlined in provincial guidelines
- asking K–3 students who are physically, psychologically or developmentally able to wear a mask, to do so
  - individuals who are physically, psychologically or developmentally unable to wear a mask, or any protected ground under the Alberta Human Rights Act, may be excused from this health protocol
- hand hygiene requirements for students and staff

Physical distancing in many of our classrooms will be challenging. Given this, masks are mandatory as an additional means of protection for staff and students.
**Family choice**

We recognize that returning to in-person classes may not be the best option for all students, and families know their children best. To meet the needs of all students, online learning will be offered in the 2020–2021 school year. Schools will be in contact with families four times during the school year about whether students will continue with in-person learning or online learning.

Our goal is to ensure all students receive a high-quality education, no matter what option they choose. More information about family choice is outlined in this document.

**Continuity of learning**

We know that students may move between in-person and online learning throughout the year. To ensure the transition is smooth, we are co-ordinating in-person and online teaching to make sure students across the Division learn key themes or units of the curriculum at the same time during the school year. This will ensure that students who shift between in-person and online learning groups in 2020–2021 can do so without disrupting the continuity of their learning. It will also help keep students on track if they need to miss school due to illness or to self-isolate.

**Shared responsibility**

As our Chief Medical Officer of Health Dr. Deena Hinshaw has said, safety is our collective responsibility. Together, we must all take measures to protect one another—we must maintain high levels of hygiene and we must all follow the provincial health guidance to the best of our ability.

We take this responsibility seriously. There is nothing more important to us than the safety and well-being of our staff and students.

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Darrel Robertson  
*Superintendent of Schools*  
Edmonton Public Schools
Planning the return to school


The provincial plan is designed around three operational scenarios during the COVID-19 pandemic:

- Scenario 1: In-school classes resume (near normal with health measures)
- Scenario 2: In-school classes partially resume (with additional health measures)
- Scenario 3: At-home learning continues (in-school classes are suspended/cancelled)

The province has decided that students will return to school in September under Scenario 1 of the provincial re-entry strategy.

Alberta’s chief medical officer of health and the minister of education will continue to monitor information around the COVID-19 pandemic as they decide how to best keep students, staff and the broader community as safe as possible during a pandemic.

This means that, at any point during the school year, the province could decide whether schools across Alberta, schools in a particular region, or individual schools and classrooms need to move from one scenario to another. This decision will always be made by a medical officer of health in collaboration with education officials.

To help families better understand the provincial school re-entry plan, Alberta Education has developed the Parents’ Guide 2020–2021 School Year and Get the Facts: Back to Class for 2020–2021.

This school re-entry strategy follows the COVID-19 Division Re-entry Strategy. It is designed to give families a clear picture of what things will look like at our school under Scenario 1 of the province’s re-entry plan.

Our strategy is developed around three key themes—safety and risk mitigation, family choice and continuity of learning—which work together to support a return to school in September.
Safety and well-being

The safety and well-being of staff, students and families is the foundation of our return to school. Protecting each other is the shared responsibility among all members of the school community—we all have a critical role to play in following the safety protocols set out by Dr. Deena Hinshaw, Alberta’s chief medical officer of health. These protocols are intended to mitigate or reduce the risk of COVID-19, but do not eliminate all risk. The provincial re-entry plan’s focus on safety does not depend on one single strategy, but many strategies that work together to support the safest environment possible within the complex dynamics of a school community.

These strategies include:

- cohorts
- screening for illness
- strict illness protocols
- handwashing and sanitizing
- cleaning standards
- physical distancing
- personal protective equipment (PPE)
- and masks

Cohorts

In the provincial re-entry plan, a cohort is defined as a group of students and staff who remain together. The size of the cohort will depend on the size of the classroom and the number of students assigned to the teacher.

Cohorting decreases the number of close contacts staff and students will have in the school, and will assist public health officials in their efforts to trace contacts and contain a COVID-19 outbreak, should there be one in the school community.

Screening for illness

Before coming to school each day, all staff and students must complete the Government of Alberta’s COVID-19 Information Screening Questionnaire to determine whether they can attend or must stay home. The self-screening questionnaire is available in multiple languages.

Families will receive a copy of this provincial questionnaire from their school in late August. They will be expected to complete the questionnaire daily and follow all Government of Alberta health instructions on the questionnaire. Students who have any symptoms noted on the questionnaire cannot attend school.

Families are not required to submit the form to the school. It is a tool to assess their child’s wellness before sending them to school.
Anyone else permitted in a school will also need to complete the daily COVID-19 Information Screening Questionnaire before entering the building. People with symptoms of COVID-19 or experiencing illness will not be allowed in the school. All schools will have posters on their doors reminding people not to enter the building if they feel sick, or if they have had close contact with someone who is ill or suspected of having COVID-19.

Following provincial health protocols around illness is a key strategy to slow down or stop the spread of COVID-19. **We all must do our part and stay home when we are sick.**

**Showing signs of illness while at school**

If a student or staff member shows symptoms during the school day, they will need to leave the school. When a student is sick, the student will continue to wear a mask if they can do so safely. School staff who supervise the student will also wear a mask and will:

- bring the student to a private area away from others, if possible, or keep them at least two metres away from others
  - all schools have been provided thermometers, which will be a tool for when children are not feeling well and will enable schools to report health information to families
- contact parents or guardians to pick up their child immediately
- follow health protocols around personal protective equipment (PPE) and cleaning and disinfecting the area

**Students with pre-existing conditions**

Any student with a pre-existing health condition that causes symptoms of illness should be tested for COVID-19 at least once before they return to school.

A negative test would help show that their symptoms are related to their pre-existing condition, and not to an illness. This would establish what their baseline for being healthy looks like. Families should notify their school about any pre-existing condition and the symptoms it causes. As long as these symptoms remain the same, the student can attend school.

If symptoms change or worsen, the student will need to leave the school, follow illness protocols and have another COVID-19 test to determine if the symptoms are still related to the pre-existing medical condition. If the test is negative, the student may return to school. Families can learn more about COVID-19 testing and book a test online through Alberta Health Services.
If there is a case of COVID-19 at school

If health officials confirm a case of COVID-19 in a school community, Alberta Health Services will take the following steps:

- the zone medical officer of health will work with school authorities to quickly:
  - identify cases
  - identify close contacts
  - create isolation measures when needed
  - provide follow-up recommendations

- a COVID-19 case will not automatically lead to school closure—it could be that only the group of students and staff who came in close contact will be required to stay home for 14 days

- parents will be notified if a case of COVID-19 is confirmed at school and public health officials will contact those who were in close contact with the person

- each school authority will support students and staff to learn or work at home if they are required to self-isolate

Handwashing and sanitizing

Everyone who enters a school will be required to use hand sanitizer or wash their hands immediately. Students and staff will be required to wash and/or sanitize their hands throughout the day, including:

- every time they enter or exit the school
- before they enter classrooms
- before and after they use shared equipment
- before eating

Schools will provide hand sanitizer throughout the building to support these requirements. It is also encouraged that families send their children to school with personal hand sanitizer.

Schools will also promote proper hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette with verbal reminders and posters throughout the school.
**Cleaning standards**

We are developing a COVID-19 cleaning standard for all Division schools that aligns with provincial directives around cleaning and disinfecting. These increased measures include:

- purchasing provincially recommended COVID-19 cleaning supplies
- additional training for custodial staff
- removing any soft furnishings and area rugs from classrooms and common areas that cannot be cleaned to provincial standards
- frequently cleaning and disinfecting high-touch surfaces such as water fountains and door handles
- more frequent cleaning and disinfecting throughout the school, with specific attention to washrooms, high-traffic areas and classrooms

Our Division is purchasing all COVID-19 cleaning and safety items on behalf of all of our schools. This will help ensure all schools use products that adhere to health standards and meet requirements to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. It also ensures that all schools have equitable access to these supplies.

**Physical distancing**

Physical distancing is one component of the provincial COVID-19 plan. However, it is not always possible, particularly in the school setting. Schools will put controls in place to promote physical distancing throughout their buildings, where possible, including in classrooms, hallways, washrooms and common areas. These controls may include:

- removing excess furniture in classrooms to make more space to spread student desks and tables farther apart
- removing and rearranging seating in common areas to prevent students from gathering
- staggering the times that classes start and end to prevent crowded hallways
- posting signs and using floor markers to control the flow of foot traffic and support physical distancing
- plexiglass shields in the school office
  - we are currently looking into the efficacy of plexiglass shields, recognizing the challenges with proper cleaning and disinfecting

In classrooms where physical distancing is challenging, the provincial government requires assigned seating plans and recommends positioning students to help mitigate the spread of the virus. The province further indicates, where physical distancing isn’t possible, students will be seated in desks or at tables so that they are not directly facing each other. This way, if a student coughs or sneezes, they are less likely to cough or sneeze directly into the face of another student.
In situations where physical distancing is not possible (e.g. buses, classrooms and some sporting activities), extra emphasis on hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette, not participating when sick and cleaning and disinfecting on a regular basis before and after activities is strongly recommended.
— Government of Alberta, Guidance for School Re-entry – Scenario 1

**Personal protective equipment (PPE) and masks**

Not all forms of PPE are required for all staff, but additional PPE is important in the following situations:

- PPE will be part of plans to support students with special needs who require complex medical supports
- custodial staff will receive appropriate PPE to support their work cleaning and disinfecting
- all Division staff will be provided with reusable masks and offered a face shield, as part of the Division’s strategy to support a safer return to school
  - masks are still required for staff who are wearing face shields

**Wearing masks at school**

Masks are emerging as an important way to mitigate the risk of spreading COVID-19, particularly when people are indoors and physical distancing is a challenge.

**All staff and students in Grades 4–12 will be required to wear a mask** when physical distancing at school and in the classroom is not possible, as one way to help reduce the risk of spreading the virus. We are asking K–3 students who are physically, psychologically or developmentally able to wear a mask, to do so.

Some important things to know about the use of masks are:

- individuals who are physically, psychologically or developmentally unable to wear a mask, or any protected ground under the Alberta Human Rights Act, may be excused from this health protocol
- families will work with the school principal to discuss this relative to their child
- masks are required for staff who are wearing face shields
- please follow the provincial health guidelines for [how to choose and wear a mask](#)
- masks will be an important item on school supply lists for families
- every student in the Division will be provided with two reusable masks
- if someone forgets their mask, schools will ensure there are supplies available for students and staff
What school will look like

We look forward to welcoming students and staff back into our classrooms. However, it will be different in many ways as our whole system works together to support the safety and well-being of our students and staff during the COVID-19 pandemic.

We want to help students, families and staff better understand how schools will operate and what teaching and learning will look like in 2020–2021.

Arriving at school

All students will have an assigned door to use every time they enter and exit their school. When students arrive at school, they will:

- go to the area outside their assigned door
- follow physical distancing guidelines to stay at least two meters apart while they wait outside
- follow physical distancing guidelines to line up when it is time to enter the school
- wait for staff to bring them into the school

School staff will be outside to remind students of these requirements, and to help students line up and keep an appropriate distance from each other.

Many schools will develop staggered entry schedules to limit how many students enter the school at once. This schedule may be slightly different from the regular bell schedule.

During extreme weather, such as severe cold or rain, schools will have a plan in place so students can enter the school early.

**Adults bringing students to school will be asked to stay in their vehicle or outside the school, and to maintain a safe physical distance between themselves and others.** Those who need to enter the school must book an appointment with the school office. Individuals without an appointment will not be able to enter the school.

Parents and guardians of children who have complex needs and require support to enter the building should contact their school office in late August. Staff will work with them to develop a plan that is safe for both students and staff.
In order to prevent crowding and ensure the integrity of the class cohort, we are assigning exteriors doors to students and the area they will be required to stay within while waiting to enter the school each day:

- Kindergarten - Room 1 classroom door
- Gr 1 - playground doors
- Gr 2 - Room 3 classroom door
- Gr 3 - Room 8 classroom door
- Gr 4 - art room doors (boot rack by room 11)
- Gr 5 - div 2 pod doors (boot rack by room 5)
- Gr 6 - doors by Room 9
- ISP will continue to be received through the handicap accessible front doors by ISP staff. For any students not arriving to ISP on the bus, please use the buzzer and ISP staff will come bring the student inside.

Outdoor supervision will begin each morning at 8:25 am; Outdoor supervision after school will be provided until 3:36 pm.

As we recognize that staggering entry and exit times are extremely challenging with students who may travel by bus, with older siblings, and/or with daycare providers, all students will be welcome on
school property prior to entry to the school. However, once students arrive on school grounds, they are limited to waiting in the designated area for their grade/cohort group.

Bannerman
2020-2021 Hours of Operation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Kindergarten</th>
<th>Grade 1-3</th>
<th>Grade 4-6</th>
<th>ISP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>AM Start</strong></td>
<td>8:40</td>
<td>8:41</td>
<td>8:41</td>
<td>8:45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>AM End</strong></td>
<td>11:36</td>
<td>11:40</td>
<td>11:40</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Eating Lunch</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>11:40-12:00</td>
<td>12:00-12:21</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lunch Recess</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>12:00-12:15</td>
<td>11:40-11:55</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PM Start</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>12:21</td>
<td>12:21</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PM End</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>3:21</td>
<td>3:21</td>
<td>2:12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Thurs. Early Dismissal</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>2:20</td>
<td>2:20</td>
<td>1:42</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

In addition to their lunch recess, Division 1 & Division 2 will each have one 15 minute recess break in the morning and in the afternoon Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday. Thursday there will only be recess in the morning.

**COVID-19 signage on entrances**
All school doors will have COVID-19 signs posted to indicate that anyone with symptoms cannot enter the school.

**Hand sanitizer and hand washing**
As soon as students enter the school, they will be required to use hand sanitizer or immediately wash their hands. Schools will create plans to support hand hygiene by considering washroom locations, the
number of students entering the school and other relevant factors. Students will be required to use hand sanitizer again before they enter their classroom.

Schools will provide hand sanitizer throughout the building to support these requirements. It is also encouraged that families send their children to school with personal hand sanitizer.

- Hand sanitizing stations will be placed directly inside all exterior doors of the school facility, outside classrooms, in each operational classroom/instructional space, directly outside the entrance to common areas such as the main office, the gymnasium, and by high-touch areas such as water fountains.

**Kindergarten, Grade 1, and Grade 2:**
Upon entering the classroom, before eating, and before leaving the classroom to go to another location for instruction (PE, Mezzanine, etc) every child must use hand sanitizer or wash their hands at the classroom sink.

**Grade 3:** Upon entering the classroom through the outside door, students will use hand sanitizer. Before eating and on the way to go to another location for instruction (PE, music room, etc) every child must use hand sanitizer or wash their hands in the sink by the Library.

**Grade 4:** When coming in from the Grade 4 designated entrance, all Grade 4 students will wash their hands at the Div 2 washrooms prior to entering the Pod. Before eating and on the way to go to another location for instruction (PE, Mezzanine, etc) every child must use hand sanitizer or wash their hands in the bathroom sink.

**Grade 5:** When coming in from the Grade 5 designated entrance, all Grade 5 students will wash their hands at the Div 2 hallway sink prior to entering the Pod. Before eating and on the way to go to another location for instruction (PE, Mezzanine, etc) every child must use hand sanitizer or wash their hands in the Div 2 hallway sink.

**Grade 6:** When coming in from the Grade 6 designated entrance, all Grade 6 students will wash their hands at Library hallway sink prior to entering the Pod. Before eating and on the way to go to another location for instruction (PE, music room, etc) every child must use hand sanitizer or wash their hands in the Library hallway sink.

**Traffic flow within the school**
Schools will use a variety of visual cues (posters and arrow/standing-dot floor markers) to help students maintain physical distancing within the school.
● We will have a variety of visuals up around the school to help control the flow of traffic in the building, and reminders. These will be similar to what is seen in stores, banks, and other public places.

![Visual reminder](image)

- We know that sometimes signs with words or numbers are hard to read for our students who are just starting their learning, and for some of our students who are learning English. We will be creative to have other visuals in the classrooms, hallways, and outside, such as:
  - Brightly colored pool noodles to provide a visual reminder that we need to keep at least that far apart
- Chalk marks outside along the tarmac or the brick to visually signal how far away to be when lining up at each designated entrance.

- Markings around desks to help students be aware of their space and others.

**Lockers**

At this time, students will not use lockers. Students will keep their personal belongings with them at all times.

- Students will keep their jackets and backpacks in their classroom.
- Teachers will assign coat hooks, cubbies, or other appropriate classroom space that will allow students to stay appropriately distanced while getting ready and spacing out their belongings from one another.

**Assigned seating in classrooms**

Students will follow assigned seating plans throughout the day in the classroom, including for eating lunch. Assigned seating is a strategy to mitigate the potential spread of COVID-19 throughout a cohort of students. It will also support health contact tracing should that be required.
**Student supplies and learning materials**

Students will have their own personal supplies to use that are stored separately. Teachers will plan learning activities to reduce or minimize the need to share equipment, textbooks or materials. If items are shared, they must be cleaned and disinfected after use. Students will wash or sanitize their hands both before and after using the shared items.

**Student learning materials:**
- All paper student learning materials (duotangs, booklets, scribblers, etc) will be kept inside the student’s desk. We request that students have plastic or vinyl pencil cases rather than cloth to ensure easy and effective sanitizing.
- Students will be provided a plastic kit with manipulatives, tools, and hands-on learning materials that their teachers have selected to support their learning. These kits belong to the school and will remain at school, however, each kit will be labelled by student and will only be used by that student for the year. They will be sanitized regularly.

**PE Equipment:**
- Where possible, PE will be outside.
- Student use of physical education equipment will be closely monitored.
- Any equipment used by a cohort of students will be sanitized prior to another cohort using it.

**Technology**
- Grades K-2 ipads: Each K, 1, and 2 classroom will have their own 5 ipad centre that stays in their class to reduce risk of spread between cohorts. Ipads will be sanitized after each use.
- Grades 3-6 Chromebooks: To further reduce the risk of covid spread, each class from grades 3-6 has their own chromebook cart and those carts will not move between cohort groups. Each student in the class will be assigned a numbered chromebook from their cart and they will be the designated user for the year. Students will wipe down their device after each use, and all chromebook carts will be thoroughly cleaned by staff each night.
- Students are welcome to bring their own chromebooks. They will be provided with wipes to clean them after every use and before bringing it home. If you would like your child to bring their own device, please contact Ms. Copeman for more information.

**Washroom protocols**

Washrooms will be cleaned and disinfected several times throughout the day. There will be a maximum number of students permitted in the washroom at one time. Depending on the size of the school and the location of washrooms, schools may assign students to specific washrooms.
● Each washroom will be cleaned and sanitized after scheduled breaks and through regular morning and afternoon checks.
● Washroom occupancy will be limited to 3 students per individual washroom at a time.
● Individual teachers in conjunction with Administration will monitor scheduled student use of washrooms to ensure occupancy numbers are adhered to.
  ○ ISP- designated to handicapped accessible and lift equipped bathroom by Gym
  ○ Kindergarten - in-classroom washroom
  ○ Washrooms in the Division 1 hallway will be designated to Grades 1, 2, an
  ○ Washrooms in the Division 2 hallway will be designated to Grades 4, 5, and 6

**Water fountains**

Under provincial guidelines, water fountains can continue operating. In schools, students will be encouraged to fill their water bottles from the fountain instead of drinking from it directly.

In schools that have water-bottle refilling stations, those stations will remain operational and water fountains will be turned off. Fountains will be cleaned and disinfected several times throughout the day, with particular attention to the knob and push buttons.

**Common areas**

Schools will have measures in place to promote physical distancing in spaces where students often gather, such as foyers, learning commons or T-intersections in hallways. Measures will include:

● limiting the number of students allowed in certain areas at certain times
● requiring students to walk straight through some areas so they don’t crowd together in groups
● having staff supervise high-traffic areas and remind students to adhere to physical distancing protocols

Around school offices and other high-traffic areas, signage (posters and floor markers) will remind students and staff to keep a safe physical distance. There will also be a maximum number of individuals allowed in the school office at one time.

Schools will also develop protocols to mitigate risk in other spaces such as prayer rooms, staff workrooms and utility spaces.
The Main Office will have a maximum capacity of 6 people. In order to ensure we are able to meet safe social distancing requirements in the Office, there are some changes to our school and office entry procedures:

- Students who are late must come to the front entrance to be buzzed in. Parents/guardians may accompany them to the front door to ensure they get inside safely, however, they will not be permitted inside the school. School staff will ensure the student gets to class. Students will NOT be required to pick up a late slip and take it to class.
- For students who must be picked up early for an appointment, we would ask that you notify the office prior to picking them up, and we will have them ready waiting for you outside the office. When you arrive at the school, you may buzz the door, we will sign the student out, and send them outside. Alternately, if you pull into the loading zone and call the school office, an office staff member will log the student out and watch them get to your vehicle safely.

Washrooms will have a maximum capacity of 3 people. In order to ensure we are able to meet safe social distancing requirements in the washroom we will have 1 empty stall between 2 that are operational.

Procedures for other shared spaces:

- The Music Room, Art room, and Science Lab will no longer be used as shared spaces. While they may be booked out by a teacher, only one class/cohort may access those rooms in a day.
- The gymnasium may only be accessed by one cohort at a time. The gymnasium high touch areas and any equipment will be cleaned before the next class enters.
- The Library will be closed to student access, however, students will still have access to books. The first school day of each week, each class will be provided with a selection of books from the Library. The Librarian will work with teachers and students to pull a variety of books according to student interest that are age and reading level appropriate, and students will be able to read those books over the course of the week. They will be returned on Friday so that they can sit over the weekend before being put back into circulation the following week.

Dismissal times

Schools will take measures to prevent crowding in hallways and to support appropriate physical distancing, including:

- assigning a specific exit door to each student
- staggering dismissal times slightly, if needed—this staggered schedule may differ slightly from the school’s regular bell schedule, and will not interfere with transportation schedules
Adults who come to pick up students from school will be asked to stay in their vehicle or outside the school, and to maintain a safe physical distance between themselves and others. School staff will bring students outside to meet the adults who are picking them up.

- Students will clean and sanitize their hands prior to dismissal.
- Students will be dismissed at the end of the day from the same assigned door they enter through in the morning.
- As we are able to safely dismiss each class from their own exit, dismissal times will remain the same for all students:
  - Kindergarten - 11:36 am daily (Parents must pick up Kindergarten children in person outside the Kindergarten classroom doors)
  - Grades 1 to 6 - 3:21 pm MTWF; 2:20pm Thursday
- Parents will no longer be able to wait in the main foyer prior to dismissal. All parents must wait outside. You are welcome to wait outside your child’s designated entrance while practicing social distancing.
- We kindly ask parents to refrain from knocking on windows, doors, or peeking in classroom windows prior to the class being dismissed as learning is still going on.
- Please see the map of the school grounds marked with where it is safe/legal to park if you are picking up or dropping off your child in your vehicle.
Recess and playground equipment

Students will remain in their assigned learning cohort for recess activities. Schools will ensure each cohort has an area outside that supports physical distancing and promotes play and physical activity. Schools may stagger break times or assign student cohorts to specific areas of the schoolyard.

Schools will follow the Government of Alberta’s Guidance for Playgrounds when using schoolyard and outdoor equipment.
Before and after school, school staff will be assigned to supervise areas outside school entrances. This supervision will help support physical distancing and is part of our Division’s COVID-19 Re-entry Strategy.

With this in mind, schools will not be assigning staff to supervise playground equipment before and after school. To support safety, this equipment will be off limits to students during these times.

Families who wish to take children to the playground at other times of the day are encouraged to follow the province’s Guidance for Playgrounds to use the equipment as safely as possible.

- To reduce the amount of congestion in the playground and field, and to ensure that classes and cohorts retain their integrity, Division 1 and Division 2 will have different recess and lunch times.
- At their assigned time, each Division will go out for morning and afternoon recess, however, each class will be designated a certain area for that recess. Classes will rotate through the designated areas (playground, tarmac areas, soccer field, etc) so that students will have a variety of access and opportunities over the day to enjoy physical activity.
- In the case of inclement weather:
  - When arriving at school in the morning, students would still go to their designated entrance. A staff member will be monitoring the entrance and direct students to their classroom where they would wait in their desk until school starts.
  - When students must stay indoors for recess, staff will facilitate appropriate activity where students can maintain physical distancing. This could look like participating in a game while staying at their desks, stretching at their desks, or movement breaks where students would relocate to a place like the gym, mezzanine, or hallway to spread out.

### Lunch

It is important for students who stay at school for lunch to remember to bring their lunch each day—schools will not be able to accommodate family members who want to drop off lunches. If a student forgets their lunch, families should phone the school to work out a solution.

Students will store lunches with their other personal belongings.

All students must wash their hands before eating, and eat only their own food. Students are not permitted to share food under provincial health guidelines.

At this time, microwaves will not be available to students and vending machines will not be operating.

Schools will not be able to support any food being brought into the school through a food delivery service (such as pizza or Skip the Dishes).
Elementary students will remain in their cohort to eat lunch. Multiple cohorts will not gather together to eat. Under Scenario 1, schools will be able to hire lunchroom supervisors to help supervise students. These staff must adhere to all COVID-19 health protocols and will not be able to enter the school if they have symptoms of illness.

**Lunch time eating and recess will be staggered by Division. All students will eat with their cohort class.**

**Division 1:**  
11:35 am- students will hand-wash before eating and ensure their eating space is clean  
11:40 am - 12:00 pm - students will have uninterrupted eating time in their classroom  
12:00 pm to 12:15 pm - students will go outside to their designated area of the school grounds to play for recess  

**Division 2:**  
11:40-11:55 am- students will be dismissed to go outside to their designated area of the school grounds to play for recess.  
11:55 am-12:00 pm - students will hand-wash before eating and ensure their eating space is clean  
12:00-12:21 - students will have uninterrupted eating time in their classroom  

Students who go home for lunch will enter through their designated entrance and participate in the sanitization process with the rest of their class.

**Food in schools**

There are clear provincial guidelines around food in schools during COVID-19. As a result, treats cannot be sent from home for birthdays or other special days, and teachers will not hand out food or treats in the classroom. Potluck events, barbecues, food trucks or special lunch days (e.g. hot dog day) are all postponed at this time.

**School nutrition programs**

Schools that offer school nutrition programs will need to adhere to the following provincial guidelines:

- only designated staff will be permitted in food preparation areas
- under Scenario 1, partner staff responsible for operating the school nutrition program will be allowed in the school to help deliver the program
- partner staff must adhere to all COVID-19 health protocols and will not be able to enter the school if they have symptoms of illness
- all food served to students needs to be served in prepacked portions or served to students by designated program staff
- utensils will be used any time food is served to students
● there will be no shared food condiments or seasonings, such as ketchup or salt and pepper
● any leftover food will be thrown out—schools will not be able to package leftovers to send home to families

● The Alberta Education School Nutrition Program will continue to be provided in partnership with the community organization, e4c.
● The morning meal will no longer be offered before school. Each morning after students are in their classrooms, the Nutrition Support Worker will deliver pre-packaged food items to each classroom.
● For students choosing to access the morning meal, the Nutrition Support Worker will use tongs to hand out the food items directly to students.
● Fruit/snack bowls will no longer be available in the office or classrooms.

We will provide more information to families about the startup date of the program and registration forms as soon as plans have been finalized.

2020-2021 Division calendar

The approved 2020-2021 Division calendar will remain in effect for the entire school year, no matter which provincial re-entry scenario we are operating under.

Visitors to the office and the COVID-19 visitor log

Volunteers and visitors

In-person visitors and volunteers will not be allowed in Division schools at this time. This includes guest speakers, sports-team coaches and artists in residence. Individuals are encouraged to communicate with the school through email or by phone.

Currently, parent volunteers are not permitted in the school building. However, we are optimistic that we will find ways to work with parent volunteers later in the school year.

Individuals authorized to enter the school include Canada Post, delivery and maintenance personnel who support the running of the school, and emergency responders. These people will only enter the school if the COVID-19 Information Screening Questionnaire indicates they are safe and if they have no symptoms. They must also sign the school’s COVID-19 visitor log.

Individuals entering the school will be required to wear a mask.

Edmonton Public Schools staff entering school buildings

At this time, under Scenario 1, all Division staff are permitted to enter school buildings as required. This includes supply staff, facilities maintenance personnel, delivery employees, teaching and learning support staff and Division security staff. These staff will only enter the school if the COVID-19
Information Screening Questionnaire indicates they are safe to do so and if they have no symptoms. They must also sign the school’s COVID-19 visitor log.

Division staff entering the school will be required to wear a mask.

Family and school communication
Families can stay in contact with their schools through email and over the phone. Families who need to go into the school must book an appointment in advance. Family members with a scheduled appointment will need to use the Government of Alberta’s COVID-19 Information Screening Questionnaire before going to the school to determine if it is safe for them to attend.

Families who are contacted to pick up a sick child can attend immediately. The person picking up the student must be safe to enter the school based on the COVID-19 Information Screening Questionnaire. Family members attending the school for any reason will be asked to complete the school’s COVID-19 visitor log.

Family members entering the school will be required to wear a mask.

COVID-19 visitor log
Division staff not regularly assigned to the school, authorized visitors and family members attending the school must fill out the school’s COVID-19 visitor log to:
- confirm they are not ill and do not have COVID-19 symptoms
- provide their name
- indicate who they are meeting with
- note the time they arrived at the school
- note the time they left the school
- provide a signature confirming the information is true and accurate

- School Visitors will enter the school by the front door of the building.
- When Visitors are buzzed into the building they will immediately be asked to sanitize their hands at the station inside the school.
- Visitors will be asked to sign in to the Visitors log digitally and then directed to their designated meeting space in the building.
- If a visitor does not have a personal device or if language is a barrier to accessing the online Visitor’s log, the office staff may provide assistance, however it is very important that all visitors provide current information and co-operate with office staff.
**Student teachers**

The Division will continue to support the placement of student teachers. Student teachers will be expected to follow all safety and health protocols in place for Division staff and students, including the daily COVID-19 Information Screening Questionnaire. They will not be permitted to attend the school if they have symptoms of illness.

- Bannerman welcomes student teachers, along with their fresh ideas and excitement for learning. Student teachers at Bannerman will be assigned to a grade/cohort and remain with that cohort for the duration of their student teaching assignment.

**Community use of schools**

All community use of indoor school space is currently suspended—this is required to support the proper cleaning and disinfecting of the school facility and to limit access to the school by individuals who are not regular members of the school community.

**Joint use agreements**

All indoor joint use of schools for community members is currently suspended. School fields, tennis courts and ball diamonds will remain available for community use through the joint use agreement in the evenings and on weekends.

The Division will work with joint use partners on an ongoing basis to work toward safely reopening school spaces for community use.

**Tenants**

Staff from our property management area will work with all tenants to ensure they follow both Alberta Health and Division health and safety expectations and protocols around COVID-19.

**Transportation**

**Yellow bus service**

Students with COVID-19 symptoms or experiencing illness will not be permitted on the bus.

To help keep students and staff as safe as possible:

- students in Grades 4–12 who are physically, psychologically or developmentally able to wear a mask will be required to do so
- K–3 students are encouraged to wear a mask
- students will be assigned regular seats, using a seating plan that limits close contact with others and requires members of the same household to sit together
• students will respect physical distancing while they get on and off the bus, and staff will remind them of this
• there will be a protective zone between the driver and student passengers
• the bus will be cleaned according to COVID-19 cleaning standards prior to each run, and this cleaning will be recorded by the driver

Families are encouraged to consider getting their children to and from school if they are not comfortable with their child riding on the yellow bus with other children.

Public transit
Effective August 1, 2020, the City of Edmonton requires passengers to wear masks in all public vehicles such as city-operated buses and the LRT. Students taking Edmonton Transit Service (ETS) transportation will need to follow the city bylaw.

School libraries
Schools will need to decide if they will use the learning commons or school library space as instructional space. Schools that decide to use this space for instruction must follow COVID-19 strategies that support physical distancing. These spaces will be cleaned and disinfected between each cohort of students.

If the space is used for instruction, students and staff will not be permitted to access books and resources.

The protocol to access library materials and resources will be as follows, based on provincial recommendations:
• students and staff will not access directly
• staff will submit a request for the resources
• a library staff member wearing a mask and gloves will pull the resources
• the resources will be disinfected and then delivered to the classroom
• inside the classroom, resources will be disinfected after each use by a student
• after the resources are returned to the library, they will sit for two days and then be disinfected and reshelved

When staff are assigned to work in the library, all hard surfaces and the overall space will be cleaned and disinfected daily according to COVID-19 cleaning standards.

Emergency procedures
We are working with City of Edmonton Fire and Rescue to ensure that emergency drills (such as fire drills or lockdowns) reflect COVID-19 safe protocols.
Teaching and learning

Family choice

In March, the Alberta government announced that in-person classes were cancelled indefinitely and students shifted to distance and online learning. Students, families and staff across our Division did a great job navigating this sudden change.

As we organize for 2020–2021, we know that all our students need access to high-quality instruction. We also recognize that in-person classes might not be appropriate for all families and staff, depending on their personal circumstances and well-being. That is why we are offering choice.

A quarterly system for 2020–2021

Families will be able to decide, at four key times throughout the school year, whether their child will attend school in person or choose to learn at home through online instruction.

To offer this choice, we are organizing the school year into four instructional quarters (two-month periods of learning).

- **Quarter 1:** September 3 to November 10
- **Quarter 2:** November 16 to January 29
- **Quarter 3:** February 1 to April 20
- **Quarter 4:** April 21 to June 29

How it works

First, schools will reach out to families in mid-August to find out if each child will return to school in person or if they will choose online learning at home. Then, schools will organize resources and staff to support the choices that families make for that quarter.

Three weeks before the start of each quarter, families will be asked to indicate their choice for the following quarter. Whether families choose in-person or online learning, they remain enrolled in the school where they registered or pre-enrolled for 2020–2021.

High-quality resources for all students

To make sure we’re ready to deliver excellent online instruction throughout 2020–2021, we have invested significant funding to develop comprehensive resources for students. This will help ensure that quality student learning is consistent for families, no matter which type of instruction they choose for their child.
School fees

Schools will charge fees to families each quarter, based on whether the family is choosing in-person learning or online instruction for that quarter.

Lunch fees and transportation fees will be included in each quarterly fee schedule. Families may continue to pay these fees on a monthly basis within the quarter.

Because schools will organize their operational spending to best support family choice in their community, schools are not able to refund fees once they have been received for that quarter.

- Lunch-time supervision service is offered by the school so students have a safe place to have lunch. The cost to provide this service to families is shared between the school and parents. All students who stay at school for lunch must register for lunch-time supervision service.
- Students that remain at school for lunch will have a fee of $17.00 per month that will be payable online through Schoolzone by credit card, or payment may be sent in cash with the Student. Students that occasionally stay for lunch will be required to pay $2.00 on the day that they stay.
- Kindergarten students will have a $5.00 special event fee for the 2nd, 3rd, & 4th quarter totaling $15.00 for the year.
Students enrolled at Argyll Centre

Argyll Centre has been delivering home education and online learning services to Edmonton families for more than 20 years. Home education through Argyll Centre is different from the online learning option families will have as part of the Division’s re-entry strategy. According to Alberta’s Education Act, a home education program is provided by a parent under the supervision of a board of trustees of a school division or an accredited private school. The parent must make sure their home education program meets the requirements in the Home Education Regulation.

Students who are registered at Argyll for the 2020–2021 school year will remain registered there and be supported by Argyll programming for the entire school year.

In-person instruction under Scenario 1

Students who attend school will be assigned to a class where a classroom teacher will support their learning. If the student is registered in an alternative or language program, they will continue to receive instruction in that program.

If a student needs to stay home due to illness, their classroom teacher will provide work to support their learning. The teacher will not provide online instruction.

Online instruction under Scenario 1

Students who learn online will be part of an online learning group with an assigned teacher. This learning format will include live online teacher instruction, directed activities and assignments that students will complete independently.

Online students will remain enrolled at the school where they registered for 2020-2021. However, their online teacher may not be a staff member at that school. As well, students in an online learning group will often be from more than one Division school.

Online instruction will cover all the required areas of the provincial curriculum. Teaching will focus on the core subject areas, with a modified focus on complementary courses. Instruction in French as a second language will continue.

The Division will explore meaningful ways to deliver alternative programming to online students, but we cannot guarantee that all alternative programming options will be available online. Families with children registered in an alternative program will continue to receive information from their school about the program. Online students will also be welcome to participate in any special events related to the alternative program. At this time, schools are limited to hosting virtual events.
Family choice mid-way through a quarter

Shifting from in-person to online learning
In some cases, a family may decide part way through a learning quarter that in-person instruction is no longer appropriate for their child. The family should let their school know they plan to move their child to an online learning group for the following quarter. Students who make this change before a quarter ends will continue to receive work from their classroom teacher. The family will be responsible for guiding their child as they complete this work at home. Once the quarter ends, the student will start the next quarter online with a different teacher.

Shifting from online to in-person learning
Families who chose online instruction and want to transition to in-person learning have the opportunity to do so at the start of each new quarter. When their child moves to in-person instruction, the student will be in a learning group with a different teacher.

A closer look at in-person instruction under Scenario 1

Kindergarten programming
Kindergarten programming under Scenario 1 will be half days of in-person instruction, with the exception of the Division’s 26 full-day Kindergarten programs, which will remain full-day programs.

Classrooms will be cleaned and disinfected between morning and afternoon classes, and each half-day cohort of students will have their own set of toys, manipulatives and resources to support learning. These materials will also be cleaned and disinfected daily.

Additional information around programming for children’s learning in Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten during COVID-19 can be found in Edmonton Public Schools’ Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten COVID-19 Guiding document, which will be released soon.

- Bannerman has an AM Kindergarten class only, therefore no other class or cohort group will be sharing or using any of its materials. The Kindergarten room and its toys, manipulatives, and resources will be cleaned and disinfected every afternoon.
- Bannerman will be offering a staggered entry where, by appointment and following all Visitor procedures, one adult may accompany their student to facilitate the transition to Kindergarten. Individual letters will be mailed home with details and times.

Elementary
Students in Grades 1–6 will be organized into learning groups. Each learning group will be considered to be a cohort. Students will remain in their cohort for all instruction and for non-instructional times such as lunch and recess. In most cases, there will be one teacher assigned to the cohort. In some instances, there may be two teachers who share primary instructional responsibilities for a cohort.
Other adults who enter the classroom to interact with a cohort of students (e.g. school administrators, the music teacher, a lunch supervisor) will follow strict provincial health protocols that include hand sanitizing and wearing a mask.

Cohorts will be assigned to enter and exit the school by a specific door and to use a specific washroom.

- At Bannerman, we have highly effective learning programs including Strategies and Empower that provide targeted academic support to our students. It is very important to be able to continue to provide this highly specialized support to our students during Covid and we will work to ensure our students receive this support safely.

- Div 2 Strategies students will enter through their designated entrance associated with their grade and will follow all handwashing and sanitization routines with their class. Their Strategies teacher will then pull them out into a small group for literacy and numeracy instruction, following all safety procedures and physical distancing in the Strategies classroom.

- At lunch, they will be dismissed for lunch recess with the rest of the Div 2 students. When they return to the building to eat lunch, they will do so with their designated grade, and undergo the building entry and handwashing procedure with their grade level class. They will remain with that class for the remainder of the afternoon.

- Empower candidates will be identified for the 2nd quarter, and details will be communicated to parents prior to student participation in those groups.

**Supporting students with special needs**

Returning to school can cause additional concern or anxiety for families of students with special needs. Families need to know we are taking steps to support them. This includes:

- working with Alberta Health Services on COVID-19 safety protocols for some of the complex medical interventions and supports some students require, to keep both students and staff as safe as possible

- adding COVID-19-specific strategies as needed to student-support plans, such as Individual Program Plans (IPPs), Medication Management Plans or Individual Student Behaviour Plans

- addressing effective learning strategies for online learning in IPPs

More information about how we’re supporting students with special needs during COVID-19 will be available in the Division’s guiding document, which will be released soon.

**International students**

Only international students already here in Canada and who have pre-registered for the 2020–2021 school year will be accommodated. The province has indicated that after Canada lifts current travel
restrictions and non-essential travel resumes, international education programs can resume. Any students would need to follow quarantine requirements and any relevant public health orders.

**Use of Technology**

Schools will organize in-person instruction to minimize sharing of devices such as Chromebooks and iPads. That could mean schools assign technology to specific cohorts at certain times, or to individual students for extended periods of time. Devices will be disinfected between uses according to Division COVID-19 cleaning guidelines.

Students may be encouraged to bring their own devices to school. In most cases, we recommend Chromebooks because they work with the Google Suite of tools we use across our Division. Families interested in buying a Chromebook for their child may access special pricing from our Division suppliers through the [Chromebook parent purchase program](#). Students who bring their own device will be responsible for taking it home to charge it every night.

Families who choose to have their child participate in online instruction require access to a device and a reliable internet connection at home. Families without this access should contact their school to borrow a device and arrange internet access, if needed. Subject-specific information (Scenario 1)

**Music**

Music instruction will continue, but it will look different. In-person singing, cheering or shouting, and playing wind instruments is postponed at this time. Instruction will focus on music appreciation, theory and playing percussion or string instruments. If music instruction is provided in the music room, it must be cleaned and disinfected between each cohort of students.

- Where a class has a separate music teacher, the teacher will adhere to strict cleaning and sanitizing procedures. Music instruction will focus on music appreciation to begin the school year.

**Physical Education**

Schools will continue to provide physical education instruction. The province’s plan indicates that delivery of programming outside is most desirable, and activities that support physical distancing, such as badminton, are recommended.

Sharing equipment is discouraged. Equipment that is used must be cleaned and disinfected before and after each use. Students must wash or sanitize their hands before and after using equipment.
In order to accommodate Physical Education programming outdoors whenever possible, please ensure your child is adequately dressed for the weather and would be comfortable doing physical activity outdoors for up to 30 minutes.

- The gymnasium may only be accessed by one cohort at a time. The gymnasium high touch areas and any equipment will be cleaned before the next class enters.

- Students will not be permitted to sit out of PE due to not feeling well. Any student who is not feeling well and showing signs of illness, shortness of breath, fatigue, or joint/muscle soreness is not permitted to be at school as per the COVID-19 Information Screening Questionnaire. The student will be placed in a quarantine space and parents called immediately to take the student home.

**PE Equipment:**

- Student use of physical education equipment will be closely monitored.
- Any equipment used by a cohort of students will be sanitized prior to another cohort using it.

**Art**

Students will have their own personal materials. If the art instructional space is a shared classroom, it must be cleaned and disinfected between each cohort of students.

**Languages**

Students in Grades 4–9 participating in in-person learning will continue to receive instruction in a second language program. Schools will provide 150 minutes of instruction per week. These minutes may only be reduced to allow for learning intervention supports for students where appropriate. Schools will work with families when making these programming decisions.

**Curriculum resources to support continuity of learning**

We are co-ordinating in-person and online teaching to make sure students across the Division learn key themes or units of the curriculum at the same time during the school year. This will ensure that students who shift between in-person and online learning groups in 2020–2021 can do so without disrupting the continuity of their learning. It will also help keep students on track if they need to miss school due to illness or to self-isolate.

We have also developed resources to help families support their child’s learning.

**Alternative programs**

Edmonton Public Schools respects the choice of families—both when they registered for school last spring and now, as they navigate a return to school during COVID-19. With this in mind, it is important to recognize the following:

- Students registered in a Division alternative program who are participating in in-person instruction will continue to receive instruction related to the alternative program.
• Students registered in a Division alternative program who are participating in online instruction will receive instruction that covers all required areas of the provincial curriculum. The Division will explore meaningful ways to deliver alternative programming to online students, but we cannot guarantee that all alternative programming options will be available online. Families with children registered in an alternative program will continue to receive information from their school about the program. Online students will also be welcome to participate in any special events related to the alternative program.

Assessment
Teachers will assess students throughout the school year, for both in-person and online learning. Student progress will be reported to parents at four key times throughout the year. At the end of each learning quarter, families will receive the following information about their child’s learning growth and progress:

• Kindergarten to Grade 9:
  ○ November 2020: an interim report summarizing growth and progress
  ○ February 2021: a mid-year progress report indicating achievement across all subject areas
  ○ April 2021: an interim report summarizing continued growth and progress
  ○ June 2021: a final progress report indicating year end achievement for all subjects

• Students will receive a report summarizing achievement and providing a final course grade at the end of each instructional quarter: November 2020, February 2021, April 2021, June 2021

At this time, all parent-teacher conferences will be arranged online.

The Division will be revising the assessment plan template to reflect the quarterly schedule. More information around progress reports and specific dates for reporting and learning conferences will be coming soon.

Provincial exams across the scenarios

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<th>Exam</th>
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<td>Grades 6 and 9 Provincial Achievement tests</td>
<td>English Language Arts, French Language Arts and Mathematics</td>
<td>English Language Arts, French Language Arts and Mathematics</td>
<td>Province will determine</td>
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</tbody>
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**School-based activities**

### Field trips

Field trips that require students to ride a bus are currently postponed, in keeping with provincial guidelines. As well, our Division has decided that:

- international field trips are suspended for the 2020–2021 school year because of uncertainty and risks associated with travel during COVID-19
- field trips within Canada are suspended but will be reviewed as chief medical officers of health adjust recommendations about traveling between provinces (learn more about Alberta’s COVID-19 travel restrictions)
- overnight trips are suspended, and the opportunity to plan and participate in these trips will be reviewed throughout the year as Alberta’s chief medical officer of health adjusts local COVID-19 guidelines
- virtual field trips, in-class/classroom field trips and socially distanced community walking trips that follow COVID-19 health and safety protocols are permitted

### Assemblies and special events

Gatherings that bring multiple cohorts of students together are not permitted at this time. This includes such things as performances, book fairs, guest speakers, school dances, in-person meet-the-teacher events and group fundraisers like bike-a-thons.

Virtual assemblies may be held within the school community.

This year’s READ IN Week event will be limited to school staff reading with students and virtual guest readers.

### Extracurricular activities (including athletics)

Schools will evaluate whether they can offer extracurricular activities that follow COVID-19 protocols, and let families know which activities are available. Students will be able to participate in those activities regardless of whether they choose in-person or online learning.

### Graduations

At this time, the Division has not made a decision about traditional graduation ceremonies for the class of 2021. Schools may begin to plan celebrations for the class of 2021. These plans **must** include a COVID-19 contingency plan.
School council meetings

School council meetings for the 2020–2021 school year may go ahead. These meetings must follow Alberta Health restrictions for social gatherings as well as the safety protocols and expectations outlined in both the provincial School Re-entry Plan and the COVID-19 Division Re-entry Strategy.

Schools will support their school council members to determine if they will hold in-person meetings or online virtual meetings.

Any in-person meeting must adhere to COVID-19 health and safety protocols.

- The first Bannerman School Council and Bannerman Parent Educational Committee (BPEC) meeting will be held August 19, at 6:30pm. We will be holding the meeting outside on the tarmac at the school so please bring your own chair. In case of rain we will move inside the gym so please bring a mask as this will be required if the meeting moves inside. Regardless of whether we hold the meeting outside or inside we will be adhering to physical distancing guidelines. THIS WILL BE THE ONLY IN-PERSON MEETING.

- All other meetings, including the AGM, will be held online at 6:30 pm:
  - October 21, 2020
  - January 20, 2021
  - March 17, 2021
  - May 19, 2021

- Parents who wish to attend the meeting will be asked to RSVP the Chair so that an invite can be sent.

Supporting mental health and well-being

COVID-19 is causing a lot of uncertainty for families and our communities. To support students and families, our Division is working on a set of mental health resources that families and caregivers can use. These will be released in the coming weeks.

Parents or guardians who are concerned for their child’s well-being can reach out to these community resources:

- Mental Health Helpline: 1-877-303-2642
  - This toll-free helpline provides confidential and anonymous services, crisis intervention, information about mental-health services and referrals to other agencies.

- Kids Help Phone: 1-800-668-6868
  - kidshelpphone.ca
  - Text CONNECT to 686868

- Health Link: 811
- Alberta Health Services
  - Help in Tough Times
  - Healthy Together
- The federal First Nations and Inuit Hope for Wellness Help Line, at 1-855-242-3310, is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week; online chat at Hope for Wellness.