



Conseil scolaire du
NORD-OUEST

GUIDE FOR MANAGING COVID-19

Kindergarten to Grade 12

2021-2022

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The Conseil scolaire du Nord-Ouest's (CSNO) back-to-school plan aims to ensure the success and well-being of every student and to provide a welcoming and safe environment for all. It aims to support our collective responsibility for the health and safety of students, staff and visitors while ensuring that student learning continues in the safest and healthiest conditions possible in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The plan may be amended as directed by the Chief Medical Officer of Health and will be adjusted as information is available and following the assessment of changing conditions related to Covid-19 in Alberta.

BACK TO NORMAL

As of March 1st, the Government of Alberta is beginning the second phase of the return to normal process, which aims to end the health restrictions related to COVID-19. In line with this announcement, the CSNO guide allows for a return to normal operations for:

- **School Gatherings**
- **Extra-curricular Activities**
- **School Visitors**
- **Local and provincial Field Trips (Out of province outings – to be determined)**
- **High School Graduation**
- **Diploma exams and Provincial Achievement Tests (grade 6 & 9).**

HYGIENE AND HEALTH BEST PRACTICES

In parallel with the return to normalcy, the School Board will continue hygiene and health best practices and measures aimed at reducing the risk of transmission of COVID-19 and ensuring the safety of students.

The following measures will be in effect for the start of the school year and until they are revised.

Environmental Control

- Regular maintenance of ventilation systems.
- Cleaning and disinfecting premises and equipment is an essential component of the fight against the spread of the virus.
 - The janitorial service will provide day cleaning and frequent cleaning procedures for high contact surfaces.

Hand Hygiene and Respiratory Etiquette

- All staff and students will continue hand hygiene practices when entering school and during the school day. (See Appendix A)
- All staff and students (preschool, elementary and high school) will be made aware of respiratory etiquette.

Screening for Symptoms

- All students and school staff will be required to screen daily for symptoms before arriving at school using the [Alberta Health Daily Checklist](#).
- Anyone with signs/symptoms of illness should not show up for school.
- Albertans are [legally required to isolate](#) if they tested positive or have any symptoms that are not related to a pre-existing illness or health condition.

Responding to Illness

- Protocol for a student or staff member who demonstrates symptoms at school. (Same as 2020-2021 - see Appendix B).
- If a student or staff member tests positive for COVID, they must follow the [isolation instructions](#).
- Parents are encouraged to contact the school administration to inform them of their child's symptoms.
- As is the practice for other viruses (H1N1, influenza), the school will notify AHS when more than 10% of students are absent for similar symptoms.

Use of Masks

- Masking is **no longer mandatory in the school or school bus**.
- Masking **is recommended for all, in the school and school bus**.
- **Schools will support students and staff who choose to wear masks**.
- Students and staff who develop symptoms of respiratory illness at school and anyone caring for those who have developed symptoms of respiratory illness at school will be **offered** a mask.

Cohorts

- Principals may establish cohorts from time to time if they deem it necessary and practical to improve the safety of students and staff.

Visitors

- **During School Hours:** Visitors (over 15 mins) are allowed in the school and must follow current guidelines such as daily checklist. [Mask wearing is recommended.](#)
- **After School Hours:** Visitors are allowed in the school and must follow current guidelines such as daily assessment. [Mask wearing is recommended.](#)

Covid-19 Risk Reduction

The Administrative Directive 491 regarding proof of vaccine or negative rapid test [was suspended on February 14, 2022.](#)

APPENDIX A

Hand hygiene

Washing hands often with warm water and soap during at least 20 seconds or with a hydroalcoholic solution (at least 60%) limits the risk of transmission. Hand washing with soap and running water is essential. Alternatively, the use of hand sanitizer is recommended.

Everyone **should wash their hands or use hand sanitizer:**

- Upon arrival at school and before they return home;
- Before and after any transition within the school (for example, in another class, indoor-outdoor transitions);
- Before eating and drinking;
- After going to the toilet;
- After playing outside;
- After sneezing or coughing into the hands;
- When the hands are visibly dirty.

There will be hand sanitizer containing at least 60 per cent alcohol (or alcohol-free hand sanitizer) at the entrances and exits, at the entrance to classrooms, near frequently touched equipment, such as microwave ovens, vending machine and other high-traffic areas.

- Bottles of hand sanitizer will be out of reach of children.
- Staff must supervise the use of an alcohol disinfectant when used by young children.
- Schools will have posters encouraging good hand and respiratory hygiene and how to wash their hands in each washroom and other spaces as needed.
- Adopt good hand hygiene when handling paper tests and homework.

APPENDIX B

Students who have symptoms at school

If a student exhibits symptoms of COVID-19 (cough, fever, shortness of breath, loss of sense of taste or smell), he/she is **offered** a non-medical mask and should be isolated if possible and the parent / guardian must be notified immediately to come pick up the student.

- If the parents cannot pick up their child, they must have a plan so that someone else can pick up the child within an hour.
- If no separate room is available for the student while waiting to be picked up by a parent or guardian, the student should be kept at least 2 metres from all other staff and wear a face mask.
- If the child/student requires close contact and care, staff can continue to care for the child/student until the parent is able to pick up the child/student. **It is recommended** that the student and staff wear a mask and close interactions with the student that may result in contact with the student's respiratory secretions should be avoided. If very close contact is required and the child is young the staff member should also use a face shield or eye protection.
- Staff/students must wash their hands before donning a mask, before and after removing the mask (as per Alberta Health mask guidance), and before and after touching any items used by the child/student.
- The isolation area for the sick should be cleaned and disinfected after the student has left, and any items that cannot be disinfected (for example, paper books or cardboard) should be placed in a plastic bag and stored for at least 10 days.
- If a student is sent home for showing signs of COVID-19, the parent or guardian should call 811 and follow the advice provided by Alberta Health Services.
- The student cannot return to school until he or she complies with current public health requirements.

Schools must keep records of a student's known pre-existing conditions. If a student develops symptoms in or outside of the program that could be caused by COVID-19 or by a known pre-existing condition (e.g., allergies), the student should be tested for COVID-19 at least once to confirm that it is not the source of their symptoms before entering or returning to the school.