

Parent/Student Handbook

School Re-Entry

2020-2021 School Year



Trust in the Lord with all your heart.
Fais confiance au Seigneur de tout ton coeur.

MESSAGE from RDCRS BOARD CHAIR - Mr. Kim Pasula

As of September 2020

Welcome back! We're so glad you're here!

While this school year may be different from others, we are confident that the plans, procedures, and protocols we've put in place will ensure a safe environment for all.

We respect that each person's situation is unique; some are choosing to physically return to school while others are choosing to continue with at-home learning.. Whichever method of learning you've chosen, we look forward to connecting with you and supporting you.

MESSAGE from RDCRS SUPERINTENDENT - Mrs. Kathleen Finnigan

As of September 2020

**The Lord asks you to trust in Him with all your heart; within the depths of your being.
It is there that He lives in constant communication with you.**

Trusting in one another on the next step of this journey is essential for our school re-entry success. We are so excited to open our doors again and welcome everyone back. As we work together to ensure safety and wellbeing for all, I know that we will do this work with grace and compassion toward students, staff and families as we meet everyone where they are at on this new journey.

Our goal is to continue to be faith-filled learning environments with high quality teaching practices while keeping students, staff and families as safe as possible. Within Red Deer Catholic Regional Schools, we will focus on three priority areas to ensure a successful school entry:

- Safety and Risk Management
- Mental Wellness
- Continuity of Learning

Opening up this school year will be different than any other we have experienced in the past. Please keep in mind that our plan is flexible and we need to be agile as we continue to receive new information from the Alberta Government. We will adapt to any new expectations or research provided to us by our Minister of Education, as well as the Chief Medical Officer of Health and the Alberta Government.

OVERVIEW

The Division is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for all students and staff. This guide has been developed to support the safe re-entry to school for the 2020/2021 school year within the direction provided by the Minister of Education and Alberta's Chief Medical Officer of Health.

A combination of measures will be used to minimize exposure to pandemic viruses such as COVID-19. Safe work/learning procedures will protect staff and students. It is important that all staff, parents/guardians and community members follow the procedures outlined in this guide in order to prevent/mitigate exposure.

It is imperative that Red Deer Catholic Regional Schools prepare for all three scenarios of the Alberta Government [K-12 School Re-Entry Plan](#). We may be required to transition from one scenario to another with short notice. To help families better understand the provincial school re-entry plan, Alberta Education has developed the [Parent Guide 2020-2021 School Year](#) and [Get the Facts: Back to Class 2020- 2021](#)

We are in this together, everyone in our learning community will need to play their part and follow the protocols outlined in this guide.

TRUSTED SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- [Alberta Health](#) website and Twitter [@YourAlberta](#)
- [Alberta Health Services website](#), [FAQs](#) and Twitter [@ahsmedia](#)
- [Government of Canada](#)
- [Resources in other Languages](#)

Please note that the sections that are highlighted have been recently updated.

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Mental Wellness Supports

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 will be released in the coming weeks.

Parents/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](#)
- **After Hours Community Support Contact Information**
 - **Kids Help Phone** - Phone at 1-800-668-6868, Text at 686868, Online Chat Available
 - **211 Alberta** - <https://ab.211.ca/>

Stigma

The COVID-19 pandemic can cause stress on people and communities. It can lead to individuals experiencing social stigma, exclusion, marginalization, mental health issues and discrimination. Lack of understanding about COVID-19 has sparked feelings of fear or anger towards others and unfair treatment against a number of groups, including:

- people who have COVID-19
- people who have symptoms of COVID-19
- health care, front-line and essential workers
- people from countries where the virus originated from
- people who have recently travelled or returned to Canada from another country
- people from communities, cultures, or industries where COVID-19 outbreaks have occurred
- people who may not follow recommended public health measures

Stigma and discrimination are known barriers that prevent people from getting tested or accessing the care, treatment and support they need. People who have experienced stigma and discrimination throughout their life may not have access to protective resources during a pandemic, like a safe home to isolate or quarantine when ill, which may introduce additional challenges.

Stigma and discrimination can be dangerous and harmful to individuals and communities by:

- exposing people to high levels of guilt and stress
- disempowering people who cannot control their living, working, or social circumstances

- creating divisions within communities
- causing people to delay or avoid health services and contacting health authorities
- making it harder to monitor, stop or slow outbreaks
- discouraging people from being tested or quarantined
- making it harder to trace and notify people who may have come into contact with COVID-19 (contact tracing)

We can all do our part to reduce stigma around COVID-19. Even people without symptoms can test positive for COVID-19. This includes people who have not yet developed symptoms (pre-symptomatic) and may never develop symptoms (asymptomatic). That is why it is important to:

- show support, kindness and empathy to those who have, or are tested for, COVID-19
- [take care of your mental and physical health](#)
- [protect yourself and those around you](#)
- choose your words carefully

Supporting At-Home Learning While Self-Isolating or Ill

Consistent with what happens during non-pandemic times, should a child need to stay home for a period due to illness, classroom teachers will provide key work for the student to be able to work on while at-home. Homework bundles or tasks would be provided to the student by the regular teacher, but they would not be engaging in at-home learning like what was experienced in the spring of 2020.

Students Requiring At-Home Learning on a Full Time Basis with RDCRS

Due to health concerns and parental choice related to the pandemic, families may choose not to have their child attend their designated school.

At-Home Learning

If a family chooses [at-home learning](#) the Alberta Education Program of Studies will be covered and assessment will occur. This will include a full curriculum of Math, English/French, Social Studies, Science and Religion including Physical Education. Learn more by visiting www.rdcrs.ca/programs/at-home-learning

At-home students will remain enrolled at the school where they are registered for 2020-2021. Students who learn at-home will be part of an online learning group with an assigned teacher. However, the teacher may not be a staff member at their designated school. This learning format will include live online teacher instruction, activities and assignments that students will complete independently.

In order to keep the learning environment, once a family has joined an at-home learning cohort, you will be part of that cohort until the end of the semester for all Grades (Pre-Kindergarten - Grade 12). Semester 1 (August 31 - January 28) and Semester 2 (February 1- June 29). Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten at-home learning will follow the same resources and studies as traditional in-class programming experiences. For those students that qualify for services for speech-language therapy, occupational therapy, or other support, families will be contacted to ensure appropriate services are made available to them.

Faith**1. Chapel**

All schools have a chapel that may be utilized, and will need to adhere to the maximum occupancy expectations.

2. Mass/Celebrations

At this time, all celebrations/masses have a limited number of participants. Those who are not participating in-person, some celebrations will be streamed virtually allowing students to have time with Christ.

3. Division Events

All division events have been reviewed and revised for schools to participate individually.

4. Youth Ministry

All evening youth ministry events are now virtual. Students are able to join through Google Meets.

“Like the disciples in the Gospel, we were caught off guard by an unexpected, turbulent storm. We have realized that we are on the same boat, all of us fragile and disorientated, but at the same time important and needed, all of us called to row together, each of us in need of comforting one another. On this boat....are all of us. Just like those disciples, who spoke anxiously with one voice, saying “We are perishing” (v. 38), so we too have realized that we cannot go on thinking of ourselves, but only together we can do this.” ~ Pope Francis

Safety and Health Measures

1. Daily Self-Screening Practices

Before coming to schools each day parents/guardians must assess their child daily for symptoms of the common cold, influenza, COVID-19 or other respiratory diseases to determine whether they can attend school or stay home. If any symptoms are present any student must stay home [See the Government of Alberta's COVID-19 Information Screening Questionnaire](#). The expectation is to complete the questionnaire daily and follow all Government of Alberta health instructions. Students who have any symptoms noted on the questionnaire cannot attend school.

Staff and authorized individuals permitted in schools will also need to complete the [daily screening questionnaire](#) before entering the building. People with symptoms of COVID-19 or experiencing illness will not be allowed in the school.

All division facilities will have posters on their door reminding people not to enter the building if they feel sick, or if they have had close contact with someone who is suspected of having COVID-19.

2. Illness While at School

If a student experiences signs of illness during the school day they will need to leave the premises.

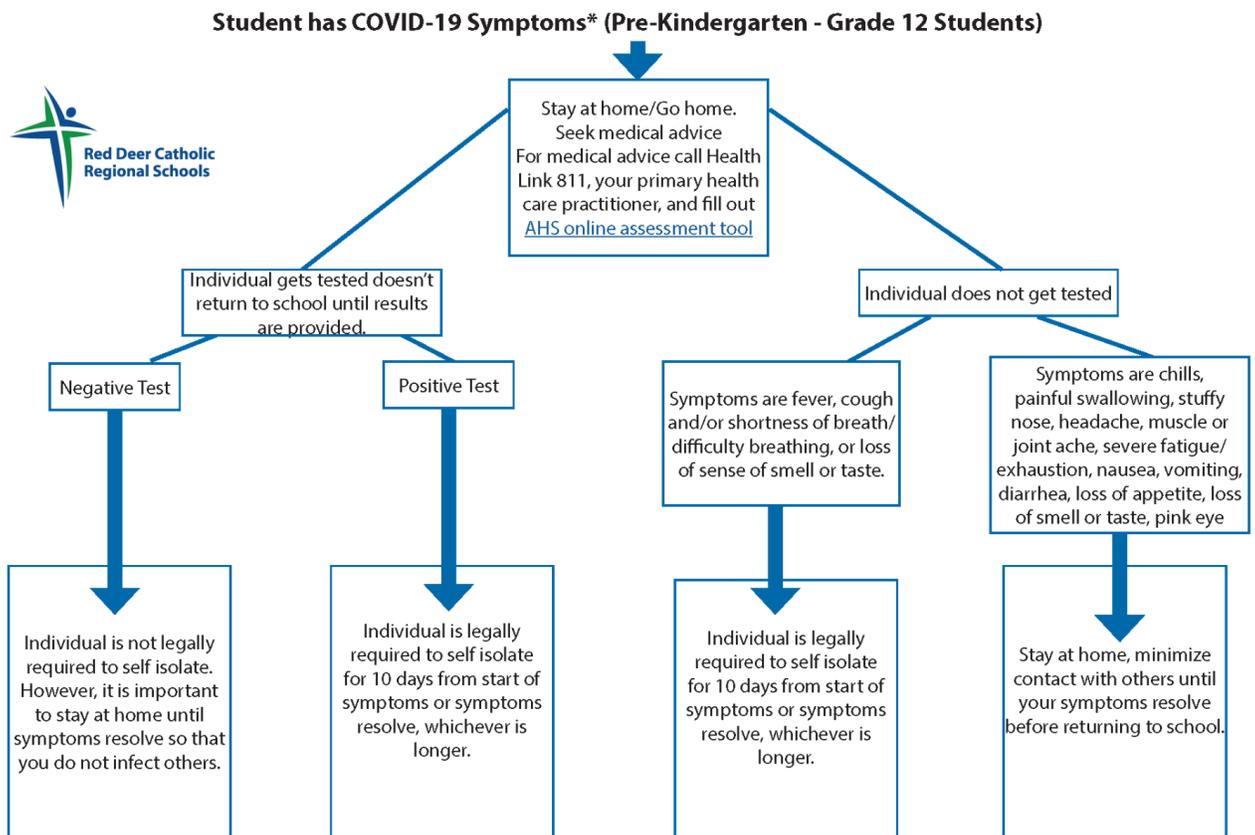
Parents/guardians will be notified and advised to pick-up their child within one hour of notification or as soon as possible. If the parent is unable to pick up their child, they must designate an emergency contact for student pickup.

Staff supervising symptomatic students will:

- Keep all other staff and students out of the sick room.
- Wear gloves, mask and face shield while attending to the student.
- Provide the student with a face mask.
- Use an electronic thermometer to take the temperature of the student. Measuring a child's temperature will assist in determining if they are not feeling well and enable schools to report health information to families.
- Follow health protocols around personal protective equipment (PPE).
- Use strict handwashing techniques.
- Maintain physical distancing where possible.
- After the student is picked-up, post a sign indicating the room must be cleaned and contact the appropriate custodial staff.
- All items the student touched must be cleaned and disinfected as soon as the student has been picked up. Items that cannot be disinfected, i.e., paper, books, cardboard, must be removed from the classroom and stored in a sealed container for 10 days.

If your child has any of these symptoms: **fever, cough (new cough or worsening chronic cough), shortness of breath or difficulty breathing (new or worsening), or loss of sense of smell or taste** you may be required to legally isolate for at least 10 days or until you receive the results from your COVID-19 test. Learn more by reviewing the [COVID-19 Alberta Health Daily Checklist](#).

Illness Response For Students With No Known Exposure To The COVID-19 Virus



*Note: If these are symptoms of a preexisting condition and a person has tested negative to exclude these as COVID-19, then these rules do not need to be applied.

Tested positive for COVID-19:

- You are legally required to isolate for a minimum of 10 days if you have tested positive for COVID-19.
- Isolation period is for 10 days from the start of symptoms, or until symptoms resolve, whichever takes longer.

Has symptoms but tested negative for COVID-19:

- If you tested negative and have known exposure to COVID-19, you are legally required to isolate for 14 days.

- If you tested negative and have no known exposure to the virus, you are not legally required to isolate. However, it is important to stay home until your symptoms resolve so that you do not infect others.

Close contacts of confirmed cases:

- As a school we will move all students to online learning for the 14 days to ensure everyone has the same access to education and teachers.
- LIFT date means that the date identified is the day you can return to regular activities (examples: return to school, grocery shopping, etc).

Quarantine for close contacts who are not immunized and/or symptomatic:

- You are legally required to isolate for 14 days and monitor for symptoms if you are a close contact of a person who tested positive for COVID-19.
- If you become sick with cough, fever, shortness of breath, runny nose or sore throat during this time, you must isolate for an additional 10 days from the beginning of symptoms or until you are feeling well, whichever takes longer.

Quarantine for close contacts who are partially immunized and asymptomatic:

You are considered partially immunized 14 days after you've received one dose in a two-dose COVID-19 vaccine series.

If you are partially immunized at the time you are exposed to someone with COVID-19:

- You must [quarantine](#) for 10 days from the date of last exposure.
- Get [tested](#) for COVID-19 on day 7 or later (this is 7 days after your last exposure to the person with COVID-19). If your test is negative and you still have no symptoms your quarantine is over.
- If you develop [symptoms](#), get [tested](#) for COVID-19 as soon as possible. You must [isolate](#) for at least 10 days after your symptoms start, if you are not tested.

During the 14 days after your exposure to a person with COVID-19, you should continue to follow these guidelines **when your quarantine is over:**

- You may return to work, school, childcare, and other activities.
- Continue to follow [public health guidelines](#) including washing your hands, wearing a mask, practicing physical distancing and gathering restrictions. Following these public health guidelines is required, regardless of whether you are immunized.
- You should reduce your number of contacts when possible (especially avoiding non-essential visits to continuing care or acute care settings).
- Self-monitor for symptoms. Stay home and get tested if you have any symptoms.

Quarantine for Close Contacts Who Are Fully Immunized & Asymptomatic

You are considered fully immunized 14 days after you have received the second dose of COVID-19 vaccine in a two-dose vaccine series.

If you are fully immunized at the time you are exposed to someone with COVID-19:

- You do not have to quarantine as long as you do not have symptoms.
- If you develop [symptoms](#) get [tested](#) for COVID-19 as soon as possible. You must [isolate](#) until you receive a negative test result OR for at least 10 days after your symptoms start, if you are not tested.

During the 14 days after your exposure to a person with COVID-19, you should continue to follow these guidelines:

- You may return to work, school, childcare, and other activities.
- Follow [public health guidelines](#) including washing your hands, wearing a mask, practicing physical distancing and gathering restrictions.
- You should reduce your number of contacts when possible (especially avoiding non-essential visits to continuing care or acute care settings).
- Self-monitor for symptoms. Stay home and get tested if you have any symptoms.

3. Students with Pre-Existing Conditions

Individuals who have allergies or ongoing health issues and who are exhibiting [COVID-19 like symptoms](#) must be tested at least once according to the Alberta Health Services Guidance. This 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. Schools will track typical symptoms that may be confused for COVID-19 for students in PowerSchool as they would with other medical conditions.

4. Testing and Demonstrating Clearance to Return

In order for school re-entry to be successful, all students and families must work together to minimize risks. One of the critical strategies is testing in order to determine if self-isolation needs to continue. Should anyone answer “Yes” to any of the daily health check questions, they are prohibited from entering the school. Your child must stay at home. Please use the [COVID-19 Self-Assessment Tool](#) to determine whether your child needs to be tested for COVID-19. Please let schools know when you receive the phone call about the results. The school will not keep a copy of the results but will know that it is safe for the student to return. Families can [learn more about COVID-19 testing and book a test online through Alberta Health Services](#).

5. COVID-19 Division Hotline

Our top priority continues to be the health and safety of our school communities. Our division has implemented a COVID-19 hotline where parents/guardians are able to call or text if your child receives a positive COVID-19 result from Alberta Health Services. Please text or call the COVID-19 hotline number at 403-588-8155 and provide us with the following information:

- Your child's first and last name and school of attendance
- When did your child get tested?
- When did they get informed that they were positive?
- Were they experiencing any symptoms, what date and time did those start?
- If they were not experiencing symptoms, what made them get a test?
- Last day they were at school?
- Does your child ride the school bus?
- Your first and last name with a phone number (with the area code) you can be reached at
- Please inform us immediately once you receive the positive COVID-19 result. This method of communication will allow us to respond quickly in taking swift measures to protect our students and staff and to mitigate the spread of the virus.

Your child's physical health and mental wellness is important to us. Our division will continue to strive to reduce the stigma around COVID-19. Please know that we are grateful for those who come forward and we will continue to support your child's learning during this time.

We can all do our part in protecting the spread of the virus and will continue to show support, kindness and empathy for those who tested positive for COVID-19.

6. Handwashing and Sanitizing

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

- Every time they enter or exit the school.
- Before and after they use shared equipment.
- Before eating.

Schools will provide hand sanitizer throughout the building to support these requirements. We also encourage families to send their children to school with personal hand sanitizer. Schools will promote proper hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette with verbal reminders and posters throughout the school.

7. Cleaning Protocols

We have developed a COVID-19 cleaning standard for all schools that aligns with provincial guidelines around cleaning and disinfecting. These increased measure include:

- Purchasing provincially recommended COVID-19 cleaning supplies.
- Additional training for staff.
- Removal of soft furnishing and area rugs from classrooms and common areas.
- Frequently cleaning and disinfecting such as water fountains and door handles.
- More frequent cleaning and disinfecting throughout the school including washrooms, high traffic areas and classrooms.

All schools will have a daytime custodian to implement ongoing general area cleaning and enhanced cleaning and disinfecting of high touch surfaces.

Washrooms will be cleaned and disinfected throughout the day. There will be a maximum number of students permitted in the washroom at a one time. Depending on the size of the school and location of washrooms, schools may assign students to specific washrooms.

8. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Alberta Education has mandated that all staff, and students from **Grades 4 and up**, will be required to wear non-medical masks on school transportation, and in all common areas in school buildings, or where physical distancing is not possible.

Parents are encouraged to discuss this with their children and to begin getting them used to wearing masks before their return to school. Students will be [taught procedures for using non-medical masks](#). Parents should familiarize themselves with the [guidance on mask use](#), paying attention to the need to launder masks on a daily basis. Non-reusable masks will also be available in schools for circumstances when the reusable masks are not available.

*Individuals who are unable to wear a mask will require a doctor's note. Families will work with school administration on how this will apply to their child.

School Operations

1. Physical Distancing

Physical distancing (i.e., maintaining a distance of two meters between two or more people) is challenging in a K-12 school setting, particularly with younger students. We may not be able to maintain physical separation between students at all times. This is why it is important that anyone showing symptoms must stay home, get tested and medical clearance before returning to school/work.

It is reasonable to establish different expectations for varying age levels and activities. For example, younger students should be supported to have minimized physical contact with one another, while older students and adults should seek to maintain a safe physical distance whenever possible.

Physical distancing in many classrooms will be challenging. Masks are mandatory as an additional means of protection for staff and students where physical distancing cannot be maintained, as outlined in [provincial guidelines](#).

The following physical distancing strategies should be implemented where possible:

- Avoid close greetings (e.g., hugs, handshakes, fistbumps).
- Regularly remind students about keeping “hands to yourself.”

2. Classroom Set-Up

Classroom and learning environments configuration should allow distance between students and staff. School staff will promote hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette and post corresponding signs.

3. Traffic Flow

- Schools will manage the flow of people using a variety of visual cues (posters, floor markers, directional arrows, one-way hallways, etc) to help students and staff maintain physical distancing.
- Schools will ensure adherence to fire code regarding emergency exits.
- Other traffic flow considerations include:
 - Stagger entry of students into the building.
 - Stagger recess/snack, lunch and class transition times to provide a greater amount of space for everyone

4. Cohorts

A cohort is defined as a group of students and staff who remain together. The size of the cohort will depend on the physical space of the classroom or learning setting and the number of students assigned to that 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 contact and contain a COVID-19 outbreak.

Activities that bring together multiple classes or grades are not permitted at this time. Where possible cohorting will be organized.

5. Common Areas (Office, Staff Room and Shared Space Access)

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

- Limiting the number of students and staff allowed in certain areas at certain times
- Requiring students to walk straight through some areas so they don't congregate together in groups
- Having staff supervise high-traffic areas and remind students to adhere to physical distancing protocols.

High traffic areas will have signage and floor markers to remind students to keep safe and physical distance.

6. Drop-off Protocol/Access to Schools

Parents/guardians and visitors must not enter the schools unless approved by the Principal. Adults bringing students to school are asked to stay in their vehicle or outside the school and maintain a safe physical distance between themselves and others. Those who need to enter the school must book an appointment. Individuals without an appointment will not be able to enter the school. Only authorized District Maintenance or Operations Staff may enter as needed.

All staff, students, and authorized visitors/volunteers must utilize hand sanitizer prior to entering the building.

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

Authorized visitors and/or volunteers must complete an [active screening process](#) to enter the building. They are required to sign the school's COVID-19 visitor log.

Authorized parents/guardians of children with complex needs requiring support to enter the building should contact their school office. Staff will work with them to develop a plan that is safe for both students and staff.

The principal will utilize as many entry doors as possible and assign all students an entry point. Students should move directly to their designated entry door and wait for permission to enter the building while staying two metres apart where possible. The school will develop a schedule that ensures supervision for each entry door and throughout the building. Students will enter the building from their assigned meeting spot in an effort to minimize congregating. The principal will create a schedule for student entry. Student entry may require staggered times, which do not necessarily align with established bell times.

Schools will communicate the arrival and entry process to students and families.

The Principal will suspend facility use by external user groups such as community events.

7. End of the School Day

Parents/guardians and visitors must not enter the schools unless approved by the Principal.

Adults picking 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.

Schools will communicate their plan to address students exiting the school in an orderly manner with appropriate supervision, maximizing the number of exit doors as practical while adhering to physical distancing guidelines. This may mean that schools may require classes/learning spaces to have staggered dismissal times while ensuring bus schedules are maintained. Students waiting for pick up are to wait outside in a supervised designated area while following physical distancing guidelines. During inclement weather, the principal will make alternate arrangements for the waiting area.

8. Water Fountains and Water Bottles Stations

Water fountains will remain covered and unavailable to students and staff. Students and staff are encouraged to bring their own filled water bottle each and every day. Sinks and water refilling stations can be used to fill personal water bottles. Water stations will be cleaned and disinfected several times throughout the day.

9. Lockers

Hallway lockers can be utilized. Risk mitigation strategies must be in place to minimize crowding or congregating to ensure physical distancing measures align with provincial guidelines. Space out

lockers when possible, assign lockers based on cohorts, grade, or class, develop a schedule for locker access.

10. Food and Nutrition Services

There are clear provincial guidelines around food in schools during COVID-19.

School council must submit a health and safety proposal for hot lunches to school administrators. All hot lunch programs are school-based decisions.

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
- All food served to students needs to be served in prefaced portions or served to students by designated program staff
- Utensils will be used at all times when food is served to students
- There will be no shared food condiments or seasoning, 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.

11. 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, exceptions can always be looked at for occasional need. Students will store lunches with their other personal belongings

All students must wash their hands before eating and only eat their own food. Students are not permitted to share food under provincial health guidelines. At this time, microwaves will not be available 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 delivery or Skip the Dishes).

Elementary students will remain in the cohort to eat lunch. Multiple cohorts will not gather together to eat. Under Scenario 1, lunchroom supervisors must adhere to all COVID-19 health protocols and will not be able to enter the school if they have symptoms of illness.

Middle school and high school students who stay on campus will be assigned to an area of the school for lunch.

If the school is using a common lunch area, cohorts of students could eat in staggered shifts and the space could be cleaned and disinfected between each cohort.

School cafeterias and canteens must follow the Alberta Government's strict [COVID-19 health guidelines](#).

12. Playgrounds

Playgrounds can remain open as per the [Alberta Guidance for Playground](#).

13. Music/Band

Elementary - music teachers will continue to move from class to class.

- Band and choir - if you are considering playing and (when permitted) singing in your programs, be sure to carefully review the latest information:
- [Guidance for Singing and Performance](#)
- [Guidance for Live Instrumental Music](#)
- At this time, there is a **no sharing policy** of instruments and/or materials

Middle/High School - Current Alberta Health guidance states that wind instruments **may** be used with [proper mitigations](#) in place, depending on facility size. Please review the following documents:

- [Guidance for Singing and Performance](#)
- [Guidance for Live Instrumental Music](#)
- At this time, there is a **no sharing policy** of instruments and/or materials

14. 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.

15. Labs

Schools will follow COVID-19 health protocols to determine how to deliver lab-based learning as safely as possible. In some cases, students will participate directly in the learning experience. In other situations teachers may need to demonstrate the learning experience.

16. Work Experience

Work experience may resume. Schools that plan to offer work experience will ensure employers are adhering to provincial guidelines specific to the business.

17. Extracurricular Activities

Schools will evaluate whether they can offer extracurricular activities that follow COVID-19 protocols, and let families know which activities are available. Alberta Education is working with Alberta Health and education partners, including the Alberta School Athletic Association, to explore possibilities for athletic activities and events within the context of current health measures. At this time, team sports may occur only in the form of practices and with a restricted number of nine students plus a supervisor.

Staff will refer to Guidance [for Outdoor Recreation](#) when planning activities. Students will be able to participate in those activities regardless of whether they choose in-person or at-home learning.

18. 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 fair, school dances, in-person meet-the teacher events and group fundraisers like penny carnival.

19. School Council Meetings

School council meetings for the 2020-2021 school year may go ahead. These meetings must adhere to Alberta Health restrictions for social gatherings as well as the safety protocols and expectations outlined in both provincial guidance for [School Re-Entry](#) and this handbook. Schools will support their school council members in holding online meetings.

20. Before and After School Programs

Red Deer Catholic Regional Schools is continuing with Before and After School Programs that are operating in our schools. They will follow Alberta Health restrictions as well as the safety protocols and expectations outlined in the provincial guidance for [Schools and Child Care Program](#) and [School Re-Entry](#).

Transportation

1. Before Travelling in a School Bus

The safety of your child/ren and staff comes first and foremost. Please do not send your child/ren to the bus if they're displaying the symptoms outlined in the [screening questionnaire](#). This questionnaire is the daily self-assessment tool that parents and staff must use.

Remember to use your Safety Zones and physical distance while waiting for your bus.

Please update/refresh the free Bus Status App for notifications on route status. To download the Bus App, follow the links below:

Bus Status:

Apple: <https://apps.apple.com/us/app/bus-status/id1374365482>

Google Play: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=ca.boxclever.busstatus>

2. While Travelling in a School Bus

As there is no physical distancing on the bus:

- Your school bus operator will be wearing a mask and gloves, as well as a face shield during loading and unloading.
- We will practice cohorting and seat family members together.
- We will be taking ridership attendance twice daily.
- We will load the bus from back to front as the bus moves throughout the run.
- We require students in Grade 4 - 12 to wear a mask.
- We have created a "Empty Hands" policy that is up to the discretion of the bus driver. Please ensure everything is in your child/ren's backpack (including games).
- There will also be no eating/drinking on the bus to lessen the opportunity of transmission when sharing occurs. However, water bottles are allowed if approved by the driver.

3. After Travelling in a School Bus

Once your child returns to the house we encourage them to wash their hands thoroughly.

The school bus will be cleaned after every run and sprayed with a disinfectant that has been approved for use on the COVID-19 virus.