

CANADIAN ROCKIES PUBLIC SCHOOLS

DIVISIONAL RE-ENTRY PLAN

2021 - 2022



inspiring hearts  minds





August 24, 2021

Dear Families of Canadian Rockies Public Schools,

Canadian Rockies Public Schools is committed to the safety and well-being of students and staff. The Alberta Education 2021-22 School Year Plan is based upon Stage 3 (reopening) of Alberta's Open for Summer Plan and provides flexibility at the local level. Lindy Samson, chief of staff at the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario stated that keeping our schools open is "key to the overall health and well-being of our children and youth" (National Post, 2021). Credit goes to the students and educators of CRPS during the 2020-21 school year for minimizing the spread of COVID-19 and managing its impacts.

CRPS will take a balanced approach to reopening schools to mitigate the risks associated with COVID-19. Many valuable lessons from this past year will allow for a safer start to this school year. The new re-entry plan is based on the information we received through the parent/staff survey in addition to the direction provided by Alberta Education and the Alberta Chief Medical Officer of Health. It is meant to guide parents/guardians, students, staff and the community in a safe, caring and welcoming start to school this fall. As we enter into the new school year we will continue to operate based on the following principles:

- Student and staff health and safety are a priority.
- Student learning will continue and students will continue to be provided with high-quality learning experiences.
- All schools will adhere to the guidelines from Alberta Education and the Chief Medical Officer of Alberta.
- Ongoing communication with stakeholders will be a priority.
- A collective effort from all stakeholders will continue to be required to keep schools open, students learning in supportive, caring environments, and everyone as safe as possible.

Last year, we communicated all incidents of close contacts and cases of COVID-19 to the entire school division. Moving forward, we will send a communication to parents of students in a class with a positive case, if and when we become aware of such a case. Alberta Health Services will no longer be informing school authorities or administrators of individual cases of COVID-19 within their school setting.

Continuity of education will continue to be provided to all students. If a student is self-isolating or ill, teachers will support students to work from home as per typical practices when a student is ill and must remain at home, but is still able to complete school work. Learning will be provided asynchronously (not through real time/live classroom streaming).

This re-entry plan will be reviewed following the government review of current health measures on September 27th. Thank you for your ongoing understanding and cooperation.

Sincerely,

Christopher MacPhee, Superintendent of Schools
Canadian Rockies Public Schools

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Links to Alberta Government Parent Resources

1. [Parent's Guide 2021/2022 School Year](#) (currently being updated by the province)
2. [Guidance for Parents of Children Attending School, Childcare or Camps](#)
3. [Mandatory Isolation Requirements](#)
 - Albertans are legally required to isolate for 10 days if they test positive or have any core symptoms that are not related to a pre-existing illness or health condition.

Health Measures

- Routine measures to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19 and other respiratory illnesses include:
 - Promoting and facilitating hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette;
 - Staying home when sick;
 - Maintaining ventilation;
 - Ensuring regular cleaning and disinfection of high traffic/touch areas and surfaces;
 - Maintaining physical distancing where possible.

Daily Self-Screening Practices

- Before leaving home, staff (including substitute teachers), students (or their caregivers) and visitors, should assess whether they feel well enough to attend school by using the [Alberta Health Daily Checklist](#).
- Parents/guardians should assess their children daily for any new signs or symptoms of COVID-19 using the [Alberta Health Daily Checklist](#).
- Anyone that reports COVID-19 symptoms is directed by AHS to stay home, seek health care advice as appropriate and fill out the [AHS Online Self-Assessment tool](#).

Students with Pre-Existing Conditions

- At the start of the school year, parents will be required to provide updated information on a student's pre-existing health conditions on the Annual School Demographic Update/Verification 2021/2022.
- If a child develops symptoms that could be caused by either COVID-19 or by a known pre-existing condition (e.g. allergies), the child should be tested at least once for COVID-19 to confirm that it is not the source of their symptoms before entering or returning to school.

Illness While at School

- If a student presents with COVID-19 symptoms during the school day, as per the [Alberta Health Daily Checklist](#) and as determined by school staff, parents must be contacted immediately to pick up their child.
- The student should be placed in the school's infirmary until they are picked up. If there is more than one student in the infirmary, the students should remain more than two meters apart whenever possible. Students who are ill cannot be placed on the bus. If a parent is unable to pick up their child, they must designate an emergency contact for student pickup, via the Annual School Demographic Update/Verification 2021/2022.
- Students showing symptoms will be given a mask while waiting to be picked up. Staff caring for the student should wear PPE.
- *In extenuating circumstances, where a parent cannot pick up their child by the end of the day, [AP 386](#) will be enacted.

Confirmed Cases of COVID-19

- AHS Public Health will not inform school authorities or administrators of *individual* cases of COVID-19 within their school setting as notification to the school is not required for the individual's case management.
- There will be no class isolations unless an outbreak occurs which Alberta Health Services will investigate. A decision to isolate a class or school will be made in consultation with AHS.
- Families with children in a class with a positive case will continue to be informed directly by school administration if and when the school division/school becomes aware of such a case.
- Staff, students or parents/guardians are strongly encouraged to notify school administrators of a positive COVID-19 test result.
- Additional health measures may be put in place in classrooms with a confirmed case of COVID-19.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- [Mandatory masking is required for students in Grades 4 and up except when seated in classrooms and when not facing each other or during physical activity.](#)
- [Mandatory masking is required for all staff and teachers in all grades. A teacher may remove a mask when alone at a workstation and separated by at least two metres from all other persons.](#)
- It is strongly recommended that students in Grades K-3 wear masks in common areas.
- All permitted visitors will continue to be required to wear a non-medical face mask.

School Operations

Student Cohorting

- A cohort is defined as a group of students and staff who remain together. The size of each cohort will depend on the physical space of the classroom or learning setting.
- Schools will maintain current class cohorts for grades K-6 and will continue to cohort during instruction for Grades 7 and 8, whenever possible.
- Grades 9 - 12 will follow the regular semester schedule (4 courses per day) and will not be cohorted.
- Schools will maintain physical distancing of 2 meters whenever possible when in an indoor location.

Performance Activities

- Schools will follow provincial health guidelines for performance activities as part of their education program curriculum.

Visitors/Parents/Volunteers

- Parents/guardians may enter a school with an appointment made 24 hours in advance, except in emergency situations, to ensure that the number of additional adults in the building can be minimized at any given time.
- Only essential visitors will be allowed in CRPS schools and/or district-owned facilities, which includes the Central Board Office. Essential visitors at this time include parents, delivery personnel, CRPS staff, RCMP and AHS. All essential visitors who must enter the school must complete the [Alberta Health Daily Checklist](#) before possible entry. If they answer YES to any of the questions, the individual will not be admitted to the school and should not attempt to enter the school. There will be a sign-in book for essential service providers and visitors that will be completed by administrative assistants to allow for contact tracing if needed.
- All permitted visitors will remain in the school for as limited a time as possible and will be required to wear a non-medical face mask that covers their nose and mouth at all times (except in the case of an exception as per CMOH order 34-2021). They will also be required to follow all other safety protocols dictated for adults in the building. Schools will limit face-to-face conversations with parents and others, using technology whenever possible.
- Volunteers or face-to-face classroom guest speakers may be used outdoors only.

Extracurricular Activities

- Extracurricular activities (e.g. fine arts performances, clubs, etc.), including sports practices and teams, will be offered within the context of health measures that may be in place at the time of the activity.

This document will continue to be updated based on orders from the Chief Medical Officer of Health and recommendations from Alberta Education.

- At this time CRPS will begin the year with outdoor sports including: Cross Country, Golf, Soccer and Football.
- Planning for volleyball may begin with practices being held outdoors where possible.
- School authorities, parents/guardians, students and community members must continue to follow public health measures and recommendations that may be in place, including all coaches being masked at all times.

Field Trips

- Schools will plan only local field trips at this time.
- [Hold activities outdoors as much as possible.](#)

Before and After School Programs

- CRPS will grant the Canmore Daycare Society and the Town of Banff Out-of-School Club (OSC) access to CRPS facilities for both before and after-school programs. These programs must follow health guidelines set out by the school division.

Washrooms

- Regular washroom access is maintained for students, while schools put measures in place to attempt to reduce the number of students using a washroom at any one time. Washrooms will be cleaned regularly. Signage is in place to encourage the washing of hands.

Shared Equipment/Resources

- When handling shared resources ensure good hand hygiene before and after using the resource.

Food Services

- [Schools will follow provincial health guidelines for food services.](#)

Learning While Self-Isolating or Ill

- Continuity of education will continue to be provided to all students.
- If a student is self-isolating or ill, teachers will support students to work from home as per typical practices when a student is ill and must remain at home, but is still able to complete school work. Learning will be provided asynchronously (not through real time/live classroom streaming).

Choosing Not to Attend School Face to Face

- If families make a decision that their child will not attend school in person (excluding reasons of self-isolation or illness) they will be provided with information on *home-education* for Alberta school divisions that offer this option by their CRPS school. CRPS does not offer a [home education](#)

program. CRPS will continue to monitor its ability to provide learning at home for students whose families prefer this option.

Supporting Students Who Require Individual/Specialized Support and/or Medically Fragile Students

- In situations where staff are working with medically fragile students or students who are immunocompromised, staff *must* wear a face shield, a non-medical mask, gloves and a lab coat which will be provided by CRPS.
- In situations where ongoing or significant physical contact is required to support students with exceptional learning needs, staff must wear a non-medical mask.
- Students/family members should consult with their primary care provider to consider their personal risk and make a decision on what support may be needed or the best option for learning. In addition to consulting a physician, Albertans can assess the risk of experiencing severe health outcomes from COVID-19 using the [COVID-19 personal risk severity assessment](#).
- CRPS contracted service providers will be required to wear PPE provided by the school division and as directed by the school division. They must also follow all personal hygiene recommendations.

Student Transportation

- All students and drivers will be required to wear a mask on buses. Attendance will be taken daily and students will be seated in designated sections depending on bus route requirements.