

# Message from the Principal

## Parents, families, and guardians,

On July 21, 2020 the Government of Alberta announced that students would have an option to return to in-person classes in September, at near-normal operations, with additional health measures in place. Parents also had the option within BGSD to choose Distant Education or Home Education. ECES has had a high number (higher than most other BGSD schools) of parents, like you, that have chosen to have your children come back to school. I understand that for many the decision was a difficult one. While the road ahead for all of us may be unclear, I am confident that as we continue to work together with compassion and caring we will successfully meet any challenge that comes our way.

Over the last few weeks I have been preparing the school to welcome our students and staff back under these unusual circumstances. I have been working on strategies that focus on two key themes:

- mitigation of health risks through safety strategies
- continuity of student learning in all areas including academic and social/emotional areas

Though this school year will be unique and present challenges for us all, I remain committed to my focus in ensuring that ECES continues to be a school community known for high-quality teaching and learning in an environment that keeps our students and staff safe.

To meet the additional challenges presented this year I have made several changes to school routines and practices that we will all need to adjust to. Just as the situation in the province remains fluid, this plan will remain flexible to respond to new developments. After five months of not having students in school I am very much looking forward to re-establishing a school community. No matter what challenges arise we will face them as a community.

With respect to the safety of all, the changes I'm making to the school are based on provincial and BGSD requirements and directions to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. You will note that in the document below many of the changes rely on helping staff and students in the creation of new habits, routines, and understandings. Our entire school community will be taught new habits such as personal distancing, routines such as orderly entrance to the school, and understandings such as the importance of handwashing. I am confident that, in partnership with you, we will be successful in these endeavours.

BGSD has asked parents to decide on Distant Education and In-school education that will be for an entire term. I suspect that students may move between in-person and on-line learning come the end of January. To ensure the transition is smooth, schools and distant education are co-ordinating in-person and on-line teaching to make sure students learn key themes or units of the curriculum

over each term. This will ensure that students who shift between in-person and on-line learning groups at the end of January can do so without disrupting the continuity of their learning.

As students have been out of class since last March, it is prudent for staff to concentrate on a number of assessment activities to gauge where each student has progressed in their academic journey. Much of this assessment will occur in the first two weeks of school. The information collected will be important as we look to how best support each individual student.

Over the last 25 years ECES has continued to benefit from the extraordinary community that makes up the school. Over those 25 years there have been many changes that have been difficult on the outset but strengthened us overall. I suspect the same will be true with the challenges we now face. It is our shared responsibility in the education of our children that we work together and meet the challenges ahead of us all.

Dr. Matthew Kierstead

*Principal*

# **École Coloniale Estates School**

## **2020-2021 SCHOOL RE-ENTRY PLAN**

Information for Parents & Guardians

August 31, 2020

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# About COVID-19

## ***What is COVID-19?***

COVID-19 is an illness caused by a coronavirus. It is a new disease that has not been previously identified in humans.

[Coronaviruses](#) are a large family of viruses. Some cause illness in people and others cause illness in animals. Human coronaviruses are common and are typically associated with mild illnesses, similar to the common cold. COVID-19 is a new disease caused by the coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) and was declared a global pandemic in March 2020.

Coronaviruses are most commonly spread from an infected person through:

- respiratory droplets when you cough or sneeze.
- close personal contact, such as touching or shaking hands.
- touching something with the virus on it, then touching your eyes, nose or mouth before washing your hands.

These viruses are not known to spread through ventilation systems or through water.

## ***Symptoms***

COVID-19 symptoms can be mild and are similar to influenza and other respiratory illnesses.

According to information from the [Government of Alberta](#), most healthy people who are infected with the new, or novel, coronavirus will have a mild illness like a cold or flu. They may have a fever, cough, sore muscles or a sore throat. Some people may feel short of breath. Most people (about 80%) recover from this disease without needing special treatment. People who are much older or who already have health problems are more likely to get sicker with the novel coronavirus and may need to be hospitalized.

Alberta Health identifies the following [symptoms for COVID-19](#):

- Common symptoms: cough, fever (over 38°C), shortness of breath, runny nose or sore throat.
- Other symptoms can include: stuffy nose, painful swallowing, headache, chills, muscle or joint aches, feeling unwell in general, new fatigue or severe exhaustion, gastrointestinal symptoms (nausea, vomiting, diarrhea or unexplained loss of appetite), loss of sense of smell or taste, conjunctivitis (pink eye).
- Symptoms of serious illness: difficulty breathing or pneumonia.

If you have any of these symptoms, stay home and self-isolate to avoid spreading it to others. Alberta Health recommends calling Health Link at 811 for more information. Evidence indicates that the virus can be transmitted to others from someone who is infected but not showing symptoms. This includes people who have not yet developed symptoms (pre-symptomatic) and those who will never develop symptoms (asymptomatic). While experts know that these kinds of transmissions are happening

among those in close contact or in close physical settings, it is not known to what extent. This means it is extremely important to follow the proven preventative measures.

## ***Prevention***

Novel coronavirus spreads the same way as other viruses that cause colds and cases of flu. When people cough or sneeze, tiny drops of liquid go into the air. If the person has the coronavirus, the virus can be in those droplets and make others sick. One way a person can get sick is by breathing in tiny drops that have the virus in them, that can happen while talking with or being close to someone who is sick. Another way is by someone touching something that tiny drops have landed on and then touching their mouth, nose or eyes. Sharing dishes and forks and spoons, water bottles and drink containers could also spread the virus from someone who is sick to someone who is not.

You can help prevent the spread of COVID-19. Prevention starts with awareness. The following practices will help reduce the spread of COVID-19:

- Practice physical distancing
- Self-isolate when you're feeling sick
- Wash your hands frequently
- Cover coughs and sneezes
- Avoid touching your face

In addition to the strategies listed above, it is required that all staff and teachers, as well as students in grades 4 to 12 wear non-medical face masks while in shared areas of the school outside of the classroom where physical distancing may not be possible, and on school buses. Staff and students do not have to wear masks while seated in the classroom during instruction where there is appropriate distance between the staff and students, and maximum possible distance between students' desks (as a principle, two metres should be maintained wherever possible). Non-medical face masks for students in kindergarten to grade 3 may be considered.

## ***Good Hygiene***

Wash your hands really well and often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Soap and water are always the best. But, if soap and water are not available, you can use hand sanitizer. If your hands are dirty, or you have touched a surface that others have touched, wash your hands. Don't touch your eyes, nose or mouth until your hands are washed. Cough or sneeze into your elbow or a tissue, then wash your hands. Washing your hands, not touching your face, and staying home when you are sick are the best ways to help you and your family and friends stay healthy.

## ***More Information***

If there is anything you might be confused or worried about, don't be afraid to ask someone you trust. More information can be found online at [alberta.ca/COVID19](https://www.alberta.ca/COVID19).

## Quarantine and Isolation

CMOH Order 05-2020 has several legal requirements for quarantine and isolation (please see the table below).

<b>Quarantine</b>	<b>Isolation</b>
Required when people are not sick, but have been exposed to someone who has COVID-19.	Required when people are sick, to keep them from infecting others.
The quarantine period for COVID-19 is 14 days. This is because it can take up to 14 days for an individual to develop symptoms.	If exhibiting any symptoms of COVID-19, stay home and take the <a href="#">AHS Online Self-Assessment Tool</a> to arrange for testing.  You are required to stay home until you have a negative test result for COVID-19 or until the symptoms resolve, <i>whichever is longer</i> .

## Re-entry Information for Parents and Students

Following the provincial government's direction, and following Black Gold School Division (BGSD) lead ECES is implementing the [Guidance for School Re-entry - Scenario 1](#) from Alberta Education and Dr. Hinshaw, the Chief Medical Officer of Health, for September 2020. Wherever possible, having children physically attend school is recommended and our teachers are eager to get back into the classroom and work with students. Parents should be reassured that ECES is meeting Alberta Health Services (AHS) guidelines in providing a safe environment for student learning. Dr. Hinshaw has stated the decision to allow in-school learning with public health measures in place weighs the risks of prolonged school closures on students' educational experience and overall well-being against the risk of COVID-19 outbreaks. It is possible that we may have to transition between scenarios during the school year. Health officials will work with school authorities to make the decision to transition all students to *partial* In-school Classes learning (Scenario 2) or Distance Education (Scenario 3) based on multiple factors including the number of COVID-19 cases in a zone or a school and the risk of ongoing transmission. Please note that changes may be made to this plan in response to changes directed by Alberta Education.

In September, teachers will initially focus on the social and emotional needs of students and administering screening tools to identify gaps in student learning. Supporting students to be ready to

learn is an important first step in school re-entry. Once teachers have identified gaps in student learning, they can plan their instruction to address these gaps prior to moving forward.

This document details the conditions that will be in place for each program delivery choice.

**Parents/guardians will be asked to declare which learning experience is best for each of their children and in doing so, make a 5 month (one semester) commitment until the end of January.** This will enable us to deploy teachers and student supports as needed for effective programming. Students may switch learning experience options beginning on February 1, 2021. Parents/guardians will be asked to make this decision in December so there is adequate time to plan for students programming and staffing.

<h2>In-school Classes</h2>	
<i>Daily Health Check for Students and Staff</i>	Before leaving home, staff, children/students, visitors, and volunteers who will access the school for work or education, must self-screen for symptoms <b>each day before they leave for school</b> using the <a href="#">Alberta Health Daily Checklist</a> .
<h2>Transportation</h2>	
<i>Buses</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Children/students should not board the bus if they have symptoms of COVID-19. Be sure that the self-screening tool has been used each day prior to leaving for the bus.</li> <li>● Students in Grades 4 - 6 are required to wear a non-medical face mask when on the bus and at the transfer site.</li> <li>● Students in Kindergarten - Grade 3 are encouraged to wear a face mask.</li> <li>● Bus Drivers will use a face mask and a face shield when loading or unloading students from the bus. Bus Drivers will remove their face covering when the bus is in motion for maximum visibility.</li> <li>● When wearing a face mask, care should be taken to ensure the mask is <a href="#">used correctly and safely</a>.</li> <li>● Students should be wearing their face mask at the bus stop or anytime they are waiting to board the bus.</li> <li>● As much as practical, children/students will start boarding from the back seats to the front of the bus.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As much as practical, students start disembarking from the front seats to the back of the bus.</li> <li>• Students will be assigned seats and students who live in the same household will be seated together.</li> <li>• Drivers will increase the frequency of cleaning and disinfecting of high-touch surfaces, such as door handles, window areas, rails, steering wheel, mobile devices and GPS at the end of each morning and evening run.</li> <li>• A vehicle cleaning log will be kept by each driver.</li> <li>• All children/students must perform hand hygiene (hand sanitizer) when <b>entering the bus</b>. Hand sanitizer will be available.</li> <li>• No sharing of personal items (toys, water bottles, etc.) or eating on the school bus.</li> <li>• A child who becomes symptomatic during the bus trip should be provided a mask if they are not already wearing one. The driver will contact the school to make the appropriate arrangements to pick up the child/student (see Responding to Illness below).</li> </ul>
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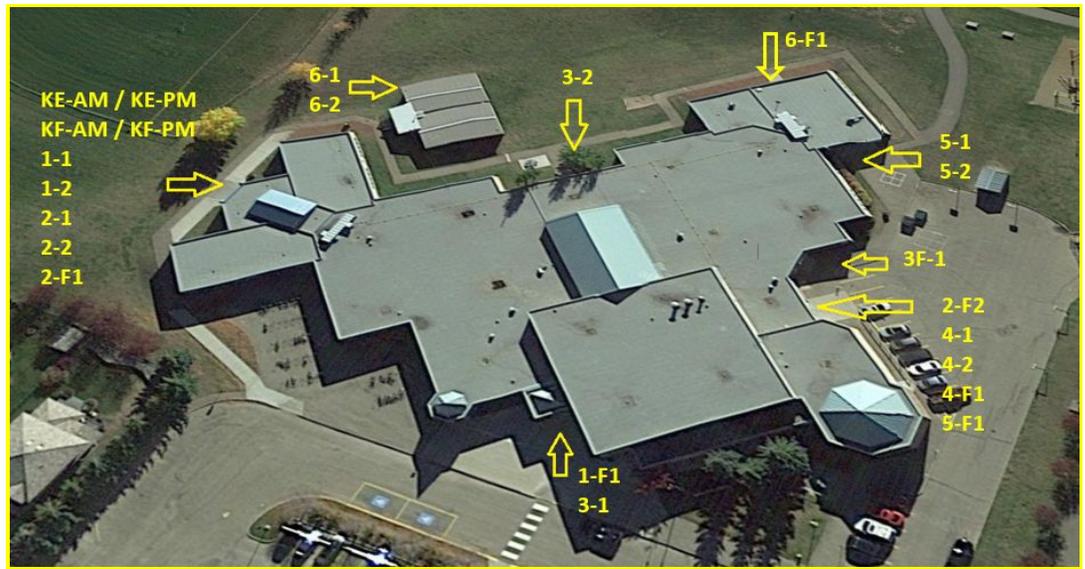
**Entry Protocols**

<i>Stay at Home when Sick</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stay at home if exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 that are not related to a pre-existing illness/health condition.</li> </ul>
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<i>Staggered School Year Start Dates</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students have not been in school since March 13 and we have added a number of new protocols designed to keep students as safe as possible. Staggered entry will include a reduced number of students. Following the schedule below, staff will work with students to explain new processes and procedures that must be followed. This will give students the opportunity to become familiar with new routines that will be in place in the school and classrooms.</li> <li>• Kindergarten classes already have a staggered entry for students and there will be no changes to their entry schedule.</li> </ul> <p><b>We recognize that some students may not be able to attend on the designated day below (childcare issues, etc). Please contact the school to inform us that your child will not be attending that day, but will begin school on September 11, 2020.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>September 8:</b> Grades 3, 6 only</li> <li>○ <b>September 9:</b> Grades 2, 5 only</li> </ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>September 10:</b> Grades 1, 4 only</li> <li>○ <b>September 11:</b> All students attend and regular classes begin.</li> </ul>
<i>Drop-off and Pick-up Procedures</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Drop-off <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Students are to arrive at school as close to the warning bell (8:20) as possible.</li> <li>○ When entering the school students are to use the hand hygiene stations.</li> <li>○ Do not use the bus lane. The <b>entire yellow curb</b> in front of the school is for busses only.</li> <li>○ Consider using the trail system paths that lead to the school as alternate drop off and pick up points.</li> <li>○ Upon arrival students are to proceed to their designated areas maintaining physical distancing.</li> <li>○ Parents are asked not to stand around.</li> <li>○ Student entrance will be coordinated by cohort groupings.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Pick-up <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Students are to use the hand hygiene station when leaving the school.</li> <li>○ Students that are being picked up are to have a designated area that allows for physical distancing. Consider the trail system that leads to the school.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Non-Scheduled Pick-up/Drop Off <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Parents picking their child up during school hours are to notify the teacher or office prior. When the parents arrive they are to remain in their vehicle in front of the school and phone the front office that you have arrived. A staff member will escort the child out the door and make visible confirmation.</li> <li>○ Late arrivals are asked to phone the front desk and a staff member will meet the child at the front door.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<i>Hand Hygiene and Safe Practices</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Everyone must perform hand hygiene (hand sanitizer) when <b>entering and exiting the school.</b></li> <li>● The school has posters promoting hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette, physical distancing etc., posted in visible locations.</li> </ul>
<b>General Protocols</b>	
<i>Physical Distancing</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Everyone in the school shall maintain 2 metres physical distancing whenever possible.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Where physical distancing is not possible, extra emphasis on cohorting, hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette, and cleaning and disinfecting on a regular basis (before and after activities) will be implemented.</li> <li>• It is important that students and staff stay home if they have any <a href="#">symptoms of COVID-19</a> that are not related to a pre-existing condition.</li> </ul>
<i>Cohorts</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cohorting limits exposure to others and aids in contact tracing if needed.</li> <li>• Each class will be considered a cohort and efforts to maintain physical distancing even within a cohort will minimize the risk for disease transmission.</li> <li>• Every effort will be made to limit the number of cohorts that each student is part of.</li> <li>• When interacting with people outside the cohort, maintain physical distancing of 2 metres.</li> <li>• If two or more people from different cohorts are required to come within 2 metres of one another for the purposes of instruction, practice or undertaking examinations, additional protections will be instituted such as engineering controls (such as plexiglass barriers or partitions), or administrative controls (adapting the activity to minimize or eliminate close contacts).</li> </ul>
<i>Engineered and Administrative Controls in Schools</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The school office is equipped with a plexiglass divider to protect visitors and staff from potential exposures.</li> <li>• Directional arrows are posted in each school to support physical distancing.</li> <li>• The school has designated different entrances and exits for different classes of students. Your child's class number will be listed in PowerSchool.</li> </ul>



- The school has posted occupancy limits for bathrooms, common areas and meeting rooms to allow physical distancing.
- All rugs/soft surfaces that cannot be cleaned and sanitized have been removed from classrooms.
- Unnecessary furniture has been removed from classrooms.
- The following high touch items will not be used in the school: refrigerators, microwaves, dishwashers and vending machines.
- There will be no use of school cutlery, cups, dishes.
- All food sales such as hot lunch and bake sales are cancelled.
- Parents are not to drop hot lunches off at the school.
- All school assemblies will be virtual.

*Visitors to School*

- No one should enter the school if she or he is ill. ([Complete the self-assessment tool](#))
- Visitors will:
  - Wear a mask
  - Use the main door
  - Log in
  - Follow posted instructions.
- Only required visitors can attend the school.
- The number of schools that substitute teachers will work in will be limited as much as possible.

*Pre-existing Conditions*

- The guidance that Alberta Education and the Chief Medical Officer of Health have provided us addresses children with known pre-existing conditions. ***"The student should be tested at least once before returning to school and have a negative COVID-19 test result to***

	<p><b><i>confirm that COVID-19 is not the source of their symptoms. These symptoms would be their baseline health status. As long as the cough or runny nose is always the same and does not get worse, the student can attend school. Inform the school about your child's pre-existing medical condition so the school may keep a confidential record of this condition."</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● BGSD recommends that a COVID-19 test be done closer to the start of the school year and as the guidelines state. Should a student be required to self-isolate or quarantine, our teachers will provide materials for students who are at home if students are healthy enough to do school work.</li> <li>● The school will keep records of a student's known pre-existing conditions. Throughout the school year, 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.</li> </ul>
<p><i>Responding to Illness</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● No one should enter the school if he or she has any possible symptoms of COVID-19.</li> <li>● If a child/student develops symptoms while at the school, the child/student will wear a non-medical mask if they are able to (provided by the school), and be isolated in a separate room. The parent/guardian will be notified to come and pick up the student immediately. If a separate room is not available, the child/student will be kept at least 2 metres away from other children/students. The parent/guardian/student will be asked to access COVID-19 testing by accessing the <a href="#">AHS Online Self-Assessment Tool</a>.</li> <li>● 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. The student and staff will wear a mask and close interactions with the student that may result in contact with the student's respiratory secretions will be avoided. If very close contact is required and the child is young the staff member will also use a face shield or eye protection.</li> <li>● Staff/students must wash their hands before donning a mask and before and after removing the mask (<a href="#">Guidance on non-medical mask use</a>), and before and after touching any items used by the child/student.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● All items the student touched/used while isolated must be cleaned and disinfected as soon as the child/student has been picked up. Items that cannot be cleaned and disinfected (e.g. paper, books, cardboard puzzles) will be removed from the classroom and stored in a sealed container for a minimum of 10 days.</li> <li>● The zone medical officer of health will work with school authorities to quickly: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Identify cases</li> <li>○ Identify close contacts</li> <li>○ Create isolation measures when needed</li> <li>○ Provide follow-up recommendations</li> </ul> </li> <li>● 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 quarantine for 14 days.</li> <li>● 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.</li> <li>● BGSD will support students and staff to learn or work at home if they are required to self-isolate.</li> <li>● Any school authority/school connected to a confirmed or probable case of COVID-19 will be contacted by AHS and may be required to close in-person classes to allow the public health investigation to take place. The decision to send a cohort/class home or to cancel classes will be made in consultation with the local Minister of Health.</li> <li>● If there is an absence rate of 10% due to illness OR there are an unusual amount of individuals with similar symptoms, the school will report to the local public health unit as per our usual outbreak notification process, regardless of the COVID-19 test results for each individual. The purpose of this is to continue to monitor for other clusters of illness that may not be COVID-19 related and alert Alberta Health Services to potential outbreaks of other diseases.</li> <li>● NOTE* If there are suspected or confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the school, AHS has outlined the procedures and responsibilities of schools, AHS, and Alberta Health. (See Appendix 1)</li> </ul>
<i>Masks</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The wearing of masks is a medical decision not an educational one.</li> <li>● Non-medical face mask use is mandatory for students in Grades 4 - 6 and all staff in settings where physical distancing cannot be maintained.</li> <li>● Students in Kindergarten - Grade 3 may choose to wear a mask.</li> </ul>

- Non-medical masks are not required while students are seated in the classroom during instruction if following the physical distancing guidance above. If close contact between students, or students and teachers/staff is occurring as a result of classroom activities, non-medical masks should be used for the duration of this activity.
- All teachers, staff and students in Grades 4 - 6 are required to wear face masks in all shared and common areas such as hallways and on buses.

Masks are required for this group as there is increasing evidence that older students may be more likely to transmit COVID-19 than younger students, and are at a higher risk of significant disease than younger students.

- When non-medical face masks are used, hands should be cleaned before and after putting it on and taking it off. Avoid touching the mask once it is on. Masks should be changed after they become wet or soiled.
- After removing a reusable non-medical face mask that will be reworn prior to washing, it should be placed into a clean, breathable bag or container (allows for evaporation) for storage. Consider using a bag that can be washed. All masks should have two distinct sides, one side that touches the face and one that faces outwards.
- Do not reuse masks that are wet or soiled prior to laundering. A wet or soiled mask that requires laundering should be placed into a sealed bag or container where it is stored until it can be taken home and washed
- Disposable masks that are damaged or dirty should be discarded into a garbage bin that is lined with a plastic bag.
- A very small number of individuals may not be able to wear masks due to sensory or health issues. Face shields are not considered to be equivalent to non-medical face masks. It is important to comply with other personal preventative practices such as frequent hand hygiene and physical distancing as much as possible.
- Additional guidance on non-medical face masks is available [here](#)
- Exemptions to mask requirement for all teachers and staff in all school settings and students in grades 4-6 include:
  - Persons who are unable to place, use or remove a non-medical face mask without assistance;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Persons unable to wear a non-medical face mask due to a mental or physical concern or limitation;</li> <li>○ Persons consuming food or drink in designated areas;</li> <li>○ Persons engaged in physical exercise;</li> <li>○ Persons providing care or assistance to a person with a disability where a non-medical face mask would hinder that caregiving or assistance;</li> <li>○ Persons engaging in services that require the temporary removal of the non-medical face mask, and</li> <li>○ Spaces where physical barriers have been installed between persons.</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Alberta’s government will provide two reusable masks for each student.</li> <li>● When wearing face masks, care should be taken to ensure <a href="#">guidance on non-medical mask use</a> is followed and masks are used correctly and safely.</li> <li>● Parents/guardians should be encouraged to help their children become comfortable with wearing a mask. Masks should not be worn by anyone who is unable to remove the mask without assistance (e.g., due to age, ability or developmental status).</li> <li>● Practices such as physical distancing, cohorting, hand washing, staying home when sick and increased cleaning of surfaces continue to be the priority of public health measures.</li> </ul>
<i>Expectations for Shared use of Equipment</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Absolutely no sharing of personal items will be permitted (pencils, crayons, erasers, toys, water bottles, books, etc.)</li> <li>● When school equipment must be shared (i.e. Chromebooks, CTS shop equipment, P.E. racquets, etc) it must be cleaned and disinfected after each use.</li> </ul>
<i>Water Bottles and Fountains</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● AHS guidelines state that water fountains can remain open. Mouthpieces of drinking fountains are not a major source of virus transmission and require regular cleaning according to manufacturer recommendations.</li> <li>● Water fountain knobs and push buttons are considered high touch surfaces and must be regularly cleaned and disinfected.</li> <li>● It is recommended that students bring their own water bottle (labelled with their name) and fill water bottles rather than having them drink directly from the mouthpiece of a fountain.</li> </ul>

<i>Personal Belongings</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● To minimize contact between students and support physical distancing, lockers in hallways and shared spaces as well as coat hooks will not be available for use.</li> <li>● In classes where lockers are located in the classroom and only one class uses the classroom, lockers can be used. Teachers will coordinate access to these lockers so students can maintain a physical distance when using their locker. As with other personal spaces, students will be asked to wipe their lockers daily.</li> <li>● All students and staff are encouraged to use a backpack for all personal belongings.</li> <li>● Lunches are to be stored with personal belongings (in a backpack). Please consider wide mouth thermos containers for hot food as microwaves are not available.</li> </ul>
<i>Electronic Devices</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Students are encouraged to bring their own educational devices (BYOED).</li> <li>● Student personal devices are to be stored with their personal belongings.</li> </ul>

### ***Classes and Programming***

<i>Classroom Hygiene</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Everyone entering the classroom must perform hand hygiene.</li> <li>● An emphasis will be placed on hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette and physical distancing as much as possible while in classrooms.</li> <li>● Students and staff will wipe their own workspace such as desks, chromebooks, etc. before and after using. Younger students may require help from the teacher or education assistant.</li> </ul>
<i>Class Sizes</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Class sizes will be similar to previous years as there is no additional funding to hire more teachers.</li> <li>● Where 2 metres is not possible between desks, they will be separated by the greatest possible spacing in each classroom.</li> <li>● If 2 metres cannot be arranged between desks/tables, students will be arranged so they are not facing each other (e.g. arranged in rows rather than in small groups of 4 or a semi-circle). This way, if a student coughs or sneezes, they are not likely to cough or sneeze directly on the face of another student.</li> <li>● In circumstances where 2 metres of physical distance is not possible (especially if the circumstance requires prolonged close contact for longer than 15 minutes), teachers, staff and students in Grades 4 - 6 are</li> </ul>

	<p>required to wear a non-medical face mask to protect one another and extra emphasis on hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette, not participating when sick and cleaning and disinfecting on a regular basis before and after activities will occur.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● students in Kindergarten - Grade 3 can choose to wear a non-medical face mask.</li> <li>● Teachers will have seating plans for all classes.</li> <li>● Each class will be considered a cohort and interaction between cohorts will be minimized. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Cohorts encourage individuals who cannot maintain 2 metre physical distancing (i.e. classes) to interact with the same people (their cohort) rather than switching daily contacts or randomly interacting with other people.</li> <li>○ Within each cohort (classroom), students will maintain the greatest physical distancing possible to minimize the risk for disease transmission (i.e., spacing between desks).</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<i>Student Movement</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Where possible, teachers will move between classrooms and students will remain at their desks.</li> <li>● Hallway protocols are in place to ensure students remain a safe distance apart while moving throughout the building</li> <li>● There are posters promoting hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette, physical distancing etc., posted in visible locations. Teachers and staff will reinforce protocols.</li> </ul>
<i>Breaks</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Common breaks will be maintained but with new routines <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Students will eat lunch in their classroom</li> <li>○ Dismissal and re-entry will be spaced</li> <li>○ Exterior door supervisors will manage student traffic</li> <li>○ Cohort specific area schedule on school grounds</li> <li>○ Lunch recess will be divided. Half the school will eat while half go out for recess. The opposite for the second half.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<i>Using Playground Equipment</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Encourage children to avoid sharing toys or sports equipment and limit contact with individuals outside of their cohort.</li> <li>● Increased focus on respiratory etiquette and physical distancing will be taken around playground equipment.</li> </ul>
<i>Physical Education</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● When possible physical education will be done outside instead of inside as the risk of transmission is more likely to occur indoors rather</li> </ul>

	<p>than outdoors and will follow the <a href="#">Guidance for Sport, Physical Activity and Recreation</a>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Teachers will choose activities or sports that support physical distancing (e.g. badminton over wrestling).</li> <li>• Locker rooms and change rooms: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Kindergarten through Grade 6 students will not change for Physical Education classes.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<i>Extracurricular Activities/Field Trips</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extracurricular activities, field trips requiring busing, and all overnight student excursions are postponed. This will be reviewed by November 30, 2020.</li> </ul>
<i>Can a Student Switch to Distance Education?</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yes, students can switch to distance education beginning February 1, 2021.</li> <li>• Parents/guardians will be asked to make this decision in December so there is adequate time to plan for students programming and staffing.</li> </ul>
<i>Provincial Testing</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students will participate in provincial testing (Achievement Tests and Diploma Exams) in accordance with Alberta Education testing schedules.</li> </ul>

### **Cleaning Protocols**

<i>Hand Hygiene</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In addition to hand washing with soap, BGSD will provide appropriate amounts of recommended hand sanitizer in schools and on buses, and hand sanitizing dispensers will be available at each school entry way.</li> <li>• While washing with soap and water for 20 seconds is the preferred method for cleaning hands, hand sanitizer can be used when this is not practical.</li> <li>• Recommended hand hygiene protocols: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Before leaving home, on arrival at school, and before leaving school.</li> <li>○ After using the toilet.</li> <li>○ Before and/or after any transitions within the school setting (e.g. to another classroom, indoor-outdoor transitions, etc.).</li> <li>○ After sneezing or coughing.</li> <li>○ Before and after breaks and sporting activities.</li> <li>○ Before and after eating any food, including snacks.</li> <li>○ Before touching face (nose, eyes or mouth).</li> <li>○ Whenever hands are visibly dirty.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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<i>High Touch Areas</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There will be increased frequency of cleaning and disinfecting of high-touch areas in schools.</li> <li>• Where required, extra custodial time has been added to accommodate this work.</li> </ul>
<i>Bus Cleaning</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drivers will increase the frequency of cleaning and disinfecting of high-touch surfaces, such as door handles, window areas, rails, steering wheel, mobile devices and GPS at the end of each morning and evening run and vehicle cleaning logs will be kept.</li> </ul>
<i>Cleaning Workspaces</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Materials for staff and students to clean/sanitize their own workspace (desks, shared devices, etc.) will be available in the classroom.</li> <li>• Students and staff will wipe their own workspace before and after using. If students remain at the same desk all day, this would be done at the beginning and end of the day.</li> </ul>
<b><i>Mental Health/Psychosocial Supports for Students and Staff</i></b>	
<i>Providing Mental Health Support</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staff have access to professional learning on supporting the mental health of students.</li> <li>• Information on accessing mental health resources for students, families and staff is posted on the Black Gold Engaging Students website and the <a href="#">BGSD website</a>.</li> </ul>

# Appendix 1

*Government of Alberta Guidance for School Re-entry - Scenario 1*

[COVID-19 information: Guidance for School Re-entry - Scenario 1](#)

## *References:*

[Alberta K to 12 School Re-entry Website](#)

[Alberta Health Daily Checklist.](#)

[Screening Questionnaire](#)

[Guidance for Sport, Physical Activity and Recreation](#)

[Guidance for Playgrounds \(updated June 18, 2020\)](#)

[Elementary - Returning to School Safely Video](#)

[Junior and High School - Returning to School Safely Video](#)

[Resource guide for COVID-19 outbreaks in schools](#)

If you have questions about the school re-entry plan, please contact us at [eces@blackgold.ca](mailto:eces@blackgold.ca).