

SCHOOL RE-START PLANS – ADAPTING TO COVID-19

As of September 18, 2020



Table of Contents

2020-2021 Provincial/Territorial School Guidelines Related to COVID-19, Selected Highlights	2
Newfoundland and Labrador	2
Prince Edward Island.....	5
Nova Scotia.....	8
New Brunswick.....	11
Quebec.....	14
Ontario	17
Manitoba	20
Saskatchewan.....	23
Alberta.....	26
British Columbia	30
Yukon.....	34
Northwest Territories.....	37
Nunavut.....	40

Note: The summary information below is based on the best available information at the time it was compiled, and will be updated regularly. If you are aware of any changes we need to make for your province or territory, please let us know via email to Richard Riel, Researcher, Teacher Welfare and Collective Bargaining (rriel@ctf-fce.ca), and Sophia Dominguez Robledano, Administrative Assistant (sdominguez@ctf-fce.ca).

2020-2021 Provincial/Territorial School Guidelines Related to COVID-19, Selected Highlights



Newfoundland and Labrador

Learning Structure and Method

- The preferred and anticipated scenario is that students will return to daily in-school classes at the beginning of the year. However, school districts are asked to prepare for implementing any of the following three possibilities during the upcoming school year, including on short notice.
 - **Scenario 1: In-school classes resume** (near normal with health measures)
 - **Scenario 2: In-school classes partially resume** (with additional health measures)
 - **Scenario 3: At-home learning** (in-school classes are suspended/cancelled)
- For more details, see “Scenarios for the 2020-2021 School Year” on page 6-7 of the [K-12 Education Re-entry Plan](#).
- Return to in-class learning in school may vary across the province, dependent on the situation with COVID-19 in the local area.

Cohorts/Grouping/Group and Class Sizes

- Cohorts of students by class where possible.

Screening and Testing

- Routine self-screening (not testing) for all staff for symptoms and exposure to COVID-19
- Routine daily screening of students by parents/guardians before arriving at school

Masks and Personal Protective Equipment

- Masks will be required to be worn by students in Grades 7 to 12 in classrooms where physical distancing of one metre face to face is not possible.
- K-6 students who do not take the bus will not be required to wear a non-medical mask (NMM), but may choose to do so.
- All passengers on school buses are required to wear NMMs; however, no student is required to wear an NMM if they cannot tolerate it.
- Teachers or other staff will be required to wear NMMs when physical distancing is not achievable.

- See Annex C-Guidelines for Use of Non-Medical Masks in the [K-12 Education Re-entry Plan](#) (PDF, Sept 3, 2020).

Distancing

- Physical distancing of 2 metres is recommended.
- Reorganization of rooms to allow for more physical space.
- Guiding foot traffic flow through entrances and hallways by using markers on the floor or pylons/barriers.
- No large gatherings such as assemblies.

Cleaning and Disinfecting

- Enhanced environmental cleaning and disinfecting recommendations, including daily cleaning for all areas of the school, washrooms and high-touch surface cleaning several times a day, and a regularly scheduled deep cleaning when students are not present.
- Hiring up to 25 custodians and custodian hours increasing from five to seven hours per day.
- Cleaning supplies provided to busing contractors.

Hygiene

- Hand hygiene expectations when entering and exiting the school and classrooms, and before and after eating.
- Continual reminders of the importance of respiratory etiquette (e.g., cover coughs and sneezes, avoid touching the face, prompt disposal of used tissues, followed by hand hygiene).
- A no-sharing policy, i.e., all students should have their own supplies (where sharing of equipment is required, the equipment should be cleaned between uses).

Stay-at-Home and School/Classroom Closure Protocols

- Strict stay-at-home policy for any students or staff exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 (even if symptoms resemble a mild cold).

Bussing

- See the “Student Transportation on Buses” section on pages 10-11 of [Public Health Guidance for K-12 Schools](#).
- Cleaning supplies provided to busing contractors as well as additional bussing.

Other

- Public exams scheduled for January 2021 will be canceled, recognizing the loss of some instructional time when schools closed in spring 2020.
- Hiring 70 substitute teachers on term contracts for specific schools, adding 15 administrators (principals) and 25 guidance counsellors.

Ministry – Selected Information

- [K-12 Education Re-entry Plan](#) (PDF, Sept. 3, 2020)
- [K-12 Education Re-entry Plan](#) (website)
- [Public Health Guidance for K-12 Schools](#) (Sept. 3, 2020)
- [NL Safe Schools – A Safe Return to School](#) (website)
- [NLESD requiring masks in schools' communal areas and on buses](#) (CBC News, Aug. 17, 2020)
- [Minister Osborne Announces Advances to Support a Healthy and Safe Return to School](#) (News Release, Sept. 1, 2020)
- [Provincial Government Provides Plan for a Return to School for K-12 Students in September](#) (News Release, July 6, 2020)

Member Organization – Selected Information

- [NLTA Feedback on NL Government K-12 Education Re-entry Plan](#)
- [Union files grievance as teachers return to work amid intensifying pandemic fears](#)



Prince Edward Island

Learning Structure and Method

The Public Schools Branch and Commission scolaire de langue française have been tasked to prepare for different scenarios contingent with public health considerations.

In the first instance, the boards and schools have been asked to prepare for:

- In-class learning with detailed precautionary measures in place; and
- In-class learning with additional public health measures.

As a precautionary measure, back-up plans are being developed, including:

- At home learning with limited use of school facilities;
- At home learning with no access to school facilities.

Cohorts/Grouping/Group and Class Sizes

- Cohorts: Schools will identify cohorts of students that will, as much as possible, remain isolated from other cohorts.
- Movement and schedules in cohorts to minimize contact; and cohorts will be kept as small as possible.
- See the “Cohorts” section on page 10 of [Public Schools Branch Guidelines for Return to School, September 2020](#).

Screening and Testing

- Parents, students and staff will be asked to self-screen for any symptoms of COVID-19 before entering the school.
- The number of visitors in schools will be limited, and all visitors will be screened at entry points.

Masks and Personal Protective Equipment

- Masks will be required for students in Grades 7-12 during transitions and emergency procedures.
- Masks will be required for staff teaching Grades 7-12 during transitions and emergency procedures.
- For students and staff in Grades K-6, masks are encouraged when physical distancing cannot be maintained.
- Masks will be required for all students K-12 while riding the bus.
- Masks will be required for bus drivers when they are not seated, facing forward and driving the bus.
- Schools and buses will have masks available for any student or staff member who needs one.

- Masks will be required for any visitor to the school during transitions and emergency procedures.
- Exceptions will be made on a case-by-case basis.

Distancing

- Signage will indicate how foot traffic will flow in the school.
- Washroom protocols will be implemented.
- Staggered recess, lunch and arrival, and departure times.
- Classrooms reorganized to increase spacing.
- Staggering of transitions/movement in/out and within buildings:
 - Students:** Arrivals and departures will be staggered, cohorts of students will enter through different entrances and students will proceed to cohort areas to which they belong; transitions of classes through the schools will be planned to ensure that multiple classes are not occupying the same spaces.
 - Staff:** Arrival of regular school staff will be staggered. If multiple staff arrive at the same time, they will maintain physical distancing. Common/shared areas will be accessed only as needed.
- Any school activities and events will follow CPHO guidelines for gatherings.
- School sports will be paused during school start-up.
- Student committees such as Student Council activities will need to follow all guidelines; virtual options will be encouraged.
- See “Physical Distancing Considerations” on pages 9-10, “Staggering of Transitions/Movement In/Out and Within Buildings” on page 11, “Classroom Physical Configuration” on page 15, “Chapter 5-Student Transitions” on pages 16-17, “Chapter 6-Student Breaks” on pages 20-21, and “Chapter 11-Access to Buildings” on pages 27-28 of [Public Schools Branch Guidelines for Return to School, September 2020](#).

Cleaning and Disinfecting

- Enhanced cleaning practices will be followed in schools and on school buses.
- See “Custodian/Cleaner - Enhanced Cleaning and Disinfection of Shared Areas and Surfaces” and “Cleaning of Shared Classrooms” in Chapter 2 – Public Health Measures for Facilities on pages 12-13 of [Public Schools Branch Guidelines for Return to School, September 2020](#).

Hygiene

- Protocols will be in place to increase the frequency of hand washing.
- Hand washing/sanitizer stations.
- Water fountains will remain closed, but water filling stations will be open and students will be encouraged to bring a water bottle from home. Increased cleaning will occur at water filling stations.

Stay-at-Home and School/Classroom Closure Protocols

- All staff and students will be asked to stay home if they are feeling unwell.
- See “Policy for Exclusion of Staff, Students, Parents and Visitors Self-Isolation Illness/Exclusion Policy” on pages 7-8 of [Public Schools Branch Guidelines for Return to School, September 2020](#).
- See the Health and Safety section of the [Welcome Back to School-Website](#).

Bussing

- Masks will be required for all students K-12 while riding the bus.
- Masks will be required for bus drivers when they are not seated, facing forward and driving the bus.
- Schools and buses will have masks available for any student or staff member who needs one.
- See Chapter 8 -Transportation on pages 24-26 of [Public Schools Branch Guidelines for Return to School, September 2020](#).

Other

- The detailed operational plan for each school board will be based on the guidance of the Chief Public Health Office.
- Teachers will be added as necessary to support return-to-school plans.
- The Province of Prince Edward Island has approved approximately \$2 million through the COVID-19 Contingency Fund to support student learning, the well-being of students and staff, and protect the health and safety of the school community. This includes adding additional teachers, educational assistants, counselling consultants, bus drivers, and cleaners for the 2020-2021 school year. A recent investment of \$10 million from the Government of Canada will further increase these activities and promote enhanced cleaning, transportation support, technology for remote learning and ongoing training for staff.

Ministry – Selected Information

- [Public Schools Branch Guidelines for Return to School, September 2020](#) (Aug. 14, 2020)
- [Welcome Back to School Plan](#) (June 30, 2020)
- [Welcome Back to School-Website](#)
- [Wearing masks](#)
- [Public Schools Branch Guidelines for Return to School 2020](#)
- [Schools set to welcome students with updated back to school plan](#)

Member Organization – Selected Information



Nova Scotia

Learning Structure and Method

Students in pre-primary and Grades P–8 will have in-school learning.

- Students in Grades 9–12 will have primarily remote learning, with partial in-school programming for some students.
- Students learning at home will be supported with access to devices, some scheduled in-school classes, attendance for students requiring Internet access, and the ability to book in-person time with teachers and support staff at schools.
- It is possible that some job assignments may change to address the needs in different situations.
- All staff will work from schools.

Cohorts/Grouping/Group and Class Sizes

- Under a full-opening plan, pre-primary classes will have up to 20 children with two staff, with a maximum of 24 children and three staff. These classes will serve as cohorts, with the same children and staff staying together each day.
- Under partial or blended opening, pre-primary classes will have a maximum of 15 children with two staff. As with the full opening plan, classes will serve as cohorts, with the same children and staff staying together each day.
- Primary to Grade 12 in-school classes will resume with cohorting practices.
- Students in Grades 9–12 will have reduced class sizes; and “cohorting” or “grouping” will be used for those attending in person.

Screening and Testing

- See “Screening” on page 5 of the [Nova Scotia’s Back to School Plan](#).

Masks and Personal Protective Equipment

- Pre-primary children and students in Pre-primary to Grade 3 are not required to wear a mask while in school. Staff working with pre-primary to 3 students must wear a mask when interacting with students when they cannot physically distance.
- All students in Grades 4 to 12 will be required to wear a mask if they cannot physically distance from others, even when they are in a classroom with their cohort. That is, students in Grades 4 to 12 will wear a mask unless they are: seated in the classroom at a distance of 2 m/6 ft from others facing in the same direction, eating or drinking, or participating in indoor physical activity where a mask cannot be worn.

- All children, students, and staff will be provided with two reusable masks. It is recommended that children, students, and staff bring their own masks, whenever possible; however, schools will ensure additional masks are available for students who may need one or who forget theirs.
- All children and students who travel by bus, regardless of age, will keep their mask on at all times while on the bus.
- Staff and visitors will wear masks in common areas and whenever they are unable to maintain physical distance from others.
- Students and staff may choose to wear a mask even at times when it may not be required.

Distancing

- Students in Grades 9–12 will have two-metre social distancing.
- Instructional spaces may also be reconfigured to support increasing spacing, for example, through seating arrangements. Teachers are also encouraged to hold classes outside as much as possible. Priority for outdoor classes should be given to physical education.
- Students and staff should be encouraged to distance as much as possible where appropriate.
- Hallways will have markings to control flow and help students/staff remember to distance.
- In classrooms, desks will be separated to create as much space as possible and arranged in ways to reduce close interaction among students and the sharing of materials or items. Where possible, desks should also be arranged to ensure students are facing in the same direction.
- No large gatherings will be held in schools.

Cleaning and Disinfecting

- Schools will be cleaned daily with an enhanced emphasis on disinfecting surfaces and common areas, including classrooms. In addition, high-touch surfaces will be cleaned throughout the day.

Hygiene

- See “Hygiene Practices” on page 14 of the [Nova Scotia’s Back to School Plan](#).

Stay-at-Home and School/Classroom Closure Protocols

Bussing

- See “Transportation” on page 13 of the [Nova Scotia’s Back to School Plan](#).

Other

Ministry – Selected Information

- [Nova Scotia’s Back to School Plan](#) (Aug. 14, 2020)
- [Nova Scotia’s Back to School Plan, Executive Summary](#) (Aug. 14, 2020)
- [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): education and childcare](#) (website)

- [Mandatory Masks in School](#) (News Release, Aug. 14, 2020)
- [This year's experience will be different': Most N.S. students will need to wear a mask in school](#) (CTV News, Aug. 14, 2020)

Member Organization – Selected Information

- [NSTU Coronavirus Updates](#) (website)
- [Act for Education](#) (website)
- [Schools aren't safe or ready for reopening](#) (Press Release, Sept. 2, 2020)
- [Nova Scotians deserve a better back to school plan](#) (Paul Wozney, Aug. 28, 2020)

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New Brunswick

Learning Structure and Method

Kindergarten to Grade 8

- In school full-time with a teacher.

Grades 9 to 12

- All students registered in a class will continue learning full time and will collaborate with their teachers and classmates throughout the day, whether at school or at home.
- Students at schools that can provide appropriate physical distancing may be scheduled to attend class each day. However, students at other schools may end up attending class, at a minimum, every other day in order to facilitate physical distancing.
- The schedule for high school students will vary depending upon their student population and the available space.
- When students in Grades 9 to 12 are not physically in school they will continue to learn remotely. They will be engaged in blended learning methods, using a variety of instructional means including online learning, guided projects and experiential learning. Technology will be used to support learning.
- Teachers will be responsible for their entire class, whether they are physically present or engaged in blended learning activities.
- Depending on availability, students may be encouraged to take online courses, experiential learning opportunities and other methods of learning (co-op and other types) to satisfy learning outcomes. Flexible course options must be available to students.
- For information regarding distance learning, see Appendix B: Learning at a Distance, September 1, 2020, in [Return to School: Direction for School Districts and Schools, September 2020](#).

Cohorts/Grouping/Group and Class Size

- Kindergarten to Grade 8: Children within groups may interact but must distance from other groups.
- Kindergarten to Grade 2: Reduced group sizes, as close to 15 students, wherever possible.
- Grades 3 to 5: Reduced group sizes, as close to 22 students, wherever possible.
- Grades 6 to 8: Regular class size.
- Grades 9 to 12: Students will not be grouped due to schedules and course options.

- Grades 9 to 12: Attendance on a rotational basis (minimum every other day) except where schools can accommodate physical distancing of one metre.

Screening and Testing

- Passive screening is required for school personnel, students and others permitted in the school building prior to entry. Signage is required to be clearly visible at the entrances. Adults and students will not be required to have their temperature taken prior to entry but should instead check their temperature prior to leaving for school and practice self-monitoring.

Masks and Personal Protective Equipment

- See Appendix A: Use of Community Mask in [Return to School: Direction for School Districts and Schools, September 2020](#).
- See the “Personal Protective Equipment” section in Appendix C: Safeguards for Vulnerable Students in [Return to School: Direction for School Districts and Schools, September 2020](#).

Distancing

- Grades 9-12: Physical distancing of students and school personnel of one metre within the classroom.
- Schools will reconfigure classes and common areas, and may look at combining classes and using mixed-grade groupings.
- All available spaces conducive to learning will be utilized to support learning. School districts are not precluded from exploring outdoor or community spaces to accommodate learning.

Cleaning and Disinfecting

- See Appendix G: Cleaning and Disinfection Standards and Appendix D2: Sanitization of a School Bus During a Pandemic in [Return to School: Direction for School Districts and Schools, September 2020](#).

Hygiene

- See “Hand Washing” and “Other Personal Hygiene Etiquette”, “Supplies,” and “Washrooms” under section 3 “Operational Plan” in [Return to School: Direction for School Districts and Schools, September 2020](#).

Stay-at-Home and School/Classroom Closure Protocols

- See Appendix C: Safeguards for Vulnerable Students, Appendix J: Students from Outside the Province, and Appendix K: Outbreak Management in [Return to School: Direction for School Districts and Schools, September 2020](#).

Bussing

- See Appendix D: Transportation Directives, Appendix D1: Operation of a School Bus During a Pandemic, Appendix D2: Sanitization of a School Bus During a Pandemic, and Appendix D3: Private Conveyance in [Return to School: Direction for School Districts and Schools, September 2020](#).

Other

- Teachers will be required to ensure students at home have learning materials and relevant resources, or are receiving direct teaching online.
- To support blended learning, high school students will be expected to bring their own electronic devices to class. This approach is intended to promote flexibility for students as they rotate between learning in school and learning from home. For more information see Appendix B1: Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) and Appendix B2: Laptop Assistance Program in [Return to School: Direction for School Districts and Schools, September 2020](#).
- To increase access to virtual learning for students, particularly those in rural communities, alternate learning spaces will be made available, either in a school or in other community facilities.
- See Appendix E: Music Education Directives and Appendix F: Physical Education and Sports Activities Directives in [Return to School: Direction for School Districts and Schools, September 2020](#).

Ministry – Selected Information

- [Return to School: September 2020](#)
- [Return to School: Guide for Parents and the Public, September 2020](#)
- [Return to School: Direction for School Districts and Schools, September 2020](#)
- [Classroom bubbles to minimize contacts for students in kindergarten to Grade 8: N.B. gov](#) (Global News, Sept. 2, 2020)
- [Return to School plans aim to reduce congestion in high schools and support flexible learning](#) (News Release, Aug. 27, 2020)
- [Return to school plans outline how students will participate in sports and extracurricular activities](#) (News Release, Aug. 25, 2020)
- [Return to school plans includes support for vulnerable students; COVID-19 testing available for school staff](#) (News Release, Aug. 20, 2020)
- [Update on Return to School Plan for September](#) (News Release, Aug. 13, 2020)

Member Organization – Selected Information



Learning Structure and Method

- All students are returning to school full-time with the following exceptions.
- Secondary IV and V students under option 2 will be present at school a minimum of 50% of the time and the days spent learning at home are considered days of school attendance though distance learning. It is possible for options 1 and 2 to be used in the same school. Possibility of modifying schedules and reducing time spent at school to continue to offer optional courses.
- Distance education will be provided for students whose medical conditions require it. Teachers working exclusively on this task will follow up with them by providing the minimum number of hours of educational services.
- Distance education will be provided for students for whom classes or schools are closed due to a COVID-19 outbreak. The same teacher and professional will provide the minimum number of hours of educational services.
- All other students who do not return to school must be homeschooled by their parents, in accordance with MEES requirements.

Cohorts/Grouping/Group and Class Size

Preschool, elementary school, and secondary I, II and III

- Classroom organization that plans for students to remain in stable class groups in the same room, without requiring physical distancing between students in the same group.

Secondary IV and V

Option 1

- Classroom organization that plans for students to remain in stable class groups in the same room, with staff moving between rooms to teach different subjects.
- If necessary, re-organization of schedules, special projects and the choosing of optional courses to respect the principle of class groups: each student stays with their own group, regardless of their chosen courses.

Option 2

- Movement of each group to their classroom in order to limit contact with other groups.

Screening and Testing

- Students awaiting the results of a COVID-19 test or those who are infected with the virus will receive academic follow-up from their teachers in the same way as students who are absent due to other types of sickness (cold, flu, gastroenteritis, etc.).

Masks and Personal Protective Equipment

- **Preschool and Elementary G1 to G4:** Students are not required to wear a face covering, either when in school or when using school transportation, but it is allowed.
- **Elementary 5 and 6 (Elementary Cycle Three) and Secondary School:** Students are required to wear a face covering when circulating outside classrooms, in common areas, and when in the presence of students who do not belong to their class group. These students are also required to wear a face covering when using school transportation.
- Masks are not being provided by the authority.
- See “Wearing of medical masks by staff” on page 10, and “Wearing of face covering” on page 11 of [COVID-19-Back-to-school plan](#).
- Also see “Procedure masks and face coverings” for teachers and for students on pages 2-3 of the QPAT document entitled [Schools and Centres in the Context of COVID-19 – Summary for QPAT Local Unions](#).

Distancing

The following physical distancing measures must be applied:

- No physical distancing between students in the same stable class group.
- One metre between students from different class groups.
- Two metres between students and staff members.
- Also see “Group Assemblies (Meetings with parents or staff members)” and “School Organization” on page 1 of the QPAT document entitled [Schools and Centres in the Context of COVID-19 – Summary for QPAT Local Unions](#).

Cleaning and Disinfecting

- Frequent cleaning of surfaces that are often touched by students, such as microwaves and vending machines.
- Regular disinfection of water fountains, which should be used only for refilling personal water bottles.

Hygiene

Stay-at-Home and School/Classroom Closure Protocols

- If a student is withdrawn, unless symptoms are present, his or her relatives can remain at school; following the test result of the withdrawn student, Public Health will make the decision about whether or not the relative should be subject to isolation.

- In order to ensure quality distance learning for all students, a minimum number of hours per week of educational services has been set in the event of a second wave or the occasional closure of schools. See Quebec Government information [Minimum Number of Hours of Educational Services](#) and the “Emergency Protocol” section on page 13 of the [COVID-19-Back-to-school plan](#).
- See also [COVID-19 procedure to follow in educational institutions](#) and [Emergency protocol/reconfinement plan](#).

Bussing

- See the “School Transportation” section on page 12 of the [COVID-19-Back-to-school plan](#).

Other

Ministry – Selected Information

- [Back-to-school plan for the Fall of 2020 \(COVID-19\), The ABC’s of a safe, successful start to the year](#) (website)
- [COVID-19-Back-to-school plan](#)
- [Back-to-school 2020 – Reopening of all schools in Quebec](#)
- [Minimum Number of Hours of Educational Services](#) (Aug. 27, 2020)
- [Quebec blocks public schools from making masks mandatory in classroom](#) (CBC News, Aug. 18, 2020)
- [Pandémie de la COVID-19 – Le gouvernement du Québec présente trois nouvelles mesures pour un retour à l’école réussi](#) (Press Release, Aug. 17, 2020 – Available in French only)

Member Organization – Selected Information

- [Schools and Centres in the Context of COVID-19 – Summary for QPAT Local Unions](#) (Sept. 9, 2020)
- [QPAT Covid-19](#) (website)
- [Quebec teachers’ unions say it’s not too late to rethink back-to-school plan](#) (Aug. 27, 2020)



Ontario

Learning Structure and Method

- All elementary schools in the province will open for conventional in-person delivery of teaching and instruction, five days a week. This applies to all Kindergarten to Grade 8 students.
 - Secondary schools in non-designated school boards will be permitted to open with conventional delivery, with enhanced health and safety protocols.
- Secondary schools in school boards designated by the province will open on an adapted model, with class cohorts of approximately 15 students, on alternating schedules with at least 50% of in-class instructional days. The designation of these school boards is based on several factors that take into account the size of the school board, the number and size of the board's secondary schools, the size of secondary grade cohorts and whether the board is predominantly urban. Co-terminus boards have also been designated wherever these criteria are met.
- Parents have the option to opt their children out of in-person delivery.
- See [Policy/Program Memorandum No. 164](#) pertaining to requirements for remote learning. Including, but not limited to, minimum requirements for synchronous learning, access to devices and support for students with special needs.

Cohorts/Grouping/Group and Class Size

- All school boards will adopt timetabling methods that emphasize cohorting of students as much as possible, to limit the number of direct and indirect student-to-student contacts.
- Secondary schools opening on an adapted model (see above) will have class cohorts of approximately 15 students, on alternating schedules with at least 50% of in-class instructional days.
- See also the "Cohorting" section in [Guide to reopening Ontario's schools](#).

Screening and Testing

- All staff and students must self-screen every day before attending school. School boards should provide parents with a checklist to perform daily screening of their children before arriving at school and self-assessment tools should be made available to staff to ensure awareness of possible symptoms of COVID-19.
- See [Operational guidance: COVID-19 management in schools](#) for information describing what happens if there is a COVID-19 outbreak at a school.
- See [COVID-19 Guidance: School Outbreak Management](#) for information for local public health units investigating cases, outbreaks and suspected outbreaks associated with elementary or secondary school settings.

Masks and Personal Protective Equipment

Students

- Students in Kindergarten to Grade 3 will be encouraged but not required to wear masks in indoor spaces.
- Students in Grades 4 to 12 will be required to wear non-medical or cloth masks indoors in school, including in hallways and during classes.
- Students may wear their own non-medical masks, and non-medical masks will also be made available for students.
- Reasonable exceptions on the requirement to wear masks will apply.
- To the extent that physical distancing may not be possible, the use of non-medical masks for students in Grades 4 to 12 will be required on school vehicles. Students in Kindergarten to Grade 3 will be encouraged but not required to wear masks on student transportation. Note however that some school boards are requiring all students to wear masks while on the school bus.

Teachers and Staff

- All school-based staff will be required to wear masks, with reasonable exceptions for medical conditions.
- Medical masks and eye protection (for example, face shields) will be provided for all teachers and other staff of school boards.
- School-based staff who are regularly in close contact with students will be provided with all appropriate personal protective equipment. The Ontario government will provide PPE to school boards and will work closely with boards to facilitate appropriate supply and delivery.

Distancing

- See the “Distancing” section in [Guide to reopening Ontario’s schools](#) (website).

Cleaning and Disinfecting

- The Ontario government will provide cleaning products to school boards and will work closely with boards to facilitate appropriate supply and delivery.
- See the “Cleaning standards and protocols” section in [Guide to reopening Ontario’s schools](#) (website).

Hygiene

- See the “Hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette” and “Bathrooms” sections in [Guide to reopening Ontario’s schools](#) (website).

Stay-at-Home and School/Classroom Closure Protocols

- See [Operational guidance: COVID-19 management in schools](#) for information describing what happens if there is a COVID-19 outbreak at a school.
- See [COVID-19 Guidance: School Outbreak Management](#) for information for local public health units investigating cases, outbreaks and suspected outbreaks associated with elementary or secondary school settings.

- See the “If a COVID-19 case is confirmed at your school” section of the Ontario government website [COVID-19 cases in schools and child care centres](#).

Bussing

- See the “Transportation” section in [Guide to reopening Ontario’s schools](#) (website).

Other

Legal Action

- See August 31, 2020, Joint Media Release under the “Member Organization Statements” section below.
- Ontario government website [COVID-19 cases in schools and child care centres](#) provides a summary of cases in schools and schools with active COVID-19 cases.

Summary of COVID-19 Cases Website

- See the Ontario government website [COVID-19 cases in schools and child care centres](#).

Ministry – Selected Information

- [Guide to reopening Ontario’s schools](#) (website)
- [Operational guidance: COVID-19 management in schools](#) (website)
- [COVID-19 cases in schools and child care centres](#) (website)
- [Ontario Releases COVID-19 Management Plan for Schools](#) (News Release, Aug. 26, 2020)
- [COVID-19 Guidance: School Outbreak Management](#) (Aug. 26, 2020)
- [Peel School Board makes masks mandatory for Grades 1-12, may see delayed return to class](#) (CBC News, Aug. 21, 2020)
- [Coronavirus: Ontario says it will be ‘flexible’ when it comes to reopening schools](#) (Global News, Aug. 17, 2020)
- [Policy/Program Memorandum No. 164](#) (Aug. 13, 2020)

Member Organization – Selected Information

- Joint Media Release ([AEFO](#), [ETFO](#), [OECTA](#), [OSSTF/FEESO](#)), Teacher and education worker unions taking legal action as Ford government fails to meet health and safety obligations (Aug. 31, 2020)
- Joint Media Release ([AEFO](#), [ETFO](#), [OECTA](#), [OSSTF/FEESO](#)), Ontario’s return to school plan fails to meet legal health and safety requirements – Education unions (Aug. 13, 2020)
- Joint Media Release ([AEFO](#), [ETFO](#), [OECTA](#), [OSSTF/FEESO](#)) Ford government jeopardizing safety of all Ontarians with underfunded return to school plan (July 30, 2020)
- [Teachers’ unions ask Ontario for workplace safety orders as schools reopen](#) (The Canadian Press, Aug. 25, 2020)



Manitoba

Learning Structure and Method

- Kindergarten to Grade 8 students will return for five days of full, in-class instruction per week.
- Students in Grades 9 to 12 will return for up to five days per week of in-class instruction if high schools can effectively implement physical distancing and the use of cohorts. Students should expect some remote learning, along with in-class instruction.
- For high school students, when remote learning is required to meet public health measures, a minimum of two days of in-class learning of a six-day cycle is required.
- Students with special needs in all grades will return for five days of full, in-class instruction per week.

Cohorts/Grouping/Group and Class Size

- Where two-metre physical distancing is not possible, students will be in distinct cohorts (groups), separate from other students, to reduce the risk of virus transmission throughout the school day.

Screening and Testing

- Parents are to check their children every morning for COVID-19 or flu-related symptoms. Parents can use the **Self-Assessment Tool** to check if their child should be tested for COVID-19.

Masks and Personal Protective Equipment

- Non-medical masks are required in schools for students in Grades 4 to 12, as well as for staff and visitors, when physical distancing of two metres is not possible.
- Parents/guardians/caregivers will choose whether students in Grade 3 and under will wear a mask while in school.
- In situations where there are split classrooms, such as a Grades 3/4 split classroom, all students in the classroom should wear a mask when physical distancing of two metres is not possible.
- Masks are required on school buses for bus drivers, students, and any other passenger on the bus.
- Teachers and staff are strongly recommended to wear a non-medical mask in common areas throughout schools and when physical distancing of two metres is not possible.
- Schools will have masks available for those who do not have a mask or for those who have forgotten to bring a mask to school.
- Non-medical masks are required in schools for visitors when physical distancing of two metres is not possible.

Distancing

- Where two metres physical distancing is not possible, students will be in distinct cohorts (groups), separate from other students, to reduce the risk of virus transmission throughout the school day.
- Boarding and exiting school buses will be done with physical distancing and assigned seats.
- Schools will control the way students enter and exit the school at designated entrances, one-way or marked hallways, leaving space between desks and tables, staggering start and end-times for recess and lunchtime, timetabling to avoid spares, and limiting bathroom occupancy at any given time.

Cleaning and Disinfecting

- Increased frequency of cleaning, disinfecting and sanitizing – particularly on high-touch surfaces and in common/shared areas.
- Enhanced cleaning of busses, including seats and other high-touch surfaces (e.g., windows, railings) before each new group of students attends the bus.

Hygiene

- Hygiene and ventilation practices are considered as measures to avoid transmission.
- Extra handwashing and sanitizing stations in schools will be set up and monitored to ensure students utilize them.

Stay-at-Home and School/Classroom Closure Protocols

- See [COVID-19 Response in K–12 Schools and Early Learning and Child Care Centres](#).
- See [Summary for Parents for the Pandemic Response System](#) which describes the four response levels – Limited Risk (green), Caution (yellow), Restricted (orange), and Critical (red).
- Outbreak management: Public health will lead the response and ensure appropriate supports are in place to coordinate the response.

Bussing

- Boarding and exiting school buses will be done with physical distancing and assigned seats.
- Masks will be required when on school buses for all students.
- See [Guidelines for Transportation to Schools](#).

Other

- Additional supports for students with special needs have been considered.

Ministry – Selected Information

- [Restoring Safe Schools – Covid-19 Education Plan](#) (website)
- [Latest COVID-19 Education News](#) (website)
- [Welcoming Our Students Back: Restoring Safe Schools](#) (Sept. 2, 2020)
- [Guidance for Mask Use in Schools](#) (Sept. 2, 2020)
- [Guidelines for Transportation to Schools](#) (Sept. 1, 2020)
- [COVID-19 Response in K–12 Schools and Early Learning and Child Care Centres](#) (Aug. 31, 2020)
- [Summary for Parents for the Pandemic Response System](#)
- [Resources Supporting Students with Special Needs](#)

Member Organization – Selected Information

- [Government Plan Unveiled – MTS supports school return, questions remain](#)
- [Back to School 2020](#) (website)



Saskatchewan

Learning Structure and Method

- Full in-class learning with some additional measures to ensure student and staff safety. (Level 1)

Based on the advice of our Chief Medical Health Officer, the following may be activated regionally or provincially:

- In the event it becomes necessary, school capacity will be reduced. Reduced in-class learning may include establishing cohorts and hybrid learning models as considerations. (Level 3)
- Transitioning to mandatory remote learning. (Level 4)

Cohorts/Grouping/Group and Class Size

- In the event it becomes necessary, school capacity will be reduced. This may include establishing cohorts.

Screening and Testing

- A [COVID-19 Monitoring and Testing Backgrounder](#) describes the [school testing plan](#) which includes targeted monitoring, testing of students with parental consent, and priority testing for teachers and school staff ahead of and during the school year.

Masks and Personal Protective Equipment

- If scenario 2 occurs, mask usage would be determined by the Chief Medical Health Officer. These masks are being purchased centrally by the Ministry of Education and distributed to school divisions.
- Students are encouraged to bring their own non-medical cloth masks.

Distancing

- Dedicated entrance and exit doors, staggered recess, lunch and other transition times, and controlled flow of students and staff in common areas, incorporating the use of directional signage and floor markings.
- Classroom configuration to minimize contact.
- Wherever possible, limiting physical contact such as hugs and hand-holding, as well as encouraging the use of alternative greetings.
- Utilizing outdoor spaces for learning when possible.
- Schools will adapt group activities to reduce physical contact. See the “Safe Activities” section in [Safe Schools Plan Released](#) (Aug. 4, 2020).

Cleaning and Disinfecting

- Increase in sanitization measures, including cleaning of high-touch surfaces.

Hygiene

- Increased availability of hand sanitizer.
- Clear protocols for bringing supplementary school materials such as backpacks and school supplies in and out of schools.
- Established protocols for the reduced use of shared materials and classroom supplies.

Stay-at-Home and School/Classroom Closure Protocols

- Students should never go to school if they are sick or if anyone living in the home has tested positive for COVID-19. Everyone in the home must self-isolate for 14 days from the date of last exposure if anyone tests positive.

Bussing

- Assigned seating for students and a record of this seating plan on school buses.
- Students who live in the same household will be seated together.
- Where possible, the Ministry is encouraging parents to transport their own children to and from school.
- Cleaning and sanitation of buses or other vehicles used to transport students is required between each run.

Other

- Local health officials will be providing support to divisions for the implementation of measures for intensive needs/immune-compromised students and medically fragile students.

Ministry – Selected Information

- [Saskatchewan Safe Schools Plan](#) (website)
- [Safe Schools Plan Released](#) (Aug. 4, 2020)
- [Saskatchewan Safe Schools Plan for Returning to In-Classroom Learning – Fall 2020-2021](#)
- [Safe Schools Plan – Parent Package](#)
- [COVID-19 Monitoring and Testing Backgrounder](#) (August 2020)
- [Sask. \\$40M school fund helps pay for staffing, sanitization; boosts testing](#) (CTV News, Aug. 17, 2020)

Member Organization – Selected Information

- [COVID-19 Information and Response-Re-opening Plans](#) (website)
- [Concerns About School Reopening Plans Persist](#) (Aug. 4, 2020)
- [Teachers' union ok with new COVID-19 prevention plan for Sask. Hutterite schools](#) (CBC News, Aug. 25, 2020)
- [STF Advises Members to Suspend Volunteering for Extracurricular Activities](#) (News Release, Sept. 1, 2020)

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Alberta

Learning Structure and Method

- School authorities planned for 3 scenarios to begin the 2020/2021 school year. Alberta schools will open under scenario 1.
 - [Scenario 1: In-school classes resume \(near normal operations with health measures\)](#)
 - [Scenario 2: In-school classes partially resume \(with additional health measures\)](#)
 - Scenario 3: At home learning continues, in-school classes are cancelled
- Health officials will work with school authorities to make the decision to transition to partial in-class learning or at-home learning based on multiple factors including the number of COVID-19 cases in a community or a school, and the risk of ongoing transmission.

Cohorts/Grouping/Group and Class Size

- Cohorting of students by class is recommended where possible.
- The size of the cohort will depend on the physical space of the classroom or learning setting.

Screening and Testing

- Before leaving home, staff, children/students, visitors, and volunteers who will access the school for work or education must self-screen for symptoms each day that they enter the school using the Alberta Health Daily Checklist Screening Questionnaire.
- Parents and children/students must be provided a copy of the screening tool upon school registration with the expectation that it needs to be completed on a daily basis.
- Daily self-screening before leaving home for all staff and screening of children/students completed by parents/guardians using the COVID-19 Alberta Health Daily Checklist Screening Questionnaire.
- Teachers and educational staff are encouraged to get tested for COVID-19, even if they do not have symptoms.

Masks and Personal Protective Equipment

- Grade 4 to 12 students and all staff must wear masks where physical distancing cannot be maintained, including on school buses and shared areas such as hallways. Some school jurisdictions may have additional mask-use practices that go beyond the government's requirements.
- Masks are not required while students are seated in the classroom during instruction if following the physical distancing guidance for schools.

- Masks are required in the classroom when close contact between students, or students and staff, is occurring. Masks should be used for the duration of the activity.
- Exemptions will be made for students and staff who are unable to wear a mask due to medical or other needs.
- Mask use for kindergarten to Grade 3 students is optional.
- Two reusable masks per student/staff will be provided by the Government of Alberta. Additional single-use masks will be available at schools if required.
- School staff will get one reusable face shield to use in schools at their discretion. A mask must still be worn while wearing a face shield.

Distancing

- Physical distancing recommendation of 2-metre spacing.
- If 2 metres cannot be arranged between desks/tables, students should 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). Guiding foot traffic flow through entrances and hallways by using markers on the floor or pylons/barriers.
- School assemblies or other large gatherings must be avoided. Virtual options should be offered instead of in-person gatherings.
- Schools should develop bussing procedures for student loading, unloading and transfers that support physical distancing of 2 metres between all persons. Students should be assigned seats and bus drivers should be provided a protective zone. See the “Student Transportation” section in [COVID-19 Information: Guidance for School Re-Entry Scenario 1](#) (Aug. 20, 2020).

Cleaning and Disinfecting

- Enhanced environmental cleaning and disinfecting practices, including daily cleaning for all areas of the school, washrooms and high-touch surface several times a day, and a regularly scheduled deep cleaning when students are not present.
- Increased frequency of bus cleaning, including disinfection of high-touch surfaces.

Hygiene

- Hand hygiene expectations when entering and exiting the school and classrooms, before and after eating.
- Regular reminders of the importance of respiratory etiquette (e.g., cover coughs and sneezes, avoid touching the face and dispose of used tissues promptly, followed by hand hygiene).
- Use of shared items or equipment is to be avoided where possible.
- Equipment that must be shared should be cleaned and disinfected after each use.
- Students and staff are required to perform hand hygiene before and after using shared equipment.
- Students should be provided with an area for storing personal items.
- All students should have their own supplies.

Stay-at-Home and School/Classroom Closure Protocols

- Strict stay-at-home policy for any students or staff with symptoms of COVID-19.
- See [COVID-19 in School \(K-12 \) Settings – A resource guide for schools before, during, and after a COVID-19 outbreak](#). This resource guide includes information on what to do when there are symptomatic students and/or staff at the school, and on what to expect when a case or outbreak is identified.
- Children and students will be supported by their school authority to learn at home if they are required to isolate due to illness or because they are a close contact of a case of COVID-19.

Bussing

- Schools should develop bussing procedures for student loading and unloading, and transfers that support physical distancing of 2 metres between all persons. Students should be assigned seats, and bus drivers should be provided a protective zone.
- Students in Grades 4-12 are required to wear non-medical masks while on school buses.
- See the “Student Transportation” section in [COVID-19 Information: Guidance for School Re-Entry Scenario 1](#) (Aug. 20, 2020).
- At this time, postponing field trips and activities requiring group transportation.

Other

- On August 26, the Minister of Education declared that Alberta school boards can delay re-start if needed.
- The federal government is providing \$263 million to Alberta for improving return-to-school safety.

Ministry – Selected Information

- [K to 12 School Re-entry, 2020-2021 school year](#) (website)
- [Alberta school boards can delay re-start if needed, says Minister LaGrange](#) (LiveWire Calgary, Aug. 24, 2020)
- [COVID-19 Information: Guidance for School Re-Entry Scenario 1](#) (Aug. 20, 2020)
- [COVID-19 Information: Guidance for School Re-Entry Scenario 2](#) (Aug. 20, 2020)
- [COVID-19 in School \(K-12 \) Settings – A resource guide for schools before, during, and after a COVID-19 outbreak](#) (Aug. 20, 2020)
- [Calgary school boards to require all grades wear masks, the strictest rules in the country](#) (The Globe and Mail, Aug. 14, 2020)

Member Organization – Selected Information

- [COVID-19 – Information and resources for teachers and parents](#) (website)
- [All Education Workers Need a Seat at the Table](#) (ATA News Release, Sept. 8, 2020)
- [School Boards Must Prioritize Staffing with Federal Funds](#) (ATA News Release, Sept. 2, 2020)
- [Reducing Large Classes Is Not an All or Nothing Proposal](#) (ATA News Release, Sept. 1, 2020)
- [Teachers Welcome Federal Funding to Make Schools Safer](#) (ATA News Release, Aug. 26, 2020)
- [Education workers unite to protect Alberta students and families from risky reopening](#) (ATA News Release, Aug. 19, 2020)
- [Teachers’ Priorities for Successful and Safe Re-entry to Alberta School Buildings](#)
- [Alberta Teachers’ Association calls for delay to start of school year amid concerns over re-entry plan](#) (Edmonton Journal, Aug. 20, 2020)

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British Columbia

Learning Structure and Method

- Elementary and middle school students return to full-time, in-person instruction.
- Secondary students will also receive in-person instruction, but this may be combined with alternative learning modalities.

Parents of K-12 students have the following options for their child's education:

1. In-class instruction: Students attend their regular school in learning groups.
 2. Online and distributed learning: Students can connect online with a teacher for a course, term, or all year through a public or independent school.
 3. Homeschooling: Students can register for education outside of a school environment with the parent or guardian responsible for delivering an education program.
- The Ministry of Education has also given school districts the flexibility to find options that work for families who are not ready to have their child attend their local school at the beginning of the school year, but who want a continued connection to the school. This flexibility includes the authority for all school boards to offer remote options to students within their districts and the tools districts need to modify their existing programs to meet demand.

If a medical professional determines that a student cannot attend school due to their health risks, the school district will work with the family to review alternative learning options for the student.

- Students who need to stay at home because they are immune-compromised will have an at-home learning plan and will be provided with an educational program by their school district.
- This may include providing assistive technologies to help students learn remotely.

The BCTF reports that because the Ministry failed to issue clear directives, crucial decisions have been left to the discretion of school districts. As a result, vastly different policies and practices exist across the province, resulting in significant inequities for students and staff. The BCTF is demanding that the Ministry immediately rectify these disparities by enforcing consistent measures across the province including the following:

- Direct all school districts to offer a remote learning option that is available to all students;
- Direct all school districts to provide dedicated staffing for remote-option learning programs, rather than adding this work to the existing workload of classroom teachers.

In addition to the BCTF advocating on behalf of its members for hybrid and remote options in every school district, it is also seeking assurances that students who opt for remote learning remain connected to their school and that space is available to them if they return to school in person.

Cohorts/Grouping/Group and Class Size

- **Elementary schools:** Elementary schools will still be organized into classrooms as students' primary learning environment and have the option to create learning groups of up to 60 students and staff who can interact more regularly.
- **Middle Schools:** Students are assigned a learning group based on their grade level and the classes they selected. They will remain with that learning group for their elective program choices as well as their core curriculum. The size of learning groups in middle schools can be up to 60 students and staff.
- **Secondary schools:** Secondary school students will continue to be organized in courses. School timetables will be organized to limit students to learning groups of no more than 120 students and staff. Schools will analyze student enrolment and course selection to identify "natural learning groups," i.e. students who are taking the same core subjects and electives. Secondary schools will be able to re-organize learning groups after each quarter or semester.

Screening and Testing

- Parents and caregivers are responsible for conducting daily health checks of their children at home.
- At this time, it is recommended that only people with symptoms or people otherwise identified by a health professional should be tested for COVID-19. This includes children.
- See the "Stay-at-Home and School/Classroom Closure Protocols" section below for more information about when a COVID-19 test is recommended by the health assessment.

Masks and Personal Protective Equipment

- Masks are required for all staff and students in middle and secondary school when they are in high-traffic areas like school buses and hallways, and anytime they are outside of their classroom or learning group, and they cannot safely distance from others.
- Exceptions will be made for students and staff who cannot wear masks for medical or disability-related reasons.
- Students will have the choice to wear a mask in the classroom.
- Staff will have the choice to wear a mask when interacting within their learning group.
- Elementary school students are not required to wear masks.
- Every student and staff member will be given two masks when they return to school.
- The BCTF has demanded that the Minister direct all school districts to provide every BCTF member with a face shield.

Distancing

- Classrooms will be set up to promote spacing between students where possible.
- Outside of a learning group, including extracurricular activities, middle and secondary students and all K-12 staff must keep a healthy distance (at least 2 metres).
- People in the same learning group don't need to stay two metres apart but they must limit physical contact.

- Add barriers in locations where physical distance cannot be maintained and people interact with a high number of individuals (like at a front reception desk or in a cafeteria or library).
- Spread students and staff out to different areas when possible.
- Stagger break and transition times.
- Incorporate individual activities.
- Small gatherings can only occur within a learning group.
- Assemblies, concerts, and other large gatherings like a guest speaker should happen virtually.

Cleaning and Disinfecting

- General cleaning and disinfecting of the school premises **at least once every 24 hours**. This includes items that only a single student uses, like an individual desk or locker.
- Cleaning and disinfecting of frequently touched surfaces at least **twice every 24 hours**. These include door knobs, light switches, water fountains, toilet handles, tables, desks and chairs, keyboards, and toys used by multiple students.
- Limit frequently touched items that are not easily cleaned.
- Water fountains where a person drinks directly from the spout should be used minimally, and only if no other means of water access are available. Hand hygiene should be practiced before and after use.

Hygiene

- Promoting the importance of hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette.
- Students and staff should be encouraged to bring an individual, filled water-bottle or other beverage container to school each day for their personal use.
- Students should label all their personal items and not share them.

Stay-at-Home and School/Classroom Closure Protocols

- Students and staff should stay at home when new symptoms of illness develop.

When a COVID-19 test is recommended by the health assessment:

- If the COVID-19 test is **positive**, the person should stay home until they are told by Public Health to end their self-isolation. In most cases this is 10 days after the onset of symptoms. Public Health will contact everyone with a positive test.
- If the COVID-19 test is **negative**, the person can return to school once symptoms have improved and they feel well enough. Symptoms of common respiratory illnesses can persist for a week or more. Re-testing is not needed unless the person develops a new illness. The BCCDC has information on receiving negative test results.
- If a COVID-19 **test is recommended but is not done** because the person or parent chooses not to have the test or a health assessment is not sought when recommended, and the person's symptoms are not related to a previously diagnosed health condition, they should stay home from school until 10 days after the onset of symptoms, and then may return if feeling well enough.

- If a COVID-19 **test is not recommended** by the health assessment, the person can return to school when symptoms have improved and they feel well enough. Testing may not be recommended if the assessment determines that the symptoms are due to another cause (i.e., not COVID-19).

Bussing

- Buses should be cleaned and disinfected in accordance with BCCDC guidelines.
- Buses should be loaded from back to front and offloaded from front to back.
- Seating must be kept consistent and seats are to be assigned where possible. If space is available, each student should have their own seat unless sharing with a member of their household.
- Middle and secondary school students are required to wear non-medical masks on the school bus. Exceptions will be made for students and staff who cannot wear masks for medical or disability related reasons.
- Schools and school districts can consider a transparent barrier to separate the driver from the students.
- Schools and school districts should keep up-to-date passenger lists to share with Public Health if contact tracing needs to occur.

Other

Ministry – Selected Information

- [B.C.'s Back to School Plan](#) (website)
- [COVID-19 Public Health Guidance for K-12 School Settings](#) (Sept. 11, 2020)
- [New federal funding builds on plans for a safe back to school](#) (News Release, Sept. 3, 2020)
- [Enhanced mental health programs support a safe return to school](#) (News Release, Sept. 2, 2020)
- [Back to School Facts: What you need to know for the return to school 2020-2021](#) (Fact Sheet, Sept. 2020)
- [Detailed plans support safe return to classroom](#) (News Release, Aug. 26, 2020)
- [K-12 operational guidelines set requirements for masks](#) (News Release, Aug. 17, 2020)
- [Plan to safely bring K-12 students back to class full time](#) (News Release, July 29, 2020)

Member Organization – Selected Information

- [BCTF seeks directives from the Minister of Education to fix health and safety gaps in BC schools](#) (BCTF News Release, Sept. 15, 2020)
- [Federal funding for more teachers and remote learning will help keep schools safe](#) (BCTF News Release, Sept. 3, 2020)
- [Open letter to the Minister of Education](#) (BCTF News Release, Sept. 2, 2020)
- [BC government needs to slow down, get the restart plan right](#) (BCTF News Release, Aug. 26, 2020)
- [BC teachers call for smaller classes and stricter mask mandate](#) (News Release, Aug. 19, 2020)



Yukon

Learning Structure and Method

The preliminary plan for the 2020–2021 school year includes:

In Whitehorse

- **Kindergarten to Grade 9:** Full-day, in-class instruction five days per week
 - Students in Kindergarten to Grade 3 will have traditional direct instruction and support from teachers for their learning.
 - Students in Grades 4–9 will have both face-to-face activities with their teachers and classmates, and digital activities with technology and online tools during the day in class.
- **Grades 10–12:** Half-day in-class face-to-face instruction with teachers and half-day learning away from school with digital activities with technology and online tools, five days per week. This arrangement for Grades 10–12 students will be monitored and assessed as part of planning for the second semester of the school year.
- **Resource Programs** for students with disabilities, transitions programs and other programs for students needing additional support will continue at school all day every day.

In rural communities

- **Kindergarten to Grade 12 students:** Full-day, in-class instruction five days per week.
- If necessary, the plan for the 2020–2021 school year includes flexibility to supplement in-person classes with other learning opportunities if students cannot be in school full-time.

Cohorts/Grouping/Group and Class Size

- May include smaller classrooms and group sizes.

Screening and Testing

- Parents and caregivers must monitor students for symptoms and keep their child at home if they are sick or showing symptoms.

Masks and Personal Protective Equipment

- It is recommended that students age 10 and older (Grade 4 and up) wear non-medical masks in school settings where physical distancing cannot be maintained.
- While they are recommended, masks are not mandatory at school or on the school bus.
- Masks will be available through each school for students and staff when needed.
- Children age 10 and older may also bring their own mask to use at school or on the school bus.
- For more information see [Guidance on non-medical mask use in schools](#).

Distancing

- Students and staff will need to practice physical distancing in schools. This may include smaller classrooms and group sizes, managing traffic areas in common areas like hallways and cafeterias, and staggering pick-up and drop-off times and recess and lunch.

Cleaning and Disinfecting

- All schools will be cleaned and disinfected with disinfectants approved by Health Canada. There will be more frequent cleaning of high-touch areas and equipment like washrooms, light switches, doorknobs, desks, and computers.

Hygiene

- Students and school staff will need to wash or sanitize their hands before they come to school and frequently during the day.

Stay-at-Home and School/Classroom Closure Protocols

- Students and staff must stay home when they are sick or showing symptoms.

Bussing

- Loading students on the bus from back to front, and offloading students from front to back to support physical distancing.
- Seating students at a 2-metre distance from school bus drivers.
- Limiting students to two per seat, unless they are from the same household and using assigned seats.
- Ensuring students and bus drivers are washing or sanitizing their hands before and after boarding the school bus.
- Cleaning and disinfecting buses, including high-touch areas after each trip.

Other

- If necessary, the plan for the 2020–2021 school year includes flexibility to reduce the number of students in schools if there is an increased risk of transmission or a second wave or community outbreak of COVID-19.

Ministry – Selected Information

- [Education and school supports: COVID-19](#) (website)
- [Planning for the 2020–21 school year](#) (Sept. 2, 2020)
- [Guidance on non-medical mask use in schools](#) (Aug. 25, 2020)

Member Organization – Selected Information

- [YTA Safety Problems Checklist](#)

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Northwest Territories

Learning Structure and Method

While situations will vary from school to school, the following sections explain how education delivery will generally look based on grade/age.

K-Grade 6

- Full time, in-person instruction.

Grades 7-12

- Full time in-person learning, or blended learning when necessary. Blended learning refers to students learning part-time in school, as well as part-time at home or on the land.

Students aged 19 years and over

- The Office of the Chief Public Health Officer (OCPHO) has specified that students aged 19 years and over must learn remotely, for their safety and the safety of others. These students will be supported through distance learning. Alternate learning programs or night classes should only be open to youth aged 18 and under.

Northern Distance Learning

- Northern Distance Learning (NDL) is expected to continue as usual with students attending in their NDL classrooms for live classes hosted from Inuvik with the usual support of In-class Support Persons.

Home schooling

- Parents or guardians have the right to homeschool their children.

Cohorts/Grouping/Group and Class Size

- It is recommended that classrooms aim to act as a bubble within the cohort (avoid mixing of students with other classrooms).

Screening and Testing

- All parents and guardians are to use the [Student Screening Tool](#) for COVID-19 symptoms every morning with every child in their care.
- All school staff **must** self-screen every morning **before** entering the school using the [Staff Screening Tool](#) for COVID-19 symptoms.
- For the daily screening process for students and staff, see p. 7-8 of the [NWT Education Bulletin: Back to School](#) (Aug. 2020).

Masks and Personal Protective Equipment

- Use of non-medical masks when physical distance cannot be maintained, such as when moving through the hallways to the washroom or riding the bus.
- Non-medical masks are recommended in children/youth over 10 years of age in school settings and may be considered for children under 10 years of age based on risk assessment and certain considerations.
- Every student must wear a mask on the bus.

Distancing

- Schools must put in place physical distancing requirements for Grades 7-12, but not for Junior Kindergarten to Grade 6 (JK-6).
- Assigned doors for exit and entrance.

JK-Grade 6

- No physical distancing inside the classroom bubble. Students maintain physical distance of 1-2 metres when outside of the classroom
- Modifications to gathering circles.

Grades 7-9

- Physical distancing of 1 metre between students and 2 metres between students and staff.
- Staggering of breaks, exits and entry times.

Grades 10-12

- Physical distancing of 2 metres between students and staff.
- Staggering of breaks, exits and entry times.
- Also see physical distancing mitigation measures reported in the OCPHO backgrounder: [Coronavirus Disease \(COVID-19\), Children and the Re-Opening of Schools](#).

Cleaning and Disinfecting

- Schools will be cleaned/disinfected more frequently, including classrooms and high-touch areas.
- Changes to classrooms to maximize safety, such as removal of materials that cannot be easily cleaned (e.g., toys, sand, or water-tables).

Hygiene

- Changes in the school, such as sanitation stations for hand cleaning, additional signage and plexiglass barriers.
- Grade 7-12 students will be encouraged to keep personal belongings with them to limit locker access, and no communal food.

Stay-at-Home and School/Classroom Closure Protocols

- See the “Isolation process for students and staff”, “Returning to school following self-isolation” and “School COVID-19 outbreak response protocol” sections on pages 9-10 of the [NWT Education Bulletin: Back to School](#) (Aug. 2020).

Bussing

- Every student must wear a mask on the bus.

Other

Ministry – Selected Information

- [GNWT releases Reopening Schools Safely plan for 2020-2021 school year](#) (News Release, July 3, 2020)
- [Reopening NWT Schools Safely – Planning for the 2021-2021 school year](#)
- [NWT Education Bulletin: Back to School](#) (Aug. 2020)
- [Reopening Schools Safely: 2020-2021 COVID-19 School Planning – Fact Sheet 2020-2021](#)
- [Coronavirus Disease \(COVID-19\), Children and the Re-Opening of Schools – OCPHO Backgrounder](#) (Aug. 20, 2020)
- [GNWT’s Response to COVID-19 – Information on JK-12 schools](#) (website)

Member Organization – Selected Information

- [NWTTA News, Volume 22, Issue 1, September 2020](#) (various sections)



Nunavut

Learning Structure and Method

- All schools will open as scheduled, under stage 1 (see below), for the 2020-2021 school year, unless otherwise directed by the Chief Public Health Officer (CPHO).
- The 2020-21 Opening Plan for Nunavut Schools identifies four stages that will direct school operations depending on the impacts of COVID-19 in each community. The four stages are as follows:

Stage 1 (Green): No COVID-19 in the community or in other communities in the region

- There is no COVID-19 or contact tracing in the community or region.
- All schools will be open full-time to all students, five days per week.
- All instruction will take place at school.

Stage 2 (Yellow): Escalated risk of COVID-19 transmission in the region

- There is no COVID-19 in the region but contact tracing identifies potential contact between community members and a COVID-19 case in another community.
- Elementary schools will be open full-time, five days per week.
- Middle and high schools will be open part-time, two or three days per week on staggered schedules, with some remote learning.

Stage 3 (Orange): Isolated/recovery from COVID-19 in the community

- A community is recovering from one or more COVID-19 cases.
- All schools will be open part-time: elementary schools, three days per week; middle and high schools, two days per week on staggered schedules, with some remote learning.

Stage 4 (Red): Community transmission of COVID-19

- There is COVID-19 in a community.
- All schools will be closed.
- All instruction will be conducted remotely.
- For more detailed information, see [2020-21 Opening Plan For Nunavut Schools: Health and Safety](#).

Cohorts/Grouping/Group and Class Size

- Students will be organized into cohorts, including for bus seating, in stages 2 and 3.
- The size of a cohort will depend on the physical space of the classroom or learning setting, and the number of students in the specific class or grade.

Screening and Testing

- A Personal Hazard Assessment (COVID-19 screening tool) has been developed for all school staff to use during stage 2 (an escalated risk of COVID-19 transmission) or in stage 3 (the isolated/recovery stage) should they be concerned that they are exhibiting symptoms of or have been exposed to COVID-19.

Masks and Personal Protective Equipment

- In general, the use of masks is not recommended for children.
- If students are asked to wear masks for specific situations, parents will be notified, and masks will be provided.
- Students in middle and high school may be required to wear masks as determined by the CPHO in situations where cohorts or physical distancing, when required by the CPHO, cannot be maintained.
- Some school staff may wear masks in certain situations; for example, if they are unable to physically distance when required by the CPHO, or if they are performing custodial duties.

Distancing

- Efforts should be made to arrange classroom furniture to maximize space between students, with seats facing the same direction wherever possible, to reduce potential viral transmission.
- Where possible, the use of 1 metre space is recommended between all student desks. Where physical space and classroom size do not allow for this spacing, desks should be placed equidistant apart. All classrooms should have 2.5 metres (8 feet) of space between the front of the classroom and the first row to accommodate teachers and allow space for students to exit the classroom with ease.
- Where needed or required by the CPHO, the use of non-traditional spaces should be explored to maximize daily attendance. This may require creative and collaborative teacher/education resources.
- Where possible, use and maintain assigned seating so that sustained contact between students is limited.
- Where physical distancing of 2 metres (6 feet) cannot be maintained between desks for all students in a classroom, schools must reduce classroom density at stages 2 and 3.
- Physical distancing of students at the discretion of the CPHO in stages 2 and 3.
- Limited group activities in stages 1 and 2, including sports, assemblies, physical education classes, and no group activities in stage 3.
- Limited eating in common areas and no sharing food or beverages in stage 2 and no eating in common areas and no sharing food or beverages in stage 3.

Cleaning and Disinfecting

- Cleaning will be enhanced in all schools, and custodians will receive guidelines and training.

- See “School Guidelines and Expectations for Custodians – General hygiene and enhanced maintenance and disinfecting directions” in the [2020-21 Health and Safety Toolkit for School Staff](#).
- See also “Enhanced cleaning and custodial measures” on page 9 of the [2020-21 Health and Safety Guidelines for Nunavut Schools](#).

Hygiene

- See “Enhanced Hygiene” on page 6 of the [2020-21 Health and Safety Guidelines for Nunavut Schools](#).

Stay-at-Home and School/Classroom Closure Protocols

- Students and school staff who have signs or symptoms of COVID-19 must stay home.
- Under stages 2 and 3, identified contacts within the school community will have to stay home and isolate for 14 days.
- Under stage 4, all schools will be closed for a minimum of 14 days and all instruction will be conducted remotely.

Bussing

- If a community is in stage 1, bus schedules will continue as usual.
- If a community is in stage 2 or 3, bus schedules may be staggered to reduce the number of students on the bus. Seating will be adjusted as required to support physical distancing.
- If a community is in stage 4, schools will be closed to students and staff, and busses will not be running.
- Students in middle and high school may be required to wear masks on the bus where spacing by cohort or as determined by the CPHO cannot be maintained.
- For more details, see “Busing” section on pages 15-17 of the [2020-21 Health and Safety Guidelines for Nunavut Schools](#).

Other

Ministry – Selected Information

- [2020-21 Opening Plan for Nunavut Schools](#) (website)
- [2020-21 Opening Plan For Nunavut Schools: Health and Safety](#)
- [2020-21 Opening Plan for Nunavut Schools: Health and Safety – Frequently Asked Questions](#) (July 24, 2020)
- [2020-21 Health and Safety Guidelines for Nunavut Schools](#)
- [2020-21 Health and Safety Toolkit for School Staff](#)
- [COVID-19 Department of Education Services Update](#)

Member Organization – Selected Information

- [President’s Fall Message 2020](#) (Aug. 19, 2020)