



Fulham School

2020-2021 SCHOOL RE-ENTRY PLAN

Information for Staff, Parents & Guardians

Contents

Message from Miss Marshall	2
About COVID-19	3
What is COVID-19?	3
Symptoms	3
Prevention	3
Good Hygiene	4
Quarantine and Isolation	4
Re-entry Information for Parents and Students	4
In School Classes	6
Daily Health Check for Students and	6
Transportation	6
Buses	6
Students Driving to	6
School	6
Pick Up and Drop Off	7
Entry Protocols	7
Stay at Home when	7
Sick	7
Hand Hygiene and	7
Safe Practices	7
Physical Distancing	7
Cohorts	8
Signage	8
Engineered and	8
Administrative	8
Controls in Schools	8
Visitors to School	10
Masks	10
Expectations for	10
Shared use of	10
Items/Materials	10

Personal Belongings.....	11
Electronic Devices	11
Responding to Illness	11
Classes and Programming.....	12
Instruction	12
Class Composition	12
Student Movement.....	12
Cleaning	13
Workspaces.....	13
Breaks	13
Using Playground.....	13
Equipment.....	13
Physical Education.....	13
Music Instruction	13
Option Courses.....	13
Extracurricular	13
Activities and Field.....	13
Trips.....	13
Alternate Education Programming Options	14
What is Virtual Education?.....	14
Student and Parent Responsibilities.....	15
Does Virtual Education lead to a High School Diploma?.....	15
Can a Student Switch to In-school Classes?	15
Electronic Devices	15
Format of Materials.....	16
Attendance	16
Non-core Courses.....	16
Provincial Testing	16
Work Experience/RAP.....	16
School Council Meetings	16
Support for Students and Staff	16
Providing Mental	16
Health Support	16

Supporting..... 17
Students with..... 17
Special Needs..... 17
Declaration of Learning Experience 17
Government of Alberta Guidance for School Re-entry - Scenario 1 17

Message from Miss Marshall

Dear Staff and Parents/Guardians,

During the summer, the Government of Alberta announced that students would be returning to school in

the fall, at near- normal operations. Fulham School staff has been working on strategies to limit risk, ensure that parents and students feel safe while at school and continue to offer a high standard of learning for students.

I am sure that this school year will be different than what students are used to, but we will continue to provide a high quality learning environment and the staff is committed to making sure your child is cared for. With COVID-19 at the forefront and constantly changing, Fulham School will keep the wellbeing of staff and students as our number one priority.

To help avoid the spread of COVID-19 Fulham School requires the following:

- staff and students conduct daily health checks prior to coming to school
- stay-at-home protocols for those who are feeling unwell
- enhanced cleaning and disinfecting in schools and on buses
- encouraging physical distancing where possible
- creating cohorts of students and staying in cohorts as much as possible
- mandatory masks for students from Grade 4-12 and for all staff in settings where physical distancing cannot be maintained, as outlined in provincial guidelines

To meet the needs of all students, virtual learning will be offered in the 2020/21 school year. We will connect with families in August and December of 2020 to determine whether students will continue with in-person learning or virtual online learning. Our goal is to ensure all students receive a high-quality education, no matter what option they choose. If you find that you want to make a change, we will work with you on this.

Please be assured that we are doing all that we can and will continue to do all we can to make sure your child is as safe as possible while at school. We need to work together to ensure that this happens.

Sincerely,
Miss Marshall

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

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, do not be afraid to ask someone you trust. More information can be found online at alberta.ca/COVID19.

Quarantine and Isolation

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

Quarantine	Isolation
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.	The isolation period for people who have symptoms (but not diagnosed with COVID-19) is 10 days or until symptoms resolve, whichever is longer.

Re-entry Information for Parents and Students

Following the provincial government's direction, Grande Yellowhead Public School Division (GYPSD) 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 our schools are 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 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' initial focus will address 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.

Fulham School recognizes that each family has unique needs and we are aware that not all families are comfortable with their child(ren) returning to in-school classes in September. While we will be offering in-school classes for students in September, we remain committed to providing an educational program for all students that best supports the child through different program delivery choices.

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.

In School Classes	
Daily Health Check for Students and	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 before they leave for school using the Alberta Health Daily Checklist .
Transportation	
Busses	<p>Children/students will 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.</p> <p>Bus Drivers will use a face shield when loading or unloading students from the bus.</p> <p>As much as practical, children/students start boarding from the back seats to the front of the bus.</p> <p>Students will be assigned seats and students who live in the same household will be seated together.</p> <p>As much as practical, students start disembarking from the front seats to the back of the bus.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Each driver will keep a vehicle-cleaning log.</p> <p>All children/students must perform hand hygiene (hand sanitizer) when entering the bus. Hand sanitizer will be available.</p> <p>Each school bus will have posters promoting hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette, physical distancing etc., posted in visible locations.</p> <p>No sharing of personal items (food, toys, water bottles, etc.)</p>
Pick Up and Drop Off	<p>If you are dropping your child off at school, please use the North parking lot.</p> <p>Adults bringing students to school will be asked to stay in their vehicle or outside the school, and to maintain a safe physical distance between themselves and others.</p> <p>Those who need to enter the school must book an appointment with the school office. Individuals without an appointment will not be able to enter the school.</p>

Entry Protocols	
Stay at Home when Sick	Stay at home if exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 that are not related to a pre existing illness/health condition.
Hand Hygiene and Safe Practices	<p>Everyone entering the classroom must perform hand hygiene.</p> <p>An emphasis will be placed on hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette and physical distancing as much as possible while in classrooms.</p> <p>Students and staff will wipe their own workspace such as desks, Chromebooks, etc. before and after using. Younger students who require help from the teacher or education assistant will receive help.</p>
Physical Distancing	<p>Everyone in the school shall maintain 2 metres physical distancing whenever possible.</p> <p>Fulham School will use a variety of visual cues (posters and arrow/standing-dot floor markers/tape on the floor) to help students maintain physical distancing within the school.</p> <p>Where physical distancing is not possible, extra emphasis on cohorting, hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette, not participating when sick and cleaning and disinfecting on a regular basis before and after activities will be implemented.</p>
Cohorts	<p>Cohorting limits exposure to others and aids in contact tracing if needed.</p> <p>Each class will be considered a cohort and efforts to maintain physical distancing even within a cohort will minimize the risk for disease transmission.</p> <p>When interacting with people outside the cohort, staff and students will maintain physical distancing of 2 metres.</p> <p>Every effort will be made to limit the number of cohorts that each student is part of.</p> <p>In JK programs, cohort maximum is 30, including staff.</p>
Signage	<p>Fulham School will have posters promoting hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette, physical distancing etc., posted in hallways, classrooms, and bathrooms.</p> <p>All school doors will have COVID-19 signs posted to indicate that anyone with symptoms cannot enter the school.</p>

<p>Engineered and Administrative Controls in Schools</p>	<p>Directional arrows will be posted in the school to support physical distancing.</p> <p>Entrances and exits will be posted for different classes of students. Doors will have signage as to “Enter” or “Exit”. Students will enter/exit the school as a class and wait until the boot room is empty before entering.</p> <p>Students will stay in cohorts in designated areas outside during recess.</p> <p>Occupancy limits will be posted in bathrooms, common areas and meeting rooms to allow physical distancing.</p> <p>All rugs/soft surfaces that cannot be cleaned and sanitized have been removed from the classrooms and the library.</p> <p>Microwaves will be removed from all classrooms, kitchen and staff room.</p> <p>Unnecessary furniture will be removed from classrooms to allow for more space in the classroom.</p> <p>Students will be sent to their lockers at intervals within their cohort to maintain social distancing.</p>
<p>High Touch Areas</p>	<p>There will be increased frequency of cleaning and disinfecting of high-touch areas in schools. Extra custodial time has been added to accommodate this work.</p> <p>The following high touch items will not be used in the school: microwaves, dishwashers. There will be no use of school cutlery, cups, dishes, etc.</p> <p>All food sales, including hot lunch programs, milk programs are cancelled until further notice.</p> <p>School Nutrition Programs are limited to pre-packaged food.</p>

<p>Visitors to School</p>	<p>No one should enter the school if they are ill. (Complete the self-assessment tool)</p> <p>Follow all instructions of AHS and the school.</p> <p>Only required visitors can attend the school.</p> <p>A record of all visitors will be kept at the school.</p> <p>The number of schools that substitute teachers will work in will be limited as much as possible.</p>
<p>Masks</p>	<p>As directed by the Chief Medical Office, Fulham School will implement mandatory masks for students from Grade 4 - 12 and for all staff in settings where physical distancing cannot be maintained.</p> <p>As outlined in provincial guidelines, K–3 students who are physically, psychologically, or developmentally able to wear a mask will be encouraged to do so.</p> <p>Individuals who are physically, psychologically, or developmentally unable to wear a mask, or protected under the Alberta Human Rights Act, may be excused from this protocol.</p> <p>Any person unable to wear a mask for the reasons stated above is required to provide a note from a medical professional.</p> <p>Care should be taken to ensure guidance on non-medical mask use is followed and masks are used correctly and safely.</p> <p>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.</p>
<p>Expectations for Shared use of Items/Materials</p>	<p>Absolutely no sharing of personal items will be permitted (pencils, crayons, erasers, toys, water bottles, books, etc). Please do not send toys from home to school unless requested by the teacher.</p> <p>When school items/materials must be shared (Chromebooks, Manipulatives, CTS shop equipment, badminton racquets, etc.) it will be cleaned and disinfected after each use.</p>

<p>Personal Belongings</p>	<p>All students and staff are encouraged to use a backpack for all personal belongings.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
<p>Electronic Devices</p>	<p>Students are encouraged to - bring your own devices (BYOD).</p> <p>Personal devices are to be stored with student personal belongings.</p>
<p>Responding to Illness</p>	<p>The zone medical officer of health will work with school authorities to quickly identify cases, identify close contacts, create isolation measures when needed, and provide follow-up recommendations.</p> <p>A COVID-19 case may 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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Fulham School will support students and staff to learn or work at home if they are required to self-isolate.</p> <p>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.</p>
<p>Classes and Programming</p>	

<p>Instruction</p>	<p>In September, the initial focus for students, who return to physical classrooms, will be on their social/emotional needs and administering screening tools to identify gaps in learning.</p> <p>Kindergarten education in Alberta is not mandatory. Given that our early learning and Kindergarten programs are play-based and focused on socialization, a virtual program is not available. Kindergarten students will have the option for on-site learning or to join us in Grade 1.</p>
<p>Class Composition</p>	<p>Class sizes will be similar to previous years as there is no additional funding to hire more teachers.</p> <p>Where 2 metres is not possible between desks, they will be separated by the greatest possible spacing in each classroom.</p> <p>Teachers will have and follow seating plans for all classes.</p> <p>In situations where physical distancing is not possible, 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> <p>Each class will be considered a cohort and interaction between cohorts will be minimized.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Within each cohort (classroom), students will maintain the greatest physical distancing possible to minimize the risk for disease transmission (i.e., spacing between desks).</p>
<p>Student Movement</p>	<p>Where possible, teachers will move between classrooms and students will remain at their desks.</p> <p>In hallways, students will walk single file, staying on the right side of the hallway. Arrows/tape will be placed on the floor to help students remember where to walk.</p> <p>Teachers and staff will reinforce protocols posted in the school re: (promoting hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette, physical distancing etc.)</p>

Cleaning Workspaces	<p>Materials for staff and students to clean/sanitize their own workspace (desks, shared devices, etc.) will be available in the classroom.</p> <p>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 and before and after eating.</p>
Breaks	Snack, lunch, recess, and class change breaks will be staggered to maintain physical distancing among children/students.
Using Playground Equipment	Playgrounds will not be open during school time until further notice.
Physical Education	<p>When possible, physical education will take place outside and will follow the Guidance for Sport, Physical Activity and Recreation.</p> <p>Teachers will choose activities or sports that support physical distancing (e.g. badminton over wrestling).</p>
Music Instruction	No singing or playing wind instruments will occur.
Extracurricular Activities and Field Trips	Extracurricular activities, field trips requiring bussing, and all overnight student excursions are postponed. This will be reviewed as the year progresses.
Alternate Education Programming Options	

<p>What is Virtual Education?</p>	<p>All virtual education will be parent led and supported by a certificated Grande Yellowhead and/or Alberta Distance Learning teacher.</p> <p>Virtual education is the online and/or print delivery of student programming by Grande Yellowhead and Alberta Distance Learning teacher to students who are at home. Unlike the remote learning implemented in the spring, all outcomes from each course will be taught in virtual education just as they are with in-school classes. It should be noted that virtual education might not mirror in-class instruction.</p> <p>Virtual Education in Grades 1 through Grade 12:</p> <p>Learning materials will be virtual; however, a print version may be requested.</p> <p>Print material will be distributed and deposited (on completion) from the local school.</p> <p>Teacher support is available during school hours online (email and Google Meet) or in person, through appointment only.</p> <p>Students registered for virtual education will require a laptop/Chromebook connected to the internet as well as a working camera/microphone.</p>
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<p>Student and Parent Responsibilities</p>	<p>Students and parents are expected to be engaged in both online and offline learning processes.</p> <p>Students are responsible to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Submit attendance daily ● Engage both online and offline ● Attend online sessions as scheduled ● Answer the teacher questions as needed ● Submit assignments and assessment according to schedules developed by their teacher <p>Parents and guardians are responsible to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ensure students have a device connected to the internet with a working camera and microphone to complete their coursework ● Support students by ensuring they have the space, tools and time to complete coursework as assigned. ● Encourage their child to connect with the teacher when they have questions ● Connect with the teacher as needed to support their child’s learning
<p>Does Virtual Education lead to a High School Diploma?</p>	<p>Yes, all required courses for a high school diploma completed through virtual education lead to an Alberta High School Diploma as distance education/learning at home are taught by a certificated teacher and follows the Alberta Education Programs of Study.</p>
<p>Can a Student Switch to In-school Classes?</p>	<p>If the virtual, learn-at-home option is not meeting your child's needs, re-entry to traditional learning can occur at any time during the school year.</p> <p>Parents will need to provide the principal a week's notice of their decision to return to traditional in-class learning so that teachers can prepare to welcome the child back to the classroom the following Monday.</p> <p>Students in high school courses may be required to wait until the beginning of a new semester or quarter, but all decisions will be made in collaboration with the high school principal.</p>
<p>Electronic Devices</p>	<p>Each student enrolled in virtual education will require their own device (a Chromebook, laptop or computer) connected to the internet with a working camera/microphone in order to participate. Parents/guardians are responsible to ensure that their child has a device.</p>

Non-core Courses	The decision to provide instruction in non-core courses will be made at the end of August and will be dependent on the number of students who are enrolled in distance education.
Provincial Testing	GYPSD will not be participating in optional provincial assessments (PATs) for the 2020/21 school year.
Work Experience/RAP	Work experience and RAP will resume. Schools that plan to offer work experience will work with the Division Occupational Health and Safety team to make sure all placements have appropriate COVID-19 safety protocols in place.
School Council Meetings	School council meetings for the 2020–2021 school year will proceed. These meetings must follow Alberta Health restrictions for social gatherings as well as the safety protocols and expectations outlined in both the provincial School Re-entry Plan and this COVID-19 Division Re-entry Strategy. Schools will support their school council members to determine if they will hold in-person meetings or online virtual meetings.
Support for Students and Staff	
Providing Mental Health Support	<p>Staff have access to professional learning on supporting the mental health of students through the Division Psychologist and Family School Liaison Counselor (FSLC).</p> <p>Information on accessing mental health resources for students, families and staff is posted on the Grande Yellowhead Mental Health & Wellness site and the GYPSD website.</p>

<p>Supporting Students with Special Needs</p>	<p>Returning to school can cause additional concern or anxiety for families of students with special needs. Families need to know we are taking steps to support them.</p> <p>This includes:</p> <p>Working with Alberta Health Services on COVID-19 safety protocols for some of the complex medical interventions and supports some students require, to keep both students and staff as safe as possible.</p> <p>Adding COVID-19-specific strategies as needed to student-support plans, such as Instructional Support Plans (ISPs), Medication Management Plans or Individual Student Behaviour Plans.</p>
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Declaration of Learning Experience

Parents/guardians have been asked to declare which learning experience is best for each of their children by noon on August 14, 2020 and in doing so, make a five-month (one semester) commitment until the end of January 2021. This will enable the School Division to deploy teachers, resources and student supports as needed for effective programming.

Please note that this plan may be updated in response to changes directed by Alberta Education. Alberta Health and Alberta Education will determine any changes in the school re-entry scenario with information on local school-based and zone information. We will remain in communication with the Alberta government and will continue to follow its advice.

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](#)