

We are excited to welcome students back to school! The well-being of our students is at the core of what we do. We will continue to provide supports that address the academic, athletic and social/emotional needs of our students. This document is meant to guide your planning and answer many of the questions that you likely have. We are very confident in our plan to return to school safely.

As we prepare for school opening under Scenario 1 for the 2020-2021 school year, COVID-19 remains present in our communities and requires that we continue to take precautions and implement measures to reduce the risk of spread. As the scope of the pandemic changes, our response will evolve in order to support our school community. We will continue to plan and prepare using guidance from medical authorities including, but not limited to, Alberta Ministerial Orders, Alberta Health, Health Canada, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the World Health Organization (WHO). While many measures will be put in place to reduce the risk of transmission, there are a few basic protocols that will be essential, including: hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette, physical distancing, increased frequency of cleaning and disinfection, wearing masks and having staff and students stay home when ill. We all play an important role in ensuring that these measures are consistently followed.

As we begin the school year, it is important to keep in mind that although we are reopening schools under Scenario 1, we may be mandated to shift from Scenario 1 to Scenario 2 or 3. We will be prepared to transition between scenarios at any time.

All students and staff are encouraged to consider taking part in [asymptomatic testing](#) prior to the start of school.

Return to School and Enhanced COVID Measures (Updated March 17, 2021)

General

- There is an option for any student to do online learning for the 6 days prior to spring break (This option means that students will be at home all day and not at school for any portion of the day)
- Hallways are off limits at lunch/between classes (students must be socially distanced in a classroom, cafeteria or learning commons only)
- As the weather warms, windows will be open and students will be outside when possible

Academic

- No group/partner work in classes
- Severely limited 'mask breaks'
- No individual or student groups working in the hallways
- Remind students to sanitize hands before and after every class

Sport

- Staggered entry and dismissal to change rooms for sport to allow for enhanced social distancing (where possible)
- Masked during low intensity/anaerobic activity (whenever possible)
- No battle/contact related drills or activities
 - To be reviewed following spring break
- Remind students to sanitize hands before and after every session
- Particular attention to social distancing in areas directly outside of activity spaces (hockey hallway, gym hallway, dance hallway).
- Anyone sitting or waiting on the sidelines/benches needs to be distanced and masked whenever possible

Overall Approach for Edge School Community

At Edge, we will be using a layered approach to maximize the health and safety of students and staff (see figure 1 below).

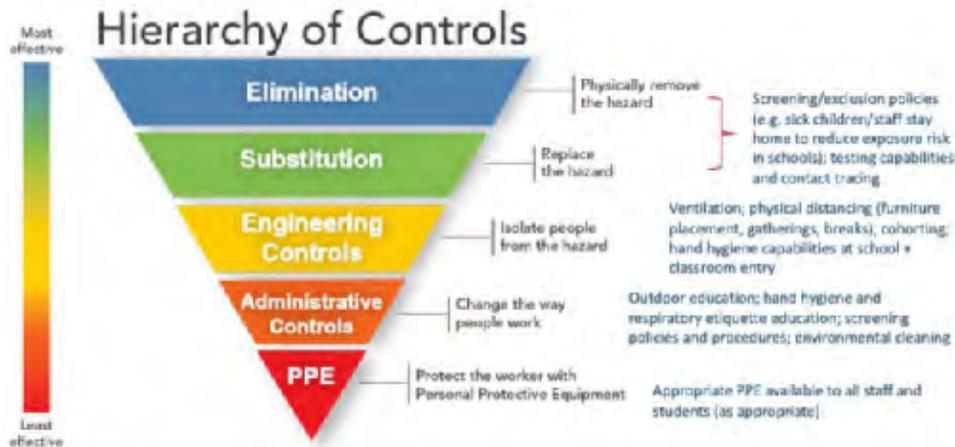


Figure 1: Hierarchy of infection risk controls (Sick Kids, 2020)

Daily Parent and Student Responsibilities before leaving Home

1. Complete the [COVID-19 Information Screening Questionnaire](#). If any symptoms are experienced (as outlined below), do not come to school and follow the [COVID self-assessment tool](#) protocols. This is a critical step in reducing spread and it is very important that this is completed accurately on a daily basis.
2. Make sure the student has all school materials and personal protective items needed for the day (including masks and personal hand sanitizer).

Drop-off and Pick-up Guidelines

1. Parents who are picking up or dropping off are asked to wait outside the school in their vehicle.
2. Please only use the curb lane (for student safety, please do not stop in the inner lane of the traffic circle at any time).

Entering and Exiting the School

1. Students, parents and visitors must enter and exit through the main school doors. Upon entry, please use the sanitization stations located in the main foyer. Masks must be worn by all students, staff and visitors upon entering the school.

Symptomatic Students

Please click here to refer to our, "My child is sick. Now what?" flow chart.

Learning while at Home

1. Any student who is required to be at home for any reason will be supported with their academics while at home. Generally, this will be accomplished by using online means.

Classrooms

1. Desks will be kept 2m apart whenever possible and will face forward – not towards each other.
2. Students will be required to bring their own school supplies as there will be no sharing.
3. There will be hand sanitizers available in each classroom.
4. Classrooms will be set up in ways to declutter non-essential items.
5. Area rugs and furnishings that can't be easily cleaned and disinfected will be removed.
6. Students are strongly encouraged to bring their own laptop devices.
7. Disinfectant will be used to regularly disinfect high touch surfaces.
8. In order to better accommodate contact tracing, students will have assigned seating.
9. Windows will be left open when possible.

Sport and Physical Education Guidelines and Facilities

1. Students are permitted to participate in sport and physical activity. Adjustments will be made as needed to comply with health protocols.
2. Directions will be provided by individual sport directors and instructors regarding sport expectations and the use of dressing rooms and change rooms.
3. For certain groups of athletes, the forming of sport cohorts will occur. These athletes will typically be in our team programs, and not connected to outside sport clubs/groups, etc.
4. For other groups of athletes, physical distancing and individual skill development will be the sport time focus.
5. Mask wearing will be required both before, and after sport time. Masks will not be worn during physical activity/sport block time.
6. Sport provincial and national bodies, leagues, and/or other governing bodies that our sports fall under will be consulted on a regular basis, in order to dynamically adjust to any particular changes that may occur.

Class Transitions and Hallways

Students will be provided with detailed instructions about how to safely make class transitions.

Lunch/Recess/Cafeteria

1. At this time, we are planning to provide cafeteria service. Students will be expected to order in advance online. Procedures will be made available to parents by our service provider. We will do our best to make accommodations for students who have not ordered in advance and have not brought lunch.
2. Students will not be allowed to share food.
3. Students will not eat in large groups in the cafeteria.
 - a. Students will be eating lunch in their LEAD classes.
4. There will be no access to microwaves. Students will need to bring bag lunches or get food from the cafeteria.
5. Recess breaks for junior students will take place with their class cohorts – outside whenever possible.

Water

1. Students may use the water bottle filling stations but must not drink directly from the water fountains.
2. There can be no sharing of water bottles.

Lockers

1. Students who want a hallway locker will be provided with one. Lockers will strategically be assigned to minimize risk.
2. Access to lockers throughout the school day will be limited to minimize risk.

Washrooms

1. Hands free water and soap dispensers are available for use in washrooms.
2. Washroom numbers will be limited as indicated by signage.
3. Students outside and inside washrooms must maintain 2m physical distancing.
4. Main student washroom doors will be left open where feasible to allow for touch free entrance and exit.

School Events

Large in-person gatherings/assemblies will not happen for the foreseeable future. Details will be provided on alternate plans for traditional school meetings and events that involve large numbers of people.

Health and Safety Protocols

1. Handwashing and Sanitizing

Students and staff must wash hands regularly (with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds) throughout the day. If sinks are not available, use hand sanitizers. Effective hand hygiene is one of the most effective strategies to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

- a. Students and staff should wash/sanitize hands:
 - i. Before leaving home
 - ii. Once arrived at the school
 - iii. Before leaving the school
 - iv. Before and after eating
 - v. Before and after play (particularly with any shared equipment)
 - vi. Before and after sport activities
 - vii. After washroom use
 - viii. Before entering the classroom
 - ix. Before and after putting on masks, removing masks or touching masks
 - x. Regularly throughout the day
- b. Proper techniques for handwashing will be reinforced.
- c. Additional sanitizing stations have been installed throughout the school.
- d. It would be beneficial for students to have small, personal hand sanitizers.

2. Masks

- a. Students and staff will be provided with two reusable masks free of charge. These will be distributed once they arrive from the government.
- b. Edge branded masks are available for purchase, in limited quantities, using the [online store](#).
- c. Any masks with patterns or images must be appropriate for a school environment.
- d. Students and staff will be required to wear masks at most times when in the school and when on the bus. Students will be made aware of when they can remove their masks.
 - i. Students will not be wearing masks during physical activity.
 - ii. Carpooling is discouraged at this time. If used, the following protocols should be followed:
 1. Masks should be worn
 2. Limit the number of people to maintain a 2m distance
 3. Perform hand hygiene before entering the vehicle
 4. Clean/disinfect commonly touched surface (like door handles, seatbelt buckles, arm rests) after each trip
- e. Any student or staff who requires an exemption to mask usage must supply a medical note to the office.
- f. Masks must be put on and removed properly. Students will be instructed by staff regarding how and when this is required.
- g. Cleaning or disposing of masks
 - i. Reusable cloth masks should be changed and cleaned if they become damp or soiled
 1. Put into washing machine on a hot cycle (or by hand using soap and warm water) and then dry thoroughly
 - ii. Disposable masks should be disposed of in a properly lined garbage bin as soon as they become damp, soiled or crumpled
- h. Breathable/washable cloth bags should be used for mask storage. Ideally masks should be labelled with name.

3. Respiratory etiquette

- a. Students need to be reminded both at school and at home regarding proper respiratory etiquette (e.g. cover coughs and sneezes using the elbow or a tissue; avoid touching the face; and dispose of used tissues promptly, followed by hand hygiene).

4. Hands

- a. Avoid touching any part of your face with your hands.

5. Physical distancing

- a. Whenever possible, students and staff should maintain 2m distance between each other. It becomes even more important to ensure that masks are worn when physical distancing can't be maintained.
- b. There should be no handshakes, hugs, high-fives, etc.

6. Bus

- a. Students will wear masks while on the bus.
- b. There will be assigned seating and students must only occupy their assigned seat.
- c. Only students from the same family can sit together. Otherwise, students will be separated by 2m or more whenever possible.
- d. Whenever possible, students will load from the back of the bus. They will unload from the front of the bus.
- e. If a student becomes symptomatic while travelling on the bus, the driver will contact the school so that arrangements can be made to safely isolate the student until parents arrive to pick them up.

7. Mental health

- a. Everyone responds differently to the impacts of the pandemic. Anyone experiencing difficulties is encouraged to reach out to Ms. Fridd or Dr. Brown, and any external resources if needed. [Our website contains more information about mental health resources](#). The following suggestions can help students with the transition back to in-school learning:

- i. Focus on the positives and what is within their circle of control
- ii. Apply practical strategies to reduce anxiety
- iii. Try to get back into school routines a week before school starts (for example, earlier bedtimes and wake-up times)
- iv. Practice how to properly wear and remove a face mask
- v. Allow a little extra time on the first day so that you are not rushed

8. Students or staff with underlying medical conditions that put them at high risk

- a. If you have any of the following medical conditions, you are considered higher risk and extra precautions should be taken:

- i. Heart disease
- ii. High blood pressure
- iii. Lung disease
- iv. Diabetes
- v. Cancer
- vi. Weakened immune system

9. Confirmed COVID cases

- a. If any individual within the school community is confirmed positive for COVID-19, the individual will be isolated and will be required to stay at home. As directed by the Chief Medical Officer of Health, the school administration will work with Public Health immediately to determine who needs to be notified and what steps need to be followed. We will be in communication with any families who need to be contacted based on the direction from Public Health.
- b. If identified as a close contact of a confirmed case, you must quarantine for 14 days since the last exposure.

10. Visitors

- a. For the safety of all students and staff, we will be limiting access to the school.
- b. ALL people entering the school (including parents, volunteers and workers) must complete a self-screening questionnaire (posted on the front doors). If they answer yes to any of the questions, they must not enter the school. If they answer no to all questions, they must check at the front office for further instructions.
- c. ALL visitors (including parents, volunteers and workers) must sign in and out and provide contact information to allow for contact tracing if required.
- d. Visitors must wear a mask in all common areas of the school.
- e. As a reminder to parents, please remain in your vehicles for pick-up and drop-off.

11. Cleaning and sanitization

- a. Extra protocols will be in place for cleaning and sanitizing, particularly with high-touch surfaces.

12. Signs and markers

- a. Signs and markers will be posted throughout the school. For the health and safety of everyone, it is important that each of us follow the directions on the signs and markers.

13. Health and safety concerns

- a. If there are any questions or concerns about health and safety protocols that we have in place, please contact Ed Polhill or Keith Taylor.

Government Website Links

[Alberta School Re-entry](#)

[Alberta Health Services](#)

[Government of Canada – COVID-19 Information](#)

