



CALGARY CATHOLIC
SCHOOL DISTRICT

SCHOOL RESUMPTION FAQ

Scenario 1

Answers to Questions
Posed by Staff, Parents and Students

Living and Learning in our Catholic Faith

Background

These FAQs have been prepared to answer questions from staff, students and parents as we return to school under Scenario 1 (near normal, with health measures). Questions are grouped thematically and when two or more related questions have been asked. If you have a question that is not answered in this document, please contact your school administrator or inquiries@cssd.ab.ca. We will update this document as new questions emerge and guidelines from medical and government authorities evolve.

The district always follows the guidance of medical authorities. Information in this document has been synthesized from a variety of sources including but not limited to Alberta Ministerial Orders, Alberta Health Services, Health Canada, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the World Health Organization. In the case of school reopening, the district uses a cascading model to develop required practices, where the advice and recommendations for decisions are sought in the following order:



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COURSES AND PROGRAMS

Will option classes that are classroom specific continue for junior and senior high?

Yes.

Will Culinary Arts programs continue?

Culinary Arts programs can continue if students use their own set of kitchen items and food, eat their own food and adhere to AHS guidelines.

Can Culinary Arts programs prepare food for students?

Sharing food between students would be allowed provided:

- The kitchen in which the food is prepared has a Food Handling Permit
- Students wear masks while preparing food
- There is a designated person who serves the food
- Everyone practices appropriate hand hygiene
- Physical distancing is maintained
- Programs also abide by recommendations in [Guidance for restaurants, cafes, pubs and bars](#).

Are there restrictions for cosmetology?

Most components can continue. Mannequins can be used. **While no outside customers are allowed in, students may work on staff and students.** Cosmetology labs must follow industry guidance in [Guidance for Personal Services](#).

Will students be able to use the weight room?

Principals currently have the discretion to allow students to use weight rooms. However, if used, expectations in [Guidance for Sport, Physical Activity and Recreation](#) must be met.

Will families be refunded for Hockey Canada option since there is no skating component.

Hockey Canada should not collect fees at this time. If a school decides to continue with the program, these would be delivered through dryland options, fitness training and skills development. **If locker rooms are used, Reduce the number of students in a locker room at a time, consider if the activity requires students to change at all; use multiple dressing rooms if possible.** Modules that require on-ice time will be adjusted and delivered through other options available through the CTF and CTS curriculum.

Are extracurricular activities allowed?

Extracurricular activities, other than sports, can continue with health measures in place. The district is working with Alberta Education, Alberta Health Services and partners such as the Alberta Schools' Athletic Association to explore possibilities for athletic activities and events within the context of current health measures. **High School sports teams may begin practicing and finalizing team selection with health safety measures in place.**

- Team tryouts, practices and training may begin
- No inter-school competitions are to take place at this time.
- When practice cohorts are developed, they must adhere to the guidelines set forth by the Government of Alberta as outlined in the document [Guidance for Sport, Physical Activity and Recreation-Stage 2](#).
- Sport specific guidelines for high schools can be found on the [Calgary Senior High School Athletic Association](#) website

As noted in the handbook, Interscholastic sports and use of “tubby” busses is suspended and will be re-evaluated early in the school year.

What is happening with the Dual-Credit Program? Will students still be able to continue and physically go to post-secondary institutions?

Dual-Credit programs will run this school year. The Vet Tech Assistant program will run a blended model of online and face-to-face; the in-person sessions will be held at CBE’s Career Technology Center. Dual-Credit teachers have reached out to students enrolled in these programs to give them a general update and we’ll share more information as it becomes available from our Dual-Credit partners.

What will gym class look like? Will gym still happen at schools and will they have to wear masks?

Physical Education will resume with additional health measures in place, including:

- Physical distancing
- Limit the sharing of equipment
- Sanitizing of equipment between use
- Outdoor classes when possible.

Alberta Health does not recommend wearing a mask during intense physical activity.

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PROCESS IN THE EVENT OF ILLNESS

If a student has any of the listed symptoms, do they tell the school? What is the process?

Schools have an obligation to maintain a list of students’ pre-existing conditions such as allergies and asthma. If your child develops symptoms that could be caused by COVID-19 or a known pre-existing condition, parents must:

- Inform the school immediately at the onset of persistent symptoms
- Keep your child home from school
- Have your child tested for COVID-19 at least once to confirm its not the source of symptoms before a return to school.

Do students really need to get a COVID test every time they have a common symptom?

Not if the symptom is related to a known, pre-existing condition and the student has been tested for COVID-19 at least once since the onset of symptoms. Alberta Health has mandated that children with fever, cough, shortness of breath/difficulty breathing, runny nose or sore throat are legally required to stay home from school for 10 days, or until symptoms resolve, whichever is longer. A COVID test is recommended. Students may only return to school before 10 days only if a COVID test is negative, symptoms are gone, and the student is not a close contact of someone with COVID-19. Students with any of the other symptoms identified on the Alberta Health Daily Checklist must self-isolate for 10 days from the start of symptoms or until symptoms resolve. A COVID test is recommended. Parents and students are urged to use the [Alberta Health COVID-19 Self-Assessment for Albertans](#) if they have symptoms and are unsure if they should isolate.

Will schools inform parents in a cohort that a student is self-isolating?

The district will take its lead from the Medical Officer of Health for the Calgary zone. Alberta Health Services has determined that a school would be placed on:

- **Alert status:** when there is one confirmed case of COVID-19 at a school (student or staff)
- **Outbreak status:** when there are two or more confirmed cases (students or staff).
- **Watch status:** when there are five or more cases where disease could have been acquired or transmitted in the school

Should a school be identified as with an Alert, Outbreak or Watch status, the principal will send parents a letter about confirmed cases(s). Letters will not disclose any personal information that would identify the individuals to protect their privacy.

Will the whole class and teacher be required to isolate?

This is one possible outcome, but the district will take its direction from the Medical Officer of Health for the Calgary zone.

How will students learn from home if they're sick? What happens if a child stays home from school because they're ill or is getting tested, how will they learn from home?

Students who are sick should rest and recover. As they have done in the past prior to COVID-19, teachers will provide work for students to complete if they are able to do some coursework.

Do siblings of symptomatic students also need to stay home even if they are not symptomatic themselves?

It is a legal requirement to isolate for 14 days and monitor for symptoms if you are a close contact of a person who tested positive for COVID-19. Alberta Health define a close contact as someone who provides care, lives with or has close physical contact without appropriate use of personal protective equipment or comes into direct contact with infectious body fluids. There is no requirement to isolate if you are the close contact of a symptomatic person who has not tested positive for COVID-19.

What happens if a teacher must self-isolate?

A teacher who is directed to isolate by the Medical Officer of Health or the district should follow the direction provided by AP 406.

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MASKS

Why are K-3 students required to wear masks when Alberta Health Services only requires it for Grades 4-12?

CCSD chose to exceed this recommendation to help prevent or slow the spread of COVID-19. The decision also mirrors the City of Calgary's bylaw that requires everyone older than two years old to wear a mask in public places. We also recognizes that Calgary has had the most positive cases of COVID-19 in Alberta, and our ThoughtExchange survey in August indicated that parents wanted all students to wear masks.

What evidence was used to determine masks for K-12 and why the change?

The decision to make masks mandatory for grades K-12 arose from [Alberta Health's recommendation](#) that all Albertans wear a mask when physical distancing is not possible. Schools are places of close physical contact (less than two metres) for most of the day. Teachers will work with students to help them learn how to safely put on and remove masks. The [Public Health Agency of Canada](#) recommends masks for everyone aged 2 and older.

Will students have to wear masks all the time?

No. All K-12 students are only required to wear masks whenever two metres of physical distance isn't possible. Children will also have some flexibility to remove masks or have mask breaks when two metres physical distancing is possible. Students can also remove their masks to eat/drink, and during periods of physical activity, with other health measures in place while masks are removed.

Why aren't students wearing masks in their classroom?

CSSD recognizes that cohorting is difficult to achieve, and as per guidance from Alberta Health, has revised their earlier recommendation with respect to wearing of masks. Students are required to wear masks most of the time, except when eating/drinking or when two metres physical distancing is possible. This decision is reflected in the revised School Resumption Handbook.

Are there any exceptions for who must wear masks?

Alberta Health says those who can be exempt from wearing a mask are:

- Unable to place, use or remove a non-medical face mask without assistance
- Unable to wear a non-medical face mask due to a mental or physical concern or limitation
- Consuming food or drink in designated areas
- Engaged in physical exercise
- Providing care or assistance to a person with a disability where a non-medical face mask would hinder that caregiving
- Engaging in services that require the temporary removal of the non-medical face mask
- In spaces where physical barriers have been installed between people.

Are neck gaitors, buffs or bandanas a suitable substitute for a mask?

Alberta Health, in their [Implementing School Re-Entry Guidance](#) publication states that alternatives to non-medical face masks (e.g., neck gaitors, buffs or bandanas) offer less protection than other non-medical face masks, and as such are not recommended. Although some alternatives may provide similar levels of protection, it will be difficult to assess on a case-by-case basis and therefore are not recommended. Neck gaitors may pose the risk of improper storage and contamination by pulling on and off over the head.

Are masks safe for young children?

Although Alberta Health Services only mandated masks for students in grades 4-12, their [direction on masks](#) recommends that all Albertans wear a mask when physical distancing is not possible. The [American Academy of Pediatrics](#) states that masks for young children (older than two years old) are safe. Parents who have specific concerns are advised to consult with their child's primary-care physician. In addition, more than [1500 signatures from Canadian healthcare and scientific professionals](#) have signed a letter indicating the merits of wearing masks in public places.

Will diverse learners be required to wear a mask in a cab?

This would be preferred although it depends on students' ability to tolerate wearing a mask. Cabs transporting diverse learners will be equipped with a plexiglass barrier that separates the driver and student who will ride alone.

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CLEANING AND AIR QUALITY**Will playgrounds be cleaned and sanitized?**

The district does not have the resources to clean and sanitize playgrounds. Students will be required to sanitize their hands before and after they use playgrounds. Schools with cohorts may assign specific days to specific cohorts.

How often will bathrooms be cleaned? What are the procedures?

Washrooms will be cleaned three times a day on a schedule provided to principals, which will assist in contact tracing if necessary.

Will junior and senior high students move from class to class and if so, how will classrooms and desks be sanitized? Will students' desks be sanitized?

Moving from class to class is a school-based decision, and if this occurs, students' desks will be sanitized between uses. Teachers will receive a spray bottle of safe disinfecting solution for their classroom. It is reasonable to expect that older students who use multiple classrooms throughout the day can help to disinfect their desks and workspaces with the solution provided. For example, a teacher could spray desks before class starts and students wipe theirs down with paper towel.

The size of a building, number of staff or students and caretaking hours vary by location; each school will discuss site-specific cleaning requirements at their annual caretaking review. The district will also outline cleaning requirements for site-based and caretaking staff.

Are we able to run fans in classrooms?

This is a function of risk vs. benefit. The HVAC system in schools are designed to remove stale air and introduce fresh air. Running a fan may defeat this operation and runs the risk of circulating respiratory droplets in the room. Should a fan be necessary due to poor air flow, staff are encouraged to place the fan near an open window so that it draws outside air into the classroom.

Will there be a recommendation to keep classroom doors open to allow for airflow or to be closed to protect classroom cohorts?

Teachers can decide what is best for their class. It is unlikely that respiratory droplets expelled by a student walking past the door would enter a room and increase the risk of spread.

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LUNCH PROGRAMS AND CAFETERIAS

What about school lunch programs, canteens, and cafeterias? Do we have any information around what is happening with all other program offerings, including our lunch programs at certain schools? Will this still be offered this year?

Each school will assess its ability to safely provide lunch programs and food services. Alberta Health Services' guidelines require that food is pre-packaged, or meals are served by designated staff. Cafeterias that serve food to students are required to follow the [guidance for restaurants, cafes, pubs and bars](#).

What will lunch breaks look like? Can students go home for lunch if they live nearby?

Schools will manage lunch breaks according to available space and resources. Students who live nearby are welcome to go home for lunch.

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SCHOOL-SPECIFIC SAFETY PLANS

Can families still register for online school if they do staggered entry and are still uncomfortable?

School plans were made available to parents on August 20 to get more site-specific information to make an informed decision. Staggered entry will occur from September 2- 4. Online school registration for grades 1-9 will open on Friday, August 28 and close on Friday, September 4. Registration for high school is ongoing.

Can you please clarify the staggered entry piece: the handbook says September 2-4 but first day is September 8, which is it?

September 2-4 are designated staggered entry days. This allows schools to bring students back in smaller groups to ensure they understand new safety measures. Principals will provide parents a schedule that identifies which students come to school on which days. September 8 is the first day of curricular instruction for all students, except for staggered entry practices in kindergarten and special education classrooms.

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EMPLOYEE GROUPS

Is it possible for teachers to be personally sued if there is an outbreak of COVID in their class?

No. Section 251 of the Education Act stipulates that trustees, employees, school council members and volunteers are not liable for any loss or damage caused by anything said or done or omitted to be done in good faith in the performance or intended performance of their functions, duties or powers under this Act or any other enactment.

Teachers were asked to obtain a COVID test before school starts. Should teachers get this test in August or closer to September?

This is up to each individual teacher, however current wait and processing times suggest sooner rather than later.

Will the district provide information about where to go for this test?

Employees are free to choose how and when they would like to be tested. COVID-19 testing can be booked [online](#), by calling 811 or by visiting any pharmacy that provides testing. The list of pharmacies providing asymptomatic COVID-19 testing can be found at [Alberta Blue Cross](#).

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LOCKERS AND CHANGE ROOMS**Will students be allowed to use lockers?**

Lockers will be available for student use in alignment with AHS guidelines. These guidelines include setting capacity limits for locker rooms and adjusting locker location and access to support physical distancing requirements.

What about Physical Education changerooms?

Subject-specific information is available from Learning Services. Change rooms will be used in a limited capacity, with half the class at a time using the change room.

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TRAINING FOR STAFF**What training is being provided to employees?**

Online employee safety training is being provided to all employees through Public School Works.

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