



**Grande Yellowhead Public School Division**

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

**Information for Staff, Parents & Guardians**

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## Message from Superintendent Lewis

Dear Staff and Parents/Guardians,

On July 21, 2020, the Government of Alberta announced that students would return to in-person classes in September, at near-normal operations, with health measures in place. GYPSD will implement strategies to mitigate risk, support family choice for re-entry and ensure a solid continuity of learning approach as students and staff return to school.

Most surely, this school year will be unlike any other, but GYPSD remains committed to high-quality teaching and learning environments. As the situation with COVID-19 is highly fluid and constantly evolving, GYPSD will continue to approach the situation with students and staff as the priority.

### Safety as a Primary Focus

- To avoid the spread of COVID-19, GYPSD requires the following:
  - staff and students conduct the [Alberta Health Daily Checklist](#) 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
  - 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
  - strict hand-hygiene requirements for all students and staff

GYPSD encourages K-3 students who are physically, psychologically or developmentally able to wear a mask, although individuals who are physically, psychologically or developmentally unable to wear a mask, or protected ground under the Alberta Human Rights Act, may be excused from this protocol.

### Respecting Family Choice

GYPSD recognizes that returning to in-person classes may not be the best option for all families. To meet the needs of all students, virtual (at-home) learning will be offered in the 2020/21 school year. Schools contacted families in August to determine whether students will return to school or shift to virtual (at-home) learning. The GYPSD goal is to ensure all students receive a high-quality education, no matter what option they choose.

Respectfully,

Carolyn Lewis

## 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](#):

- Primary symptoms: cough, fever (over 38°C), shortness of breath, runny nose or sore throat.
- Secondary 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 and [arrange for a COVID test](#). Call 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
- Wear a mask

## 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. 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, access Alberta Health Services' website at <https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/topics/Page16944.aspx>.

## Mandatory Isolation

### Albertans with symptoms

- You are legally required to isolate for a minimum of 10 days if you have a cough, fever, shortness of breath, runny nose, or sore throat that is not related to a pre-existing illness or health condition.
- The mandatory isolation period is 10 days from the start of symptoms, or until symptoms resolve, whichever takes longer **OR** a negative COVID test.

### Tested positive for COVID-19

- You are legally required to isolate for a minimum of 10 days if you have tested positive for COVID-19.
- Isolation period is for 10 days from the start of symptoms, or until symptoms resolve, whichever takes longer.

### Have symptoms but tested negative for COVID-19

- If you tested negative and have known exposure to COVID-19, you are legally required to isolate for 14 days.
- If you tested negative and have no known exposure to the virus, you are not legally required to isolate. However, it is important to stay home until your symptoms resolve so that you do not infect others.

### Close contacts of confirmed COVID cases

- You are legally required to isolate for 14 days and monitor for symptoms if you are a close contact of a person who tested positive for COVID-19 (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)

- If you become sick with cough, fever, shortness of breath, runny nose or sore throat during this time, you must isolate for an additional 10 days from the beginning of symptoms or until you are feeling well, whichever takes longer **OR** a negative COVID test.

### **Returning to school after an illness**

A student who is required to isolate due to symptoms (fever, cough, shortness of breath, runny nose or sore throat) or due to having COVID-19 can return to school after a minimum of 10 days pass from when symptoms started or after their symptoms resolve, whichever is longer.

A student who is required to isolate due to symptoms may also return to school if they test negative for COVID-19, as long as they have not been identified as a close contact of a case of COVID-19.

### **Re-entry Information for Parents and Students**

Following the provincial government's direction, Grande Yellowhead Public School Division (GYPSD) is implementing [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. The government has provided a [Parents' Guide to the 2020-21 School Year](#). Parents should be reassured that our schools are meeting Alberta Health Services (AHS) guidelines and [implementing school re-entry mandates](#) to provide 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. Public Health Officials will work with school authorities if there are [COVID-19 cases in a zone or school](#). Please note that changes may be made to this plan in response to changes directed by Alberta Education.

In September, teachers' initial focus will be addressing 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.

GYPSD recognizes that each Grande Yellowhead 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, including a learn-at-home option.

This document details the conditions that will be in place for each program delivery choice. **Parents/guardians were asked to declare to their school principal** which learning option is best for each of their children for September re-entry:

- **Students in Grades 1 – 9 have two (2) choices:** traditional, in-school learning **or** virtual, learn-at-home.
- **Students in Grades 10-12 have three (3) choices:** tradition, virtual, or hybrid.

**Whatever the choice, families are asked to let their school principal know their intentions and preferences.**

Students may switch learning options in collaboration with school principals. Parents/guardians will need to provide one week's notice of their intent to change their learning option. Principals will work with teachers to prepare for the student to join the classroom on the following Monday, or facilitate the student's move to the learn-at-home option.



In School Classes	
Daily Health Check for Students and Staff	Before leaving home, staff, children/students, visitors, and volunteers who will access the school for work or education, <b>must</b> self-screen for symptoms each day before they leave for school using the <a href="#">Alberta Health Daily Checklist</a> .
Transportation	
Buses	<p>Mandatory masks for Grade 4 to 12 students, and drivers.</p> <p>Children/students will not board the bus if they have symptoms of COVID-19. Be sure that the Alberta Health Daily Checklist 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>
Students Driving to School	<p>Students should only have people from their household in the vehicle with them.</p> <p>Students must maintain 2 metre physical distance from others (except household members) in an area determined by the school (field/paved play area, etc.).</p>

<p><b>Pick Up and Drop Off</b></p>	<p>Each school will have procedures for student pick-up and drop-off that allow physical distancing of 2 metres between families (as much as possible), support respiratory etiquette and access to hand hygiene.</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 and adhere to health and safety mandates. Individuals without an appointment will not be able to enter the school</p>
<p><b>Entry Protocols</b></p>	
<p><b>Stay at Home when Sick</b></p>	<p>Stay at home if exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 that are not related to a preexisting illness/health condition.</p>
<p><b>Hand Hygiene and Safe Practices</b></p>	<p>Everyone entering the classroom must perform hand hygiene.</p> <p>An emphasis will be placed on mask use, 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 may require help from the teacher or education assistant.</p>
<p><b>Physical Distancing</b></p>	<p>Everyone in the school will maintain 2 metre physical distancing whenever possible.</p> <p>Schools will use a variety of visual cues (posters and arrow/standing-dot floor markers) to help students maintain physical distancing within the school.</p> <p>Where physical distancing is not possible, mask use and 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>

<p><b>Cohorts</b></p>	<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 and mask use even within a cohort will minimize the risk for disease transmission.</p> <p>When interacting with people outside the cohort, 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>
<p><b>Signage</b></p>	<p>Each school will have posters promoting mask use, hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette, physical distancing etc., posted in visible locations.</p> <p>All school doors will have COVID-19 signs posted to indicate that anyone with symptoms cannot enter the school.</p>
<p><b>Engineered and Administrative Controls in Schools</b></p>	<p>School offices will be equipped with a Plexiglas divider to protect visitors and staff from potential exposures.</p> <p>Directional arrows will be posted in each school to support physical distancing.</p> <p>Schools may designate different entrances and exits for different classes of students.</p> <p>Schools may post occupancy limits for 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 classrooms.</p> <p>Microwaves will be removed from all classrooms.</p> <p>Schools may remove unnecessary furniture from classrooms.</p>

<p>High Touch Areas</p>	<p>There will be increased frequency of cleaning and disinfecting of high-touch areas in schools.</p> <p>Where required, extra custodial time has been added to accommodate this work.</p> <p>The following high touch items will not be used in schools except as needed in Foods classes: refrigerators, microwaves, dishwashers and vending machines.</p> <p>There will be no use of school cutlery, cups, dishes, etc. except as needed in Foods classes.</p> <p>All food sales, including cafeterias, hot lunch programs, bake sales are cancelled.</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. (<a href="#">Complete the self-assessment tool</a>)</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 each school.</p> <p>The number of schools that substitute teachers will work in will be limited as much as possible.</p>

<p><b>Masks</b></p>	<p>As directed by the Chief Medical Office, GYPSD will implement mandatory masks for students from Grade 4 - 12 and for all staff in settings where physical distancing cannot be maintained.</p> <p>When students are seated and all facing the same direction, the teacher may permit students to lower their masks.</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 <a href="#">guidance for wearing non-medical mask</a> 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><b>Expectations for Shared use of Items/Materials</b></p>	<p>Absolutely no sharing of personal items will be permitted (pencils, crayons, erasers, toys, water bottles, books).</p> <p>When school items/materials must be shared (Chromebooks, Manipulatives, CTS shop equipment, badminton racquets, etc.) the item must be cleaned and disinfected after each use.</p>
<p><b>Personal Belongings</b></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 their own devices where appropriate (BYOD).</p> <p>Personal devices are to be stored with student personal belongings.</p>
<p>Responding to Illness</p>	<p><a href="#"><u>COVID 19 In School Settings.</u></a></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 directions.</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. This will be determined by AHS.</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>GYPSD 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.</p> <p>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><b>Classes and Programming</b></p>	
<p>Instruction</p>	<p>In September, the initial focus for students who return to in-school 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.</p> <p>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><b>Class Composition</b></p>	<p>Class sizes will be similar to previous years.</p> <p>Where 2 metres is not possible between desks, students 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 mask use, 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><b>Student Movement</b></p>	<p>Where possible, teachers will move between classrooms and students will remain at their desks.</p> <p>Hallway protocols are developed to ensure students remain a safe distance apart while moving throughout the building.</p> <p>Teachers and staff will reinforce protocols posted in each school re: (promoting hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette, physical distancing etc., posted in visible locations.)</p>
<p><b>Cleaning Workspaces</b></p>	<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.</p>
<p><b>Breaks</b></p>	<p>Snack, lunch, recess, and class change breaks will be staggered in each school to maintain physical distancing among children/students.</p>
<p><b>Using Playground Equipment</b></p>	<p>Playgrounds will not be open during school time until further notice.</p>

Physical Education	<p>When possible, physical education will take place outside and will follow the <a href="#">Guidance for Sport, Physical Activity and Recreation</a>.</p> <p>Teachers will choose activities or sports that support physical distancing (e.g. badminton over wrestling).</p> <p>Locker rooms and change rooms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Elementary and middle school students will not change for Physical Education classes.</li> <li>• Schools will develop change room protocols for high school students that will reflect time and space availability.</li> <li>• Lockers may not be available for use.</li> </ul>
Music Instruction	<p>No singing or playing wind instruments in elementary and middle school.</p> <p>Strict protocols to maximize student safety will be in place for high school music/band classes.</p>
Option Courses	<p>Where Alberta Health Services (AHS) recommendations and guidelines can be followed (i.e. cleaning, physical distancing, cohorting, etc.) these courses will continue to be available to students.</p> <p>Classes that teach food preparation may occur as long as students do not share the food they prepare with other students or staff. Enhanced cleaning protocols will be implemented.</p>
Extracurricular Activities and Field Trips	<p>Extracurricular activities, field trips requiring busing, and all overnight student excursions are postponed. This will be reviewed as the year progresses</p>
<h3>Alternate Education Programming Option</h3>	
What is Virtual Education?	<p><b>Virtual education is parent-led at-home learning.</b> Families will be supported by a certificated Grande Yellowhead and/or Alberta Distance Learning teacher. Please read below for information on students in Grades 1- 9 and for students in Grades 10-12. All alternate programming is arranged by your school principal.</p>



	<p>Virtual education provides online and/or print resources for families who are learning 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 may not mirror in-class instruction.</p> <p><b>Virtual Education in Grades 1 through Grade 9:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parents play the primary role in the instruction and supervision of their child’s learning.</li> <li>• Learning materials are virtual; however, a print version may be requested.</li> <li>• Families register for the virtual option through their school principal.</li> <li>• Students registered for virtual education need to have a laptop/Chromebook with internet access as well as a working camera/microphone.</li> <li>• Teacher support is available during school hours online (email and Google Meet) or in person, through appointment only, at the TLC location within each community.</li> </ul> <p><b>Virtual Education in Grades 10-12:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parents play a key role in the supervision and support of their teen’s learning in collaboration with the teacher.</li> <li>• Learning materials are virtual; however, a print version may be requested.</li> <li>• Families register for the virtual option through their school principal.</li> <li>• High school students registered for virtual education must have a laptop/Chromebook with internet access as well as a working camera/microphone.</li> <li>• Teacher support is available during school hours online (email and Google Meet) or in person, through appointment only, at the TLC location within each community.</li> <li>• A <b>Hybrid option</b> (blends online with in-school) can be arranged in collaboration with the High School Principal.</li> </ul>
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<p><b>Student and Parent Responsibilities</b></p>	<p>Students and parents are expected to be engaged in both online and offline learning processes as described by their school principal.</p> <p><b>Students are responsible to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Submit attendance daily</li> <li>• Engage both online and offline</li> <li>• Attend online sessions as scheduled</li> <li>• Ask the teacher questions as needed</li> <li>• Submit assignments and assessment according to schedules developed by their teacher</li> </ul> <p><b>Parents and guardians are responsible to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supervise and monitor their child’s learning</li> <li>• Ensure students have a device connected to the internet with a working camera and microphone to complete their coursework</li> <li>• Support students by ensuring they have the space, tools and time to complete coursework as assigned.</li> <li>• Encourage their child to connect with the teacher when they have questions</li> <li>• Connect with the teacher as needed to support their child’s learning</li> <li>• Schedule face-to-face meetings at the TLC as needed</li> </ul>
<p><b>Does Virtual Education lead to a High School Diploma?</b></p>	<p>Yes, all required courses for a high school diploma, completed through virtual education, lead to an Alberta High School Diploma. Distance education/learning at home courses are taught by a certificated teacher and follows the Alberta Education curriculum.</p>
<p><b>Can a Student Return to In-school Classes?</b></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>

Electronic Devices	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 working device.
Non-core Courses	The decision to provide instruction in non-core courses will be made at each school 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 (SLAs, 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.
<b>Support for Students and Staff</b>	
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 &amp; Wellness site and the <a href="#">GYPSD website</a>.</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 were asked to declare their child’s learning option by noon on August 14, 2020 through a Division-wide survey. Parents were asked to make a five-month (one semester) commitment until the end of January 2021 to enable the principals to deploy teachers, resources and student supports as needed for effective programming. **However, if the learn-at-home option is not working, parents can provide principals one week’s notice, and the child can return to school the next Monday.**

Students in high school courses may need to wait till the beginning of the next semester; however, re-entry will be determined in collaboration with the high school principal.

All Grande Yellowhead schools have been given guidelines to prepare for Scenario 1, and will make adjustments based on their unique school community and physical layout of each school.

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](#)

[COVID-19 in school \(K-12\) settings: A resource guide for schools before, during, and after a COVID-19 outbreak](#)

[Get the Facts: Back to Class for 2020-21](#)

References:

[Alberta Health Services COVID 19 Self-Assessment](#)  
[Alberta K to 12 School Re-entry Website](#)  
[Tool Kit and Resources](#)  
[Screening Questionnaire COVID 19 Alberta Health Daily Checklist](#)  
[Guidance for Sport, Physical Activity and Recreation](#)  
[Guidance for Playgrounds \(updated June 18, 2020\)](#)  
[2020-21 Parent Guide](#)