

June 25, 2020

Alberta Education released the [2020-21 School Re-Entry Plan](#) on June 10, 2020. The preamble of this plan states: *“Implementation of this plan is subject to change and direction from the Chief Medical Officer of Health. It is based on the best available information and conditions related to the COVID-19 pandemic. The plan will evolve and be adjusted when information becomes available as the status of the COVID-19 pandemic changes.”*

At Grande Yellowhead Public School Division, planning is underway as to what the re-entry to schools in September 2020 will look like for our students, staff, and families. The Division has invited input from staff, parents, and students via surveys hosted on the GYPSD website.

The school re-entry plan for all GYPSD schools considers three scenarios that could exist when the 2020-2021 school year begins in September. NOTE: Grande Yellowhead Public School Division is planning for each of the three scenarios. While we truly hope to arrive back at Scenario 1, we recognize that we may be required to quickly shift from one scenario to another with short notice.

- **Scenario 1:** In-school classes resume (near normal with health measures)
- **Scenario 2:** In-school classes partially resume (with additional health measures)
- **Scenario 3:** At-home learning continues (in-school classes are suspended/cancelled)

### Guiding Principles for Grande Yellowhead Public School Division’s Re-entry Plan

- The safety and well-being of students and staff is our priority.
- Children and student learning will continue to be guided by Alberta Education mandates and the provincial Programs of Study in all potential methods of delivery.
- Staff will have access to the professional learning, collaboration, and support they need to grow instructional practice in all potential methods of delivery.
- Expectations for staff, parents/guardians and students will focus on consistency for learning, communication, and program delivery.
- Parents/guardians play a critical role as they support actions in the home (such as keeping students home when sick and accessing testing if symptoms develop) that ultimately keep other students and staff safe.

## Commitment to Safety

In both [Scenario 1](#) and [Scenario 2](#), the Division will implement the protocols and measures established by Alberta Health Services and Alberta Education to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19, including:

- daily screening expectation for all staff and students - with assistance from parents - using the tool provided by Alberta Education (see page 6).
- enhanced environmental cleaning and disinfecting recommendations including:
  - all areas of the school cleaned daily,
  - washrooms and high-touch surfaces cleaned several times a day and
  - a regularly scheduled deep cleaning when students are not present.
- **strict** stay-at-home policy for any students or staff exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 (even if symptoms resemble a mild cold).
- if a student develops symptoms at school, the student will be given a mask and isolated; parents/guardians will be contacted to pick up the student **immediately**.
- physical distancing recommendations including the possible reorganization of rooms to allow for more physical space and discouraging large gatherings such as assemblies where physical distancing cannot be maintained.
- cohorting of students by class and within classes where possible (mostly elementary schools).
- fixed seating plans.
- hand hygiene expectations when entering and exiting the school and classrooms, before and after eating.
- continual reminders of the importance of respiratory etiquette:
  - cover coughs and sneezes,
  - avoid touching the face and disposal of used tissues promptly,
  - followed by hand hygiene
- a **no sharing** policy: all students should have their own supplies.
- where sharing of school equipment is required, the equipment will be cleaned between uses.
- guiding foot traffic flow through entrances and hallways by using markers on the floor.
- staff and students *may not* be mandated to wear masks unless there is need.
  - masks may be considered in circumstances where there is prolonged close contact (greater than 15 minutes) and distance of two metres cannot be maintained, or as AHS directs.
- cancelling all hot lunch programs until further notice.
- cancelling all student excursions that require bus transportation and overnight trips.
- minimizing the number of people permitted into the school.

**Scenario 1 Guidelines** In-school classes resume (near normal with health measures):

### Planning for Instruction and Delivery

- Calendars may be adjusted (the number and/or length of instructional days) to address content in subject areas.
- GYPSD will follow public health measures for children and student learning including physical distancing where possible.
- Consideration will be given to adjusting the time spent in non-core subjects to allow for additional instruction time on core subjects (English, French Language Arts, Math, Science, and Social) if it is deemed necessary.

### Provincial Assessment

- Grade 12 Diploma exams will be mandatory.
- Grades 6 and 9 Provincial Achievement Tests (PATs) will be administered using previously established protocols:
  - English Language Arts, Mathematics, and French Language Arts only.
- Grade 3 Students Learning Assessments (SLAs):
  - may be administered as part of screening tools to assist teachers in identifying gaps in student learning.

### GYPSD Screening Tools

- Early in the year/course, screening tools/base-line measures will be completed by Grades 1 - 12 students to assist teachers in identifying gaps in student learning and provide important information as they plan their instruction.

### Children and Students Who Require Specialized Supports and Services

- The Division will enable participation and inclusion of students with disabilities to the best of our ability. In circumstances in which students who require specialized supports and services (i.e. behavioural, intellectual, learning, communication or physical characteristics, or a combination of any of them) are not able to follow guidelines and require support and adaptation to public health measures, plans will be developed to ensure their inclusion.

### Transportation

- Fixed seating plans for eligible students will be implemented to assist contact tracing, students from the same family will sit together, and when possible, maintain physical distancing between other students. **The Division will not be transporting ineligible students.**
- The bus will be sanitized after every route.
- Parents/guardians or members of the household, may be asked to provide transportation for their children if possible to reduce the number of students on the bus.

**Scenario 2 Guidelines** In-school classes partially resume (with additional health measures) include all guidelines outlined above for Scenario 1 plus the following:

### Planning for Instruction and Delivery

- Students *will* be divided into two or more groups and attend in-school classes on an alternate schedule - groups will not be in classes at school at the same time. Every effort will be made to schedule all children in the same family attend classes on the same day(s).
- Physical distancing requirements of two metres *must* be maintained.

### Children and Students Who Require Specialized Supports and Services

- Supports and services will be provided in school or at home as appropriate.

**Scenario 3 Guidelines** At-home learning continues (in-school classes are suspended/cancelled):

Unlike the emergency remote learning that was implemented on very short notice, from March - June 2020, there will be greater consistency of expectations and accountability for student learning if Scenario 3 is implemented.

- In the event that a transition to at-home learning is necessary, teachers will provide instruction through distance and online learning. Based on Alberta Education recommendations, the Division will develop guidelines and expectations to support staff as they:
  - focus on curriculum expectations;
  - engage students in ongoing two-way communication;
  - include opportunities for assessment for, of and as learning, as well as opportunities for students to reflect on their learning, practice and get feedback;
  - identify how home/school communication will be maintained with families;
  - account for students requiring additional support; and
  - adhere to the number of weekly hours established by Alberta Education.
- Provincial Assessment may be cancelled (Grade 3 SLAs, Grades 6 and 9 PATs and Grade 12 Diploma exams) based on the timing and duration of the cancellation of in-school classes.
- GYPSD screening tools that can be administered at home will be administered at home to assist teachers in identifying gaps in student learning.
- Teachers and other staff will provide specialized supports and services to children and students, including those with disabilities in consultation with families in order to support learning outcomes at home, while avoiding direct contact to protect children, student and staff health.
- During learning, students will be required to use a device that is connected to the internet, has a working video camera, which must be turned on during instruction.

### For all Three Scenarios:

#### Student Learning

- Schools continue to be responsible for planning student learning and assessing the progress of children and students.
- Students continue to be responsible to actively engage in learning and diligently pursue their education.
- Staff, parents/guardians, children, and students must continue to follow public health measures in place.

#### Extra-Curricular Activities

- Staff, parents/guardians, students, and community members must continue to follow public health measures in place.
- Extracurricular sports, field trips requiring busing, and all overnight field trips are postponed. This will be reviewed by November 30, 2020 based on direction from Alberta Education and Alberta Health Services.

#### Mental Health/Psychosocial Supports for Students and Staff

- Staff have access to professional learning on supporting mental health of students.
- Staff have access to mental health supports for themselves and their families.
- Information on accessing mental health resources for students and staff will be posted on the [GYPSD website](#).
- Information for parents/guardians on accessing mental health supports for themselves and their families will be posted on the [GYPSD Website](#).

### Looking Ahead

School personnel will be preparing buildings by installing engineered precautions, extra sanitization stations, and developing administrative protocols to keep students and staff safe regardless of the scenario. Teachers and administrators will be looking at resources and practices that will meet student's curricular needs.

By August 1, 2020, the Government of Alberta, in collaboration with Alberta's Chief Medical Officer, will make a final decision regarding the scenario that we will implement in September. Scenarios may vary between regions of the province. We will finalize our plans in August.

Thank you for your ongoing support as we navigate this complex task.

COVID-19 INFORMATION

**GUIDANCE FOR SCHOOL RE-ENTRY – SCENARIO 1**

In-school classes resume (near normal with health measures)

**Appendix C**  
**Screening Questionnaire**

PARENTS/GUARDIANS/STUDENTS MUST USE THIS QUESTIONNAIRE DAILY TO DECIDE IF THE STUDENT SHOULD ATTEND SCHOOL

Risk Assessment: Initial Screening Questions

1.	Do you, or your child attending the program, have any of the below symptoms:	CIRCLE ONE	
	• Fever	YES	NO
	• Cough	YES	NO
	• Shortness of Breath / Difficulty Breathing	YES	NO
	• Sore throat	YES	NO
	• Chills	YES	NO
	• Painful swallowing	YES	NO
	• Runny Nose / Nasal Congestion	YES	NO
	• Feeling unwell / Fatigued	YES	NO
	• Nausea / Vomiting / Diarrhea	YES	NO
	• Unexplained loss of appetite	YES	NO
	• Loss of sense of taste or smell	YES	NO
	• Muscle/ Joint aches	YES	NO
	• Headache	YES	NO
	• Conjunctivitis (Pink Eye)	YES	NO
2.	Have you, or anyone in your household, returned from travel outside of Canada in the last 14 days?	YES	NO
3.	Have you or your children attending the program had close <u>unprotected*</u> contact (face-to-face contact within 2 metres) with someone who is ill with cough and/or fever?	YES	NO
4.	Have you or anyone in your household been in close <u>unprotected</u> contact in the last 14 days with someone who is being investigated or confirmed to be a case of COVID-19?	YES	NO

\* "unprotected" means close contact without appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE).

If you have answered "Yes" to any of the above questions, please DO NOT enter the school at this time. You should stay home and use the [COVID-19 Self-Assessment Tool](#) to determine whether you need to be tested for COVID-19.

If you have answered "No" to all the above questions, you may attend school.