



**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 has been working on 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 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
- 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
- Encouraging 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
- Strict hand-hygiene requirements for all students and staff

### **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 learning will be offered in the 2020/21 school year. Schools will connect with families in August ([survey link](#)) and December of 2020 to determine whether students will continue with in- person learning or virtual online learning. The GYPSD goal is to ensure all students receive a high-quality education, no matter what option they choose.

### **Continuity of Learning**

We know that students may move between in-person and online learning throughout the year. To ensure the transition is smooth, teachers will work together to make sure students across the Division learn key themes or units of the curriculum at approximately the same time during the school year. We are all in this together, and as such, everyone must commit to doing their part in taking action to protect one another.

Respectfully,  
Carolyn Lewis

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# 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, don't be afraid to ask someone you trust. More information can be found online at [alberta.ca/COVID19](http://alberta.ca/COVID19).

## **Quarantine and Isolation**

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

<b>Quarantine</b>	<b>Isolation</b>
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.**

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.

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 Staff*

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

### *Buses*

- 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.
- Bus Drivers will use a face shield when loading or unloading students from the bus.
- As much as practical, children/students start boarding from the back seats to the front of the bus.
- Students will be assigned seats and students who live in the same household will be seated together.
- As much as practical, students start disembarking from the front seats to the back of the bus.
- 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.
- A vehicle cleaning log will be kept by each driver.
- All children/students must perform hand hygiene (hand sanitizer) when **entering the bus**. Hand sanitizer will be available.
- Each school bus will have posters promoting hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette, physical distancing etc., posted in visible locations.
- No sharing of personal items (food, toys, water bottles, etc.)

### *Students Driving to School*

- Students should only have people from their household in the vehicle with them.
- Students will maintain 2 metres physical distance between all people (except household members) in an area determined by the school (field/paved play area, etc.).

### *Arriving at the School*

- Each school will develop 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.

## Entry Protocols

<i>Stay at Home when Sick</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stay at home if exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 that are not related to a pre-existing illness/health condition.</li> </ul>
<i>Drop Off/Pick-Up</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>
<i>Hand Hygiene and Safe Practices</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Everyone must perform hand hygiene (hand sanitizer) when entering <b>and exiting the school</b>.</li> </ul>

<i>Signage</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Each school will have posters promoting hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette, physical distancing etc., posted in visible locations.</li> <li>All school doors will have COVID-19 signs posted to indicate that anyone with symptoms cannot enter the school.</li> </ul>
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## General Protocols

<i>Physical Distancing</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Everyone in the school shall maintain 2 metres physical distancing whenever possible.</li> <li>Schools will use a variety of visual cues (posters and arrow/standing-dot floor markers) to help students</li> <li>maintain physical distancing within the school.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>
<i>Cohorts</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cohorting limits exposure to others and aids in contact tracing if needed.</li> <li>Each class will be considered a cohort and efforts to maintain physical distancing even within a cohort will minimize the risk for disease transmission.</li> <li>When interacting with people outside the cohort, maintain physical distancing of 2 metres.</li> <li>Every effort will be made to limit the number of cohorts that each student is part of.</li> </ul>
<i>Engineered and Administrative Controls in Schools</i>	<p>School offices will be equipped with a Plexiglas divider to protect visitors and staff from potential exposures.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Directional arrows will be posted in each school to support physical distancing.</li> <li>Schools may designate different entrances and exits for different classes of students.</li> <li>Schools may post occupancy limits for bathrooms, common areas and meeting rooms to allow physical distancing.</li> <li>All rugs/soft surfaces that cannot be cleaned and sanitized have been removed from classrooms.</li> <li>Schools may remove unnecessary furniture from classrooms.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The following high touch items will not be used in schools except as needed in Foods classes: refrigerators, microwaves, dishwashers and vending machines.</li> <li>• There will be no use of school cutlery, cups, dishes, etc. except as needed in Foods classes.</li> <li>• All food sales, including cafeterias, hot lunch programs, bake sales are cancelled.</li> <li>• School Nutrition Programs are limited to pre-packaged food.</li> </ul>
<i>Visitors to School</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No one should enter the school if they are ill. (<a href="#">Complete the self-assessment tool</a>)</li> <li>• Follow all instructions of AHS and the school.</li> <li>• Only required visitors can attend the school.</li> <li>• A record of all visitors will be kept at each school.</li> <li>• The number of schools that substitute teachers will work in will be limited as much as possible.</li> </ul>
<i>Pre-existing Conditions</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The guidance that Alberta Education and the Chief Medical Officer of Health have provided us addresses children with known pre-existing conditions. <i>"The student should be tested at least once before returning to school and have a negative COVID-19 test result to confirm that COVID-19 is not the source of their symptoms. These symptoms would be their baseline health status. As long as the cough or runny nose is always the same and does not get worse, the student can attend school. Talk to your school about your child's pre-existing medical condition so the school may keep a confidential record of this condition."</i></li> </ul>
<i>Testing</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GYPSD recommends that a COVID-19 test be done closer to the start of the school year and as the guidelines state, talk to your child's school at that time. Should a student be required to self-isolate or quarantine, our teachers will provide materials for students who are at home if students are healthy enough to do school work.</li> </ul>
<i>Responding to Illness</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No one should enter the school if he or she has any possible symptoms of COVID-19.</li> <li>• If a child/student develops symptoms while at the school, the child/student will wear a non-medical mask provided by the school if they are able to, and be isolated in a separate room. The parent/guardian will be notified to come and pick up the student immediately. If a separate room is not available, the child/student will be kept at least 2 metres away from other children/students. The parent/guardian/student will be asked to access COVID-19 testing by accessing the <a href="#">AHS Online Self-Assessment Tool</a>.</li> <li>• Staff/students must wash their hands before donning a mask and before and after removing the mask (<a href="#">Guidance on non-medical mask use</a>), and before and after touching any items used by the child/student.</li> <li>• All items the student touched/used while isolated must be cleaned and disinfected as soon as the child/student has been picked up. Items that cannot be cleaned and disinfected (e.g. paper, books, and cardboard puzzles) will be removed from the classroom and stored in a sealed container for a minimum of 10 days.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• GYPSD will support students and staff to learn or work at home if they are required to self-isolate.</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>
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<i>Masks</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On August 4, 2020 Minister Lagrange announced that masks will be mandatory for all staff and students Gr 4-12. Students from K-3, masks will be optional. Each staff and student will receive 2 re-usable masks.</li> <li>• Care should be taken to ensure <a href="#">guidance on non-medical mask use</a> is followed and masks are used correctly and safely.</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>
<i>Expectations for Shared use of Equipment</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Absolutely no sharing of personal items will be permitted (pencils, crayons, erasers, toys, water bottles, books)</li> <li>• When school equipment must be shared (Chromebooks, CTS shop equipment, badminton racquets, etc.) it must be cleaned and disinfected after each use.</li> </ul>
<i>Water Bottles</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>
<i>Personal Belongings</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All students and staff are encouraged to use a backpack for all personal belongings.</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>
<i>Electronic Devices</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students are encouraged to - bring your own devices (BYOD).</li> <li>• Student personal devices are to be stored with their personal belongings.</li> </ul>

## **Classes and Programming**

<i>Classroom Hygiene</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Everyone entering the classroom must perform hand hygiene.</li> <li>• An emphasis will be placed on hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette and physical distancing as much as possible while in classrooms.</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>
<i>Class Sizes</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Class sizes will be similar to previous years as there is no additional funding to hire more teachers.</li> <li>• Where 2 metres is not possible between desks, they will be separated by the greatest possible spacing in each classroom.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In circumstances where 2 metres of physical distance is not possible (especially if the circumstance requires prolonged close contact for longer than 15 minutes), teachers, staff and students may choose to wear a non-medical face mask to protect one another.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Teachers will have and follow seating plans for all classes.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Each class will be considered a cohort and interaction between cohorts will be minimized.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 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.</li> <li>○ Within each cohort (classroom), students will maintain the greatest physical distancing possible to minimize the risk for disease transmission (i.e., spacing between desks).</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

<i>Student Movement</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Where possible, teachers will move between classrooms and students will remain at their desks.</li> <li>• Hallway protocols are developed to ensure students remain a safe distance apart while moving throughout the building</li> <li>• Each school will have posters promoting hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette, physical distancing etc., posted in visible locations. Teachers and staff will reinforce protocols.</li> </ul>
<i>Breaks</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Snack, lunch, recess, and class change breaks will be staggered in each school to maintain physical distancing among children/students.</li> </ul>
<i>Using Playground Equipment</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Playgrounds will not be open during school time until further notice.</li> </ul>

<p><i>Physical Education</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When possible, physical education will take place outside and will follow the <a href="#">Guidance for Sport, Physical Activity and Recreation</a>.</li> <li>• Teachers will choose activities or sports that support physical distancing (e.g. badminton over wrestling).</li> <li>• Locker rooms and change rooms: <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> </li> </ul>
<p><i>Option Courses</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Where AHS recommendations and guidelines can be followed (i.e. cleaning, physical distancing, cohorting, etc.) these courses will continue to be available to students.</li> <li>• No singing or playing wind instruments in elementary and middle school.</li> <li>• Strict protocols to maximize student safety will be in place for high school music/band classes.</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>
<p><i>Extracurricular Activities and Field Trips</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extracurricular activities, field trips requiring busing, and all overnight student excursions are postponed. This will be reviewed as the year progresses.</li> </ul>
<p><i>Can a Student Switch to Distance Education?</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yes, students can switch to distance education beginning February 1, 2021.</li> <li>• Parents/guardians will be asked to make this decision in December so there is adequate time to plan for students programming and staffing.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Cleaning Protocols</b></p>	
<p><i>Hand Hygiene</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In addition to hand washing with soap, GYPSD will provide appropriate amounts of recommended hand sanitizer in schools and on buses, and hand sanitizing dispensers will be available at each school entry way.</li> <li>• While washing with soap and water for 20 seconds is the preferred method for cleaning hands, hand sanitizer can be used when this is not practical.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recommended hand hygiene protocols: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Before leaving home, on arrival at school, and before leaving school.</li> <li>After using the toilet.</li> <li>Before and/or after any transitions within the school setting (e.g. to another classroom, indoor-outdoor transitions, etc.).</li> <li>After sneezing or coughing.</li> <li>Before and after breaks and sporting activities.</li> <li>Before and after eating any food, including snacks.</li> <li>Before touching face (nose, eyes or mouth).</li> <li>Whenever hands are visibly dirty.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<i>High Touch Areas</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There will be increased frequency of cleaning and disinfecting of high-touch areas in schools.</li> <li>Where required, extra custodial time has been added to accommodate this work.</li> </ul>
<i>Bus Cleaning</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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 and vehicle cleaning logs will be kept.</li> </ul>

<i>Cleaning Workspaces</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Materials for staff and students to clean/sanitize their own workspace (desks, shared devices, etc.) will be available in the classroom.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>
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**Supports for Students and Staff**

<i>Providing Mental Health Support</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Staff have access to professional learning on supporting the mental health of students through the Division Psychologist and Family School Liaison Workers (FSLW).</li> <li>Information on accessing mental health resources for students, families and staff is posted on the Grande Yellowhead Engaging Students website and the <a href="#">GYPSD website</a>.</li> </ul>
<i>Supporting Students with Special Needs</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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. This includes:</li> <li>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</li> <li>Adding COVID-19-specific strategies as needed to student-support plans, such as Individual Program Plans (IPPs), Medication Management Plans or Individual Student Behaviour Plans</li> <li>Addressing effective learning strategies for online learning in IPPs</li> </ul>

## Distance/Virtual Education

<p><i>What is Distance/Virtual Education?</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Distance/virtual education is the online and/or print delivery of student learning by Grande Yellowhead and Alberta Distance Learning teacher to students who are at home. Unlike the emergency remote learning implemented in the spring, all outcomes from each course will be taught in distance education just as they are with in-school classes.</li> <li>● If a parent chooses distance education (print and online) in the fall, our goal is to provide teacher instruction in all core subjects.</li> <li>● Students registered for Distance Education will require a laptop/Chromebook connected to the internet as well as a working camera/microphone.</li> <li>● Teacher support is available during school hours.</li> <li>● Attendance is required and will be tracked.</li> </ul>
<p><i>Does Distance/Virtual Education lead to a High School Diploma?</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Yes, all courses completed through Distance Education lead to an Alberta High School Diploma as distance education/learning at home is taught by a certificated teacher and follows the Alberta Education Programs of Study.</li> </ul>
<p><i>Can a Student Switch to In-school Classes?</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Yes, students can switch to in-school classes beginning on February 1, 2021.</li> <li>● Parents/guardians will be asked to make this decision in December so there is adequate time to plan for students programming and staffing.</li> </ul>
<p><i>Instruction</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● All distance/virtual education will be taught by a certificated Grande Yellowhead and/or Alberta Distance Learning teacher. As much as possible the teacher's assignment will be distance/virtual education and not in-school classes. They are responsible to:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Develop the instructional path;</li> <li>○ Deliver the learning opportunities; and</li> <li>○ Coach and assess each of their students.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● All teachers will follow Alberta Curriculum and course outcomes.</li> <li>● Teachers will provide regular and timely feedback to students on assignments and assessments.</li> <li>● 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.</li> <li>● In Grades 1 through Grade 12:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Print materials will be distributed and deposited (on completion) from the local school.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Teacher support is available during school hours online (email and Google Meet) or in person (arrangements can be made to meet with the teacher at the school).</li> <li>○ Online sessions are interactive and engaging for students and provide parents with the foundational support to ensure student success and may be offered synchronously (online classes), asynchronously format (available in a web-based format anytime) or a combination of these.</li> <li>○ Combines online instruction using best practice learning strategies with a daily commitment to engage in follow-up learning (often print materials) at home.</li> </ul>
<i>Electronic Devices</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Each student enrolled in distance 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.</li> </ul>
<i>Student and Parent Responsibilities</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Students and parents are expected to be engaged in both online and offline learning processes.</li> <li>● Students are responsible to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Submit attendance daily (see section below)</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> </li> <li>● Parents/guardians are responsible to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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> </ul> </li> </ul>
<i>Format of Materials</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Distance education will include a combination of print and online assignments as appropriate for the grade level and age of students.</li> <li>● Parents/guardians may be required to pick-up and drop-off materials at scheduled time as instruction progresses.</li> </ul>
<i>Attendance</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Students enrolled in distance education will be accountable for daily attendance as specified by the teacher (attending video classes, daily emails).</li> </ul>
<i>Non-core Courses</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 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.</li> </ul>
<i>Work Experience/RAP</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 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.</li> </ul>

<i>Provincial Testing</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>GYPSD will not be participating in optional provincial assessments (PATs) for the 2020/21 school year.</li> </ul>
<i>School Council Meetings</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>School council meetings for the 2020–2021 school year may go ahead. 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. Any in-person meeting must adhere to COVID-19 health and safety protocols.</li> </ul>

## Declaration of Learning Experience

*Parents/guardians will be asked to declare which learning experience is best for each of their children by noon on August 7, 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. 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.

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.** Any changes in the school re-entry scenario will be determined by Alberta Health and Alberta Education 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](#)