



**PEACE WAPITI
PUBLIC SCHOOL DIVISION**

Educating Today for Success Tomorrow



RE-ENTRY PLAN FOR PWPSD SCHOOLS

2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR

Re-entry Plan for PWPSD Schools 2020-2021 School Year

This document was compiled by the Peace Wapiti Public School Division Relaunch Committee.

Updates are ongoing, based on current orders from the Chief Medical Officer of Health and Alberta Education, and as new evidence is discovered. (Updates since the release of this document by PWPSD on August 7, 2020 are noted throughout as **NEW**.)

Schools may publish additional requirements to meet the needs of their school and school community.

Guidance for PWPSD School Re-entry: Scenario 1

Normal school operations resume (with health measures)

<p>Screening</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents/guardians must provide records of children’s known pre-existing conditions to the school. • Parents/guardians will be provided a copy of the Alberta Health Daily Checklist (NEW: A revised screening tool was included in the Government of Alberta updates published on August 20, 2020 - it is included on p. 13 of this document) upon school registration with the expectation that it must be used at home for daily self-assessment. It is also included on page 9 of this document. Before leaving for school each morning, children/students, visitors, and volunteers who will access the school must self-screen for symptoms.
<p>Mandatory Masks</p>	<p>NEW: The following is updated information from the Government of Alberta, published on August 20, 2020:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-medical face masks can play a role in reducing the transmission of COVID-19 in the community when worn properly and hygiene practices are followed, particularly when consistent physical distancing is not possible. • It is required that all teachers and staff in all school settings and students in grades 4-12 wear non-medical masks while in shared areas of school, outside the classroom, and on school buses where they may not be able to maintain the recommended physical distancing requirements. • Non-medical masks are not required while students are seated in the classroom during instruction if following the physical distancing guidance above. If close contact between students, or students and teachers/staff is occurring as a result of classroom activities, non-medical masks should be used for the duration of this activity. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Two reusable masks per student/staff will be provided by the Government of Alberta. Additional single-use masks will be available at schools if required. ○ Masking for this group is required in addition to other strategies that mitigate the risk of transmission of COVID-19, such as physical distancing, cohorting where possible, daily screening, hygiene, and enhanced cleaning. ○ There is increasing evidence that older students may be more likely to transmit COVID-19 than younger students, and are at a higher risk of significant disease than younger students.

- When non-medical face masks are used, hands should be cleaned before and after putting it on and taking it off. Avoid touching the mask once it is on. Masks should be changed after they become wet or soiled.
 - After removing a reusable non-medical face mask that will be reworn prior to washing, it should be placed into a clean, breathable bag or container (allows for evaporation) for storage. Consider using a bag that can be washed. All masks should have two distinct sides, one side that touches the face and one that faces outwards.
 - Do not reuse masks that are wet or soiled prior to laundering. A wet or soiled mask that requires laundering should be placed into a sealed bag or container where it is stored until it can be taken home and washed.
 - Disposable masks that are damaged or dirty should be discarded into a garbage bin that is lined with a plastic bag.
 - A very small number of individuals may not be able to wear masks due to sensory or health issues. Face shields are not considered to be equivalent to non-medical face masks. It is important to comply with other personal preventative practices such as frequent hand hygiene and physical distancing as much as possible.
 - Additional guidance on non-medical face masks is available here.
- Exemptions to mask requirement for all teachers and staff in all school settings and students in grades 4-12 include:
 - Persons who are unable to place, use or remove a non-medical face mask without assistance;
 - Persons unable to wear a non-medical face mask due to a mental or physical concern or limitation;
 - Persons consuming food or drink in designated areas;
 - Persons engaged in physical exercise;
 - Persons providing care or assistance to a person with a disability where a non-medical face mask would hinder that caregiving or assistance;
 - Persons engaging in services that require the temporary removal of the non-medical face mask, and
 - Spaces where physical barriers have been installed between persons.
- Non-medical face masks may be considered but are not routinely recommended for younger students in grades K-3. It is recommended that these students instead adhere to the other public health strategies that mitigate the risk of transmission of COVID-19, such as cohorting, hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette to reduce the risk of transmission.
 - Masks are not routinely recommended for younger students in grades K-3 due to difficulties with proper fit, compliance, and less virus transmission among younger children.
 - Younger children may not be able to avoid touching their mask, and this could end up increasing the risk of virus transmission more than not wearing a mask at all.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Non-medical face masks are encouraged for younger children in the community for brief, casual interactions where physical distancing is not possible or is unpredictable. While these children are usually supervised by parents/guardians who can ensure proper mask use, young children in school settings may not always be under direct supervision and teachers may not be able to consistently monitor mask use in this group. ○ Parents/guardians who are considering non-medical face masks for their child in grades K-3 should make their choice based on a risk assessment, including the child’s ability to consistently use the nonmedical face mask correctly and safely during the day, which may be dependent on various factors such as age, maturity, physical ability and comprehension. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● School administrators should develop a plan to ensure that students who are hearing impaired or may rely on facial cues are able to communicate with others in areas where non-medical face masks are being worn, or have their educational needs met when teachers are wearing nonmedical face masks in the classroom. This may include the use of transparent masks. As with other non-medical face masks, it is important that transparent masks cover the nose and mouth, as well as fit securely against the face. ● School staff should monitor for and address any discrimination or bullying associated with a student either wearing or not wearing a nonmedical face mask. ● Parents/guardians should be encouraged to help their children become comfortable with wearing a mask. Masks should not be worn by anyone who is unable to remove the mask without assistance (e.g., due to age, ability or developmental status). ● Schools should consult their designated Occupational Health and Safety department for mask-wearing policies and other personal protective equipment policies for their staff.
<p>Physical Distancing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Physical distancing (2 metre spacing) is a useful public health measure to help prevent the spread of disease. Increasing the space between persons decreases the risk of transmission. Where 2 metres is not possible between desks, the greatest possible spacing is recommended. ● If 2 metres cannot be arranged between desks/tables, students should be arranged so they are not facing each other (e.g. arranged in rows rather than in small groups of four or a semi-circle). This way, if a student coughs or sneezes, they are not likely to do so directly on the face of another student. ● In situations where physical distancing is not possible (e.g., busses, classrooms and some sporting activities and therapeutic interventions), extra emphasis on hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette and cleaning and disinfecting on a regular

	<p>basis is required.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● In circumstances where 2 metres of physical distance is not possible (especially if the circumstance requires prolonged close contact for more than 15 minutes), teachers, staff and students will have access to masks.
<p>General Building Safety</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Signs must be posted reminding persons not to enter if they have COVID-19 symptoms. ● Each site will have PPE available for staff and students. ● A thorough cleaning of school facilities must be completed prior to re-entry and will include plumbing, water lines and HVAC. ● School Administrators must use the PWPSD Site Hazard Assessment Control Health Plan Tool for planning. ● Area classroom rugs and soft furnishings that cannot be easily cleaned and disinfected must be removed, including pillows and other soft items. ● Schools will develop procedures that outline hand hygiene and cleaning requirements for schools and should address: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Hand-washing stations and/or placement of hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol content ■ High contact surfaces (including water fountains); ■ Washrooms; ■ Shared equipment; ■ Auxiliary spaces and common rooms; and ■ Other areas that may apply. ■ Increased frequency of cleaning and disinfection of high-touch areas and equipment (e.g. microwave ovens and vending machines) inside and outside classrooms. ● A supply of hand sanitizer will be distributed to all school authorities, based on student population. ● Proper hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette is required and should be regularly promoted among students and staff. ● Water fountains may remain open, but fountain knobs and push buttons are considered high touch surfaces and must be regularly cleaned and disinfected. Consideration should be given to having students fill water bottles rather than drinking directly from the mouthpiece of a fountain.

<p>Mitigating High Traffic Areas</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Each school must institute controls to promote physical distancing between all attendees in areas in and outside of the classroom, including hallways, washrooms, and common areas. This <u>may</u> include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Staggering start- and end-times for classes and breaks to avoid crowded hallways. Strategize bus loading at each site. ○ Posting signs, using stanchions and marking floors. ○ Removing and restaging seating in public areas to prevent gathering. ○ Considering limiting bathroom occupancy at any one time. ○ NEW: Government of Alberta announcement, August 20, 2020: Use of non-medical face masks for all staff and students in Grades 4-12 in high traffic areas. ○ Teacher transition over student transition where/when possible. ○ No sharing of lockers. Stagger usage and times for students to access their lockers. ○ Emergent issues that require closer proximity must include use of hygiene, cohorting where possible, and a return to physical distancing as soon as possible.
<p>Food Services</p>	<p>No activities that involve the sharing of food between students or staff should occur.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Classes that teach food preparation may occur as long as students do not share the food they prepare with other students or staff. ● For classroom meals and snacks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ No self-serve or family-style meal service. Instead, switch to pre-packaged meals or meals served by designated staff. ○ Food provided by the family should be stored with the student's belongings. ○ Close off the food preparation areas that could be accessed by students/children, non-designated staff, or essential visitors. ○ Ensure that food-handling staff practice meticulous hand hygiene and are excluded from work if they are symptomatic. ○ Students/children should practice physical distancing while eating. ○ There should be no common food items (e.g., salt and pepper shakers, ketchup). ○ Utensils should be used to serve food items (not fingers). ○ If a school is using a common lunchroom and staggering lunch times, ensure that it is cleaned and disinfected after each use, including cleaning and disinfecting all surfaces of the tables and chairs (including under the edge of the chair seat). ○ Ensure good hygiene practices involving the use of microwaves, where available.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Cafeterias should follow the Alberta Health restaurant guidance. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ School cafeterias should use alternate processes to reduce the numbers of people dining together at one time. ○ Remove/rearrange dining tables to maintain physical distancing. ○ Place tape or other markings on floors to maintain a physical distancing of 2 metres. ○ Stagger meal service times to reduce the numbers of people present at any one time. ○ Adapt other areas to serve as additional dining space to increase spacing among persons in the same room. ○ Do not use buffets. Instead, switch to pre-packaged meals or meals served by staff. ○ Dispense cutlery, napkins and other items to students/children, rather than allowing them to pick up their own items.
<p>Expectations for Shared Use of Equipment</p>	<p>Use of shared items or equipment is to be avoided, where possible.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Students will be asked to label their personal items and to not share them. ● Staff should minimize materials exchange regarding student work where possible. ● Equipment that must be shared should be cleaned and disinfected after each use. ● NEW: Government of Alberta announcement, August 20, 2020: Students and staff are required to perform hand hygiene before and after using shared equipment. ● Arrangements for storage of personal items should be made.
<p>Auxiliary Spaces</p>	<p>Gymnasiums can be used to deliver physical education programming.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● When possible, physical education should be done outside instead of inside as the risk of transmission is more likely to occur indoors rather than outdoors. ● Administrators and teachers should choose activities or sports that support physical distancing (e.g. badminton over wrestling). <p>Recognizing that we still want to meet as many outcomes safely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● To aid in physical distancing, consider using auxiliary spaces, such as gyms and libraries, to deliver education programs.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of shared items or sports equipment should be discouraged. Equipment that must be shared should be cleaned and disinfected before and after each use, or users should perform hand hygiene before and after each use. • School assemblies or other large gatherings (e.g., concerts or dances) must be avoided and virtual options should be offered instead of in-person gatherings.
Visitors	<p>NEW: This section has been updated to reflect the Government of Alberta announcement on August 20, 2020:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The public is allowed into the school following established protocols. • The public should not enter the school if they are ill. • Parents/guardians can attend the school if they are required. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ When a visitor enters the school they should be asked to use the Alberta Health Daily Checklist before they enter the school. ○ If a visitor answers YES to any of the questions, the individual must not be admitted into the school. ○ All adult visitors and visitors who are students in grades 4 to 12 must wear a mask. • A record of all visitors should be kept. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The school should screen service providers, including delivery drivers and independent contractors using the Alberta Health Daily Checklist before they enter the school. ○ If a service provider answers YES to any of the questions, the individual must not be admitted into the school. ○ In the case of a delivery driver answering YES, the driver/school will make alternate delivery arrangements. • Best practice would be to limit guest speakers and other visitors in the school. • When meeting with parents/guardians, use a meeting space that ensures physical distancing and any other measures required by AHS. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ If possible, consider using virtual presentations. ○ Limit guest speakers, volunteers and other visitors to specific cohorts or areas within the school (e.g. office, specific room or gathering area).
In-person Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elementary and Junior High Schools may consider reducing non-core subjects to allow for additional core time as per the Alberta School Re-Entry Plan, Supporting Growth in Student Learning. Non-core subjects that may be considered for reduced hours include CTF, Fine Arts, and Second Languages. Each school must communicate to their school council, school community and education

officer any reduction in non-core hours of instruction. Changes in times should look to increase core teaching time while maintaining an engaging educational experience for all students.

- Learning experiences involving in-person singing, cheering or shouting or playing wind instruments are postponed at this time, unless the school can put in place administrative procedures or PPE to ensure staff and students are protected. Consider alternatives such as:
 - Recording or live-streaming individual performers in separate locations;
 - Including more lessons focused on music appreciation or music theory;
 - Choose to play instruments that are lower risk (e.g., percussion or string instruments over wind instruments).
- Schools should develop procedures and plans for in-person learning that supports physical distancing where possible, and to separate cohorts to the greatest extent possible.
- In consultation with custodial staff, schools should consider how to best address traffic flow throughout the schools. (*e.g. one-way directional tape - yellow tape, walk to the right; red tape, walk to the left*) This may include one-way hallways and designated entrance and exit doors. Note that it is important not to reduce the number of exits to ensure adherence to the fire code.
- **NEW:** [Government of Alberta announcement, August 20, 2020](#): If two or more people from different cohorts are required to come within 2 metres of one another for the purposes of instruction, practice or undertaking examinations, additional protections must be instituted such as engineering controls (such as plexiglass barriers or partitions), or administrative controls (adapting the activity to minimize or eliminate close contacts).
- To align with physical distancing, field trips and activities requiring transportation are postponed at this time. **NEW:** [AASA, August 13, 2020: Fall provincials postponed until Government of Alberta moves to Stage 3.](#)
- If possible and necessary, lunch/snack breaks will be staggered to maintain physical distancing among children/students.
- Work experience may resume as long as the risk of infection is mitigated for all participants. If the work experience placement is in a workplace, the student is expected to follow health rules set out by the workplace. The time that individuals are in close contact should be kept to a minimum and work experience must include the use of the screening tool.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sports practices and outdoor activities may proceed in accordance with sector-specific guidance. • It is recommended, where possible, that students be cohorted by class. Cohort size will depend on the physical space of the classroom or learning setting. • It is still recommended to maintain physical distancing within a cohort whenever possible to minimize the risk of disease transmission (i.e. spacing between desks).
Student Transportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents/guardians and children/students should not be in the pick-up area or enter the bus if they have symptoms of COVID-19. Use the screening tool. • Buses will be equipped with hand sanitizer. Students will be advised to clean their hands when boarding the bus. • Students should be assigned seats and a record of this seating plan should be kept in order to assist with contact tracing if a student contracts COVID-19. Students who live in the same household should be seated together. • Cooperative busing and busing for pre-Kindergarten and Junior Kindergarten are provided under Scenario 1, providing there is ample space on the bus. • NEW: Government of Alberta announcement, August 20, 2020: Non-medical face masks are required for students in Grades 4-12. • NEW: Government of Alberta announcement, August 20, 2020: Non-medical face masks may be considered for students in Grades K-3, however they are not routinely recommended. • NEW: Government of Alberta announcement, August 20, 2020: A child who becomes symptomatic during the bus trip should be provided a mask if they are not already wearing one. • NEW: PWPSD Back-to-School Info, August 21, 2020: Using the Short-Term Rider Form to arrange short-term changes in transportation, such as going home with a friend on another bus, will not be permitted.
Drop-off and Pick-up	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schools will consider strategies to support physical distancing, such as staggering drop-off and pick-up times and locations, or put in place other protocols to limit contact between staff/parents/guardians/children/students as much as possible.

<p>Illness</p>	<p>NEW: Student Illness: What to do if a student has COVID-19 symptoms, published by the Government of Alberta, August 28, 2020.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● All demographic forms must have updated parent/guardian contact info and a minimum of one emergency contact. ● Children/students and parents/guardians must not enter the school if they have symptoms of COVID-19. However, if already at school, they will be isolated immediately. ● If the child/student requires close contact and care, staff can continue to provide care until the parent/guardian is able to pick up the child/student. Masks will be made available for the student and staff. Close interactions with the student that may result in contact with the student’s respiratory secretions should be avoided. If very close contact is required and the child is young, the staff member should also use a face shield or eye protection. ● NEW: Government of Alberta announcement, August 20, 2020: School staff will receive one reusable face shield for their use in the school, to be used at the discretion of the individual staff member. Plastic shields can help reduce exposure by protecting eyes, nose and mouth of the wearer from splashes and sprays of bodily fluids from other people. As face shields are not equivalent to masks, a mask must still be worn while wearing a face shield. ● NEW: Government of Alberta announcement, August 20, 2020: Each school will receive two contactless thermometers to assist with managing student and staff health. Thermometer use will be at the discretion of the school authority. ● If a child/student develops symptoms that could be caused by either COVID-19 or by a known pre-existing condition (e.g., allergies), the child should be tested for COVID-19 to confirm that it is not the source of their symptoms before entering or returning to school. ● Parents/guardians are encouraged to access COVID-19 testing by accessing the AHS Online Testing tool. Students may not return to school until cleared by AHS or until symptoms subside. ● If the test result is positive, contact your school. Your school will then contact AHS for further direction. ● If the test result is negative, the individual may determine if the symptoms are contagious, and if not, is welcome back to the school.
<p>Requests for Remote Learning</p>	<p>While we anticipate the return of most students, some families may wish to continue with remote learning from home even though Alberta Education has directed school</p>

jurisdictions to provide in-class learning. Families who request home learning will be accommodated based on the following:

- Remote learning may be offered by a teacher who does not work at their community school.
- The online classroom may be a combined class or division of students.
- Families must have the required technology (or provide a deposit to borrow a school device, if available) and infrastructure available in the home.
- In order to adjust staffing in a reasonable manner, families who choose remote learning must commit to timeframes that align with report card terms and, if available, must provide a minimum of three weeks' notice if they would like to return to in-class instruction.
- For students with special needs who require additional assistance and whose parents/guardians have chosen remote learning, schools will attempt to provide services remotely, understanding that the service may be limited.

COVID-19 INFORMATION

COVID-19 ALBERTA HEALTH DAILY CHECKLIST

Overview

This tool has been developed to support activity organizers, employers, businesses and facility operators in reducing the risk of transmission of COVID-19 among attendees/staff. The tool is meant to be used to assist with assessing attendees who may be symptomatic, or who may have been exposed to someone who is ill or has confirmed COVID-19.

Attendees should fill out this checklist prior to participating in the activity or program. If an individual answers **YES** to any of the questions, they **must not** be allowed to attend or participate in the activity or program. Children and youth will need a parent to assist them to complete this screening tool.

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to evolve, this screening tool will be updated as required.

Screening Questions

		CIRCLE ONE	
1.	Does the attendee have any new onset (or worsening) of any of the following symptoms:		
	• 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 (commonly known as pink eye)	YES	NO
2.	Has the attendee travelled outside of Canada in the last 14 days?	YES	NO
3.	Has the attendee had close contact* with a confirmed case of COVID-19 in the last 14 days?	YES	NO
4.	Has the attendee had close contact with a symptomatic** close contact of a confirmed case of COVID-19 in the last 14 days?	YES	NO

* Face-to-face contact within 2 metres. A health care worker in a occupational setting wearing the recommended personal protective equipment is not considered to be a close contact.

** 'Ill/symptomatic' means someone with COVID-19 symptoms on the list above.

alberta.ca/BizConnect

Email: BizConnect@gov.ab.ca

©2020 Government of Alberta | Updated: August 2020





**PEACE WAPITI
PUBLIC SCHOOL DIVISION**

Educating Today for Success Tomorrow

**SCHOOL RE-ENTRY
PLANNING**

2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR

PEACE WAPITI PUBLIC SCHOOL DIVISION
8611A - 108 St., Grande Prairie, AB T8V-4C5
PHONE: (780) 532-8133
EMAIL: communicationsoffice@pwpsd.ca