



Penson School Newsletter



November 2020

Welcome to November,

It seems like our school year is going quickly as we all adapt to new routines and protocols. On behalf of the students and staff of Penson School, I would like to thank you for supporting our protocols intended to keep each other as safe as possible. We appreciate that you screen your child each day before sending them to school and keeping them home when they are presenting symptoms, or ill.

It was our hope to have "in person" parent-teacher interviews, but are proceeding cautiously with a recent rise in cases in the Grande Prairie area. Interviews will be offered either online, or by phone on Tuesday, November 10th from 4pm until 9pm. If you need to make an appointment, you can contact your child's teacher directly with an email, or quick call to the school to arrange a time to meet and discuss your child's progress. It is possible that we might be able to have "in person" interviews closer to spring. We will also host an online Remembrance Day Ceremony for our students that morning, as there is no school on Remembrance Day.

Thank you for your continued support and if you have any questions you can reach me at (780) 532-6390.

Sincerely,

Mr. Mac

Dates to Remember:

Nov. 2 Early Monday
Nov. 2 **Virtual Book Fair Opens**
Nov. 10 Parent-Teacher Interviews
Nov. 11 Remembrance Day
Nov. 19 Picture Re-take Date
Nov. 20 P.D. Day
Nov. 27 CSW
Nov. 30 Term 2 starts

Dec. 7 Early Monday
Dec. 11 CSW
Dec. 21-Jan. 1-Christmas Break



Penson School Day

8:10 am-Doors open to the School
8:25 am-O' Canada, Announcements, Classes start
9:55-10:15 am-Recess Gr. 3-8
10:20-10:40 am-Recess Gr. K-2
11:45-12:15 pm-Noon Recess Gr. K-2
11:45-12:15 pm-Lunch Gr. 3-8
12:15-12:45 pm-Lunch Gr. K-2
12:15-12:45 pm-Noon Recess Gr. 3-8
2:15-2:35 pm-Recess Gr. 3-8
2:40-3:00 pm-Recess Gr. K-2
3:30 pm-Classes dismiss
3:40 pm-Students on buses home

PICTURE DAY IS COMING

Thursday, November 19, 2020
Retake Day! Penson School

What to Expect:

- Students are photographed on Picture Day
- Pictures are sent home with your child
- Review pictures & purchase on mylifetouch.ca

Questions? Please contact Customer Service at 866-457-8212.

28088 HPO1025902 HPO1000229R

© 2020 Lifetouch Canada LLC

All students will be photographed. Please notify your child's teacher if you do not want an individual picture taken of your child. Your child may be included in a group picture requested by the school.

Penson School Newsletter—Sign Up for our school newsletter on our Penson School webpage; our newsletter will then be sent to your e-mail when published.

Sign up for our newsletter & keep in touch

Your Email

GO

THE SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR IS GOING ON NOW!



It's here! Penson School's **Scholastic Virtual Book Fair** has begun! Our very own shopping site will be open from **November 2 to November 16, 2020**.

<http://scholastic.ca/bookfairs/resources/videos> - These short, fun videos introduce young readers to new characters, authors, or even a series, that they may not have considered before, creating a wonderful world of empathy, adventure, and fun!

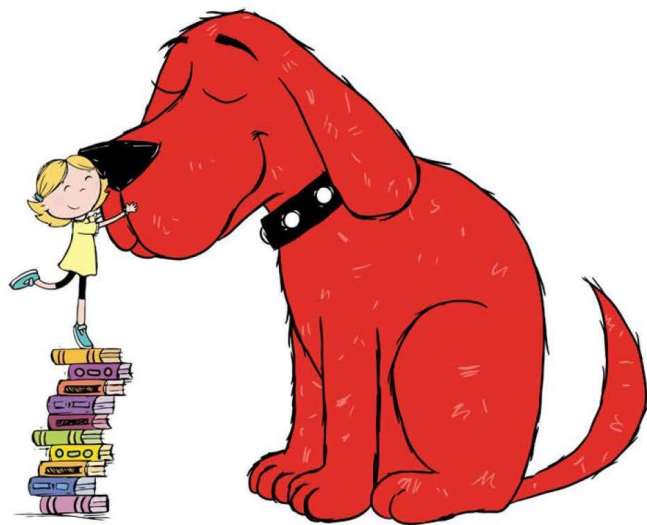
<https://bookfairs-canada.myshopify.com/pages/5148975>

Share this link with Grandparents, too! Extended family and community members can also participate in the **Virtual Book Fair** from the comfort of home.

Remember, all purchases benefit our school and earn **Rewards** that can be redeemed for books for our school's library.

Thank you for participating in our
Scholastic Virtual Book Fair!

Happy reading!



Permission to reproduce this item is
granted by Scholastic Book Fairs®

 **SCHOLASTIC**

CLIFFORD THE BIG RED DOG
Illustration © 2020 The Norman
Bridwell Trust. All rights reserved.

COVID-19 INFO

STAY AT HOME GUIDE

STEPS TO TAKE IF YOUR CHILD HAS SYMPTOMS



Students with symptoms must not attend school. Keep your child at home. Call Health Link 811 or your child's doctor, and fill out the [AHS Online Assessment Tool](#) to determine if your child should be tested for COVID-19.

<https://myhealth.alberta.ca/Journey/COVID-19/Pages/COVID-Self-Assessment.aspx>

Call 911 immediately if your child experiences severe symptoms of COVID-19, including difficulty breathing, severe chest pain, feelings of confusion or loss of consciousness.

IF A STUDENT HAS THESE CORE SYMPTOMS:

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Loss of taste or smell

WHAT TO DO:

- Isolate at home for a minimum of 10 days from when symptoms started or until symptoms resolve, whichever is longer.
- COVID-19 testing is recommended.
- Can return to school before 10 days only if a COVID-19 test is negative, symptoms are gone, and the student was not a close contact of someone with COVID-19.
- Do not enter any long-term care settings for 10 days and until symptoms have resolved.
- If test results are positive, isolate at home for at least 10 days and follow instructions received from Alberta Health Services.

I believe my child's symptoms are due to allergies or a pre-existing medical condition.

1. Have your child tested for COVID-19 **at least once** to establish a baseline health status for your child.
2. Make sure the school has a record of any pre-existing conditions.
3. As long as the symptom is always the same and does not get worse, your child can attend school.

IF A STUDENT HAS ONE OF THE FOLLOWING OTHER SYMPTOMS:

- Chills
- Sore throat/painful swallowing
- Runny nose/congestion
- Headache
- Muscle or joint aches
- Feeling unwell/fatigued
- Nausea, vomiting or diarrhea
- Unexplained loss of appetite
- Pink eye (Conjunctivitis)

WHAT TO DO:

- Stay home from school and monitor for 24 hours. If after 24 hours your symptoms improve, you may return to school when you are feeling better.
- A COVID-19 test is not required but is available.
- Do not enter any long-term care settings for 10 days and until symptoms have resolved.

If a child has any 2 of these symptoms, or after 24 hours, their condition gets worse or they develop a second symptom:

- COVID-19 test recommended.
- May return to school after symptoms are gone, even without a COVID-19 test or results.
- Do not enter any long-term care settings for 10 days and until symptoms have resolved.
- If test results are positive, isolate at home for at least 10 days and follow instructions received from Alberta Health Services.

Source: If A Student Shows Symptoms, retrieved on November 2, 2020 from www.alberta.ca/k-to-12-school-re-entry-2020-21-school-year.aspx

October 30, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Many children have returned to school, childcare programs and activities; and parents and providers have taken seriously their responsibility to protect them from COVID-19. I know it has been a challenging time and I sincerely thank everyone for their continued efforts.

Your actions to keep your children safe, such as checking them daily for symptoms and using the Alberta Health daily checklist are much appreciated. We developed the symptom checklist – just as we have developed all public health measures – using the best evidence available as well as what we have learned from other jurisdictions.

Over the past two months, we have seen few cases of transmission occurring in schools and licensed and approved childcare programs in Alberta. While cases in school-aged children have risen since September, this pattern is identical to other age groups and reflects increased community transmission. Since September, only six per cent of all COVID-19 cases in those aged five to 19 have been acquired at school. We are preventing the spread of the virus in schools and childcare programs and protecting one another by working together.

My team and I continue to assess all emerging evidence to adjust our approach when it is safe to do so. This is the case now. Upon careful review of the evidence on COVID-19 symptoms for children under the age of 18, and based on what we have experienced in Alberta and our learnings from other provinces, we have revised the daily checklist for children and youth under the age of 18. This checklist also applies to those 18 and over who are students in high school. This checklist will be in effect starting November 2.

What are the changes to the symptom checklist?

The biggest change is that we have removed runny nose and sore throat from the mandatory isolation checklist. This means that any child who only has one of these symptoms will no longer be recommended for COVID-19 testing and does not need to be kept home for 10 days. Instead, they should stay home for 24 hours and monitor their condition. If they are feeling better after 24 hours, they may return to school and/or activities. If they are feeling worse, or if additional symptoms appear, they should be tested for COVID-19 and stay home until all symptoms are resolved.

This change brings Alberta in line with B.C., Ontario and Quebec, which have all made similar changes. We have discussed the changes with colleagues in these provinces, and there has been no corresponding increase in COVID-19 transmission in schools and childcare programs as a result. We have also looked at our own evidence. Of all the children under 18 who have been tested for COVID-19 recently, less than 1 per cent of those with only a runny nose or only a sore throat tested positive for COVID-19. For children who are not known to be close contacts of a COVID-19 case, having a common symptom like a runny nose or sore throat by itself does not signal a high risk of being infected.

In the new daily checklist, the core isolation symptoms are those that are more closely linked to COVID-19 infection. If a child has **ANY** of the following core symptoms: cough, fever, shortness of breath and loss of taste or smell:

- They are to isolate for 10 days OR have a negative COVID-19 test result and feel better before going back to school.

Additionally, the action for children with other symptoms will depend on both the number of symptoms and the duration of symptoms. If a child has **ONE** of the following symptoms: chills; sore throat or painful swallowing; runny nose or congestion; feeling unwell or fatigue; nausea, vomiting, diarrhea; unexplained loss of appetite; muscle or joint aches; headache; conjunctivitis (pink eye):

- They should stay home and monitor their symptom for 24 hours.
- If the symptom is improving after 24 hours, they can return to their childcare program, school or other activities when they feel well enough to go. Testing is not recommended.
- If the symptom worsens after 24 hours (or if additional symptoms appear), they are to continue to stay home and testing is recommended but not required. The child can return to their childcare program, activities and/or school when their symptoms have resolved AND it has been 24 hours or more since their symptoms started.

If the child has any **TWO** of the following: chills; sore throat or painful swallowing; runny nose or congestion; feeling unwell or fatigue; nausea, vomiting, diarrhea; unexplained loss of appetite; muscle or joint aches; headache; conjunctivitis (pink eye):

- They should stay home.
- Testing is recommended but not required.
- The child can attend school or their childcare program and other public places when their symptoms have resolved AND it has been 24 hours or more since their symptoms started.

As a parent myself, I know how challenging it can be to assess mild symptoms and make decisions about whether children are truly ill or not. It is also challenging, both for parents and children, to keep a child away from school and other activities for an

extended time, especially when symptoms are mild. The changes to the checklist will help get children back into their childcare program, the classroom and to activities as quickly and safely as possible.

Thank you for your continued efforts to keep your children and all Albertans safe. Please continue to look out for one another.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Deena Hinshaw', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Deena Hinshaw, BSc, MD, MPH, CCFP, FRCP
Chief Medical Officer of Health

COVID-19 INFORMATION

COVID-19 ALBERTA HEALTH DAILY CHECKLIST (FOR CHILDREN UNDER 18)

Overview

This checklist applies for all children, as well as all students who attend kindergarten to Grade 12, including high school students over 18. Children should be screened every day by completing this checklist before going to school, child care or other activities. Children may need a parent or guardian to assist them to complete this screening tool.

Screening Questions

1. Has the child:

(Choose any/all possible exposures)

Traveled outside Canada in the last 14 days? When entering or returning to Alberta from outside Canada, individuals are legally required to quarantine for 14 days unless enrolled in the Alberta COVID-19 International Border Pilot Project	YES	NO
Had close contact with a case of COVID-19 in the last 14 days? Face-to-face contact within 2 metres for 15 minutes or longer, or direct physical contact such as hugging	YES	NO
If the child answered "YES" to any of the above: <ul style="list-style-type: none">The child is required to quarantine for 14 days from the last day of exposure.<ul style="list-style-type: none">If the child is participating in the Alberta COVID-19 International Border Pilot Project, they must comply with the program restrictions at all times.If the child develops any symptoms, use the AHS Online Assessment Tool or call Health Link 811 to determine if testing is recommended. If the child answered "NO" to both of the above: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Proceed to question 2.		

2. Does the child have any new onset (or worsening) of the following core symptoms:

Fever Temperature of 38 degrees Celsius or higher	YES	NO
Cough Continuous, more than usual, not related to other known causes or conditions such as asthma	YES	NO
Shortness of breath Continuous, out of breath, unable to breathe deeply, not related to other known causes or conditions such as asthma	YES	NO
Loss of sense of smell or taste Not related to other known causes or conditions like allergies or neurological disorders	YES	NO
If the child answered "YES" to any symptom in question 2: <ul style="list-style-type: none">The child is to isolate for 10 days from onset of symptoms.Use the AHS Online Assessment Tool or call Health Link 811 to arrange for testing and to receive additional information on isolation. If the child answered "NO" to all of the symptoms in question 2: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Proceed to question 3.		

3. Does the child have any new onset (or worsening) of the following other symptoms:

Chills Without fever, not related to being outside in cold weather	YES	NO
Sore throat/painful swallowing Not related to other known causes/conditions, such as seasonal allergies or reflux	YES	NO
Runny nose/congestion Not related to other known causes/conditions, such as seasonal allergies or being outside in cold weather	YES	NO
Feeling unwell/fatigued Lack of energy, poor feeding in infants, not related to other known causes or conditions, such as depression, insomnia, thyroid dysfunction or sudden injury	YES	NO
Nausea, vomiting and/or diarrhea Not related to other known causes or conditions, such as anxiety, medication or irritable bowel syndrome	YES	NO
Unexplained loss of appetite Not related to other known causes or conditions, such as anxiety or medication	YES	NO
Muscle/joint aches Not related to other known causes or conditions, such as arthritis or injury	YES	NO
Headache Not related to other known causes or conditions, such as tension-type headaches or chronic migraines	YES	NO
Conjunctivitis (commonly known as pink eye)	YES	NO
<p>If the child answered “YES” to ONE symptom in question 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep your child home and monitor for 24 hours. If their symptom is improving after 24 hours, they can return to school and activities when they feel well enough to go. Testing is not necessary. If the symptom does not improve or worsens after 24 hours (or if additional symptoms emerge), use the AHS Online Assessment Tool or call Health Link 811 to check if testing is recommended. <p>If the child answered “YES” to TWO OR MORE symptoms in question 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep your child home. Use the AHS Online Assessment Tool or call Health Link 811 to determine if testing is recommended. Your child can return to school and activities once their symptoms go away as long as it has been at least 24 hours since their symptoms started. <p>If the child answered “NO” to all questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Your child may attend school, child care and/or other activities. 		

Please note: If your child is experiencing any symptoms from the lists above, do not bring them to visit a continuing care or acute care facility for 10 days from when symptoms started/until symptoms resolve (whichever is longer), unless they receive a negative COVID-19 test result and feel better.

COVID-19 INFORMATION

COVID-19 ALBERTA HEALTH DAILY CHECKLIST (FOR ADULTS 18 YEARS AND OLDER)

Overview

This tool was developed to support schools, activity organizers, employers, businesses and facility operators in reducing the risk of transmission of COVID-19 among attendees/staff. The tool is meant 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 complete 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. *Individuals with fever, cough, shortness of breath, runny nose, or sore throat, are required to isolate for 10 days per [CMOH Order 05-2020](#) **OR** receive a negative COVID-19 test and feel better before returning to activities.

Use the [AHS Online Assessment Tool](#) to determine if testing is recommended and follow information on [isolation requirements](#).

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

Screening Questions

1.	Does the attendee have any new onset (or worsening) of any of the following symptoms:	CIRCLE ONE	
		YES	NO
	• <i>Fever*</i>	YES	NO
	• <i>Cough*</i>	YES	NO
	• <i>Shortness of breath / difficulty breathing*</i>	YES	NO
	• <i>Runny nose*</i>	YES	NO
	• <i>Sore throat*</i>	YES	NO
	• Chills	YES	NO
	• Painful swallowing	YES	NO
	• 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 Canada in the last 14 days? (Individuals are legally required to quarantine for 14 days when entering or returning to Alberta from outside Canada unless exempted by the Alberta COVID-19 Border Testing Pilot Program.)	YES	NO
3.	Has the attendee had close contact ¹ with a case of COVID-19 in the last 14 days?	YES	NO

¹ Face-to-face contact within 2 metres. A health care worker in an occupational setting wearing recommended personal protective equipment is not considered to be a close contact.