

RDCRS 2021-2022 School Re-Entry Plan Parent/Guardian Information

COVID-19

Dear Parent/Guardian,

We look forward to this new school year. We wanted to share with you the safe and caring measures that will be in place to ensure an outstanding 2021-2022. As we turn to the support document from Alberta Education and Alberta Health, [2021-2022 School Year Plan](#), we have created a plan for Red Deer Catholic Schools to mitigate risks of exposure or outbreaks within our school buildings and on our buses.

The 2021–2022 School Year Plan is based upon Stage 3 reopening of Alberta’s Open for Summer Plan that sees the lifting of all COVID-19 related restrictions, including lifting the ban on indoor social gatherings. Health measures and best practices that support this plan will be published by Alberta Health, in collaboration with Alberta Education and will be communicated to school authorities. This plan is focused on a normal return to school, with in-class learning for the majority of students, in fall 2021. The plan outlines key elements for the resumption of learning, recognizing the complexities that COVID-19 brings. ([2021-2022 School Year Plan \(Alberta\)](#), p.3)

Please review the information below and if you have any questions or concerns we ask you to contact jodi.smith@rdcrs.ca. We look forward to seeing everyone at the end of August, we have missed you all. As our division theme states, Be Strong, Be Brave, Be Fearless. You Are Never Alone. We will continue to lean on each other for love, support and prayers.

God Bless,

Kathleen Finnigan - Superintendent of Schools

“Be Strong, Be Brave, Be Fearless. You Are Never Alone.

Sois fort, sois courageux, et n’aie pas peur. Dieu est toujours avec toi.”

Risk - Mitigating Measures:

Alberta Education and
Alberta Health
RECOMMENDATIONS

Sick/Ill: Alberta Education and Alberta Health have a long history of collaboration to ensure the health and safety of students and staff, including establishing health measures and best practices for schools. Parents/guardians play an essential role as they support actions in the home (such as keeping children/students home when sick and accessing testing if symptoms develop) that ultimately keep other children, students and staff safe.



If your child is sick please keep them home, similar to last year we will be contacting parents to pick up children if they are ill. Please refer to the self screening daily checklist. [Alberta Health Daily Checklist](#)

Alberta Education and
Alberta Health
RECOMMENDATIONS

Routine Measures to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19 and other respiratory illnesses will continue to include promoting and facilitating hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette, staying home when sick, maintaining ventilation, and ensuring regular cleaning and disinfection of high traffic/touch areas.



- a. Stay home if you are sick Please refer to the self screening daily checklist. [Alberta Health Daily Checklist](#)
- b. Regular hand washing will be promoted and signage will be shared
- c. Hand sanitizer at all entrances and in classrooms (Soapopular)
- d. Oxivir in every classroom, allowing staff to disinfect when needed
- e. Plexiglass barriers will remain in place to further support mitigating transmission risk.
- f. All infirmaries will remain stocked with masks, gloves & disinfectant to isolate any child who is ill prior to parents/guardians picking them up.
- g. All ventilation systems will be set to the highest level and the filters will be rotated 3 times a year.
- h. Mid-day cleaners to disinfect all high traffic/high touch areas
- i. Mask use is optional except on buses which is mandatory (Prek - Grade 12) until September 27, 2021

Alberta Education and
Alberta Health
RECOMMENDATIONS

Cohorts/Quarantine: Please note, because there is not yet a vaccine for children under 12 years of age, there may be recommendations to cohort younger children in order to avoid large numbers of young children in quarantine. It is expected that isolation and quarantine requirements and subsequent contact tracing will continue to evolve with provincial requirements as immunization rates continue to increase.



We are following the new mandate from Alberta Government and there is no longer contact tracing taking place with Alberta Health Services. If you are symptomatic please stay home.

However, if you are not symptomatic please return to school.

Alberta Education and
Alberta Health
RECOMMENDATIONS

Outbreaks: Additional measures may be considered or recommended if a school experiences a COVID-19 outbreak. If a school is experiencing an outbreak, one or more outbreak measures may be implemented. Examples of these outbreak measures include; active health screening with questionnaires, increasing frequency of cleaning and disinfection, maintaining classroom cohorts, mask recommendations, and/or limiting extra-curricular activities.



We will begin our school year as "normal" being mindful of the potential outbreaks. If a school experiences an outbreak we will move into potential quarantining recommendations, eliminating extra curricular activities, limiting visitors, returning to cohorting and masks. Each school may look different due to demographics.

Alberta Education and
Alberta Health
RECOMMENDATIONS

Mental Wellness Supports and services incorporated into the inclusive learning environment for all learners, including but not limited to quality instruction and providing welcoming, caring, respectful and safe and respectful learning environments. Many resources are listed on page 10 of the government back to school document. One example is listed below:

Alberta Health Service : [Healthy Together](#)



Our schools will be providing support through universal counseling and strategies, family school enhancement counseling home/community support, & administrator support. Please reach out to your child's classroom teacher if your family has specific needs. We are here to help.

Important Links to Review:

[Alberta -Preparing for a New School Year](#)

[Guidance for Respiratory Illness Prevention and Management at Schools](#)

[Parent Guide for the 2021-2022 School Year](#)

[Parent Letter, August 13, 2021](#)