

Frequently Asked Questions

August 7, 2020

The responses are based on guidance from Alberta Education and the Chief Medical Office. These questions will be updated as more information becomes available.

You can find the government COVID-19 information [here](#) and also a government document [Get the facts: Back to class for 2020-21](#).

	Question	Response
1.	What will be the expectations of students entering the school?	<p>The COVID-19 Survey Questionnaire will be provided to all families. All parents/guardians need to be committed to completing the questionnaire on a daily basis and if the child can answer no to each question, the child may attend school.</p> <p>The questionnaire does not have to be submitted to the school on a daily basis as we trust all parents/guardians to support this procedure in their morning routine.</p>
2.	What are some of the health precautions we will see in schools?	Our schools will have enhanced cleaning of high touch areas, hand sanitizer at each entrance and classroom, wipes available in various locations, limited visitor access, daily screening protocols, and Grades 4-12 students and all staff will wear masks when physical distancing is not possible.
3.	What will be the expectations of parents entering the school?	On a day to day basis, parents/guardians and caregivers should remain outside the school to pick-up and drop off their children. If entry to the school is required they will go through the visitor protocol.
4.	What will the expectations of students be in hallways?	Schools will set out procedures that work for their individual situation to limit the number of transitions and the number of students in the hallway at one time.
5.	Do students in Grades 4-12 need to wear masks for the entire day?	No, the guidelines indicate that students need to wear them the entire time on a bus, in common areas of the school (ie. Hallways during breaks and entranceways), and in the class if students are not facing the front.
6.	Will staff need to purchase their own masks?	<p>Alberta Education and BTPS will provide 2 reusable masks for each staff member. It is up to the staff member to ensure that the masks are cleaned properly every day for wear.</p> <p>Alberta Education mandated masks for all staff on August 4, 2020.</p> <p>Information on how to launder masks is available here.</p>

Buffalo Trail Public Schools is committed to maximizing student learning, in a safe and caring environment, supported by a highly effective team.

7.	What mental health/psychological supports are available for students and staff?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mental Health Helpline: Phone: 1-877-303-2642 • Kids Help Phone: 1-800-668-6868 • Employee and Family Assistance Program (EFAP) - 1-888-384-1152 • BTPS Social Emotional Coach (SEC) Program: For more information about the Social-Emotional Coach Program, please contact your school Principal, Assistant Principal, Inclusive Learning Teacher, and/or ask for the Social-Emotional Coach. • Human Services Directory (Local community resources) • Wainwright on Wellness (WOW - MHCB) • Vermilion Is Being Empowered (VIBE - MHCB)
8.	What will masks look like in a grade 3/4 combined classroom?	Grade 4 students are mandated to wear masks. It is recommended that Grade 3 students wear masks in grade 3/4 classrooms.
9.	Will students have to remain in one specific cohort or group during the day?	Schools should try to minimize the number of teachers who interact with a group of students as Alberta Ed has indicated this is recommended where possible. Where possible, teachers should move between students. Where possible, class times (and recess) should be staggered when students need to be in the hallway.
10.	If my child gets sick and has to self-isolate at home, what school support is available?	Any student who is sick or has to self-isolate will be provided homework similar to the manner that was provided prior to COVID-19.
11.	For a combined triple split Physical Education class with more than 15 students conducted outside, 2 meters apart, do you still have to follow the 15 students to a cohort?	There is not a 15 student grouping limit. Physical distancing of 2 m should be maintained unless students have masks. The proper hand hygiene needs to be followed for exiting and entering the gym or outside. Students will have seating plans on busses and in classrooms.
12.	Who will provide hand sanitizer? Are there hand sanitizers that we are not allowed to use?	BTPS and Alberta Education will be providing hand sanitizer. Any student or staff who wish to bring their own needs to check with the school before bringing to school as there is a government list of approved sanitizers .
13.	Will parents and volunteers be permitted in the schools?	We value parents and volunteers; however, during re-entry, we will need to limit the number of visitors to each school. We will have procedures for all parents, volunteers and visitors to our schools during this time and will communicate those closer to the start up.
14.	Will schools have additional custodial hours or a new custodial schedule?	We are arranging custodians to be in the schools for some of the day to enhance cleaning while school is in session. More information on scheduling will be available closer to school start up.
15.	Will my high school student get all the required courses during school start up?	Schools will offer regular programming following the guidelines of Alberta Education and the Chief Medical Officer.
16.	What will happen with BTPS sports? Other groups such as Drama or Leadership clubs?	All school divisions are awaiting direction and guidance from the Alberta Government and the Alberta Schools' Athletic Association (ASAA) with respect to the sports that occur in the fall. For specific sports in physical education our schools will follow the Guidance for Sport, Physical Activity and Recreation . Most extra-curricular clubs need to maintain the physical distancing rules and other Alberta Health requirements. Most curricular programs will be able to function but will require modifications so certain activities meet the

		<p>direction/guidance of the Chief Medical Officer of Health. Discussions and more information will need to come from the Re-entry committee about travel etc.</p> <p>Drama - Re-entry committee is discussing and more information to follow.</p>
17.	What if someone gets sick at school?	<p>Anyone who develops symptoms while on the bus or at school will be required to wear a mask immediately. Each school will be provided masks. The student who has developed symptoms will be isolated and their parent/guardian contacted for immediate pick up.</p> <p>All staff and students who have symptoms will need to follow the Alberta Health guidelines.</p>
18.	What expectations are there for elementary students with recess play?	<p>There are guidelines that are established for playground use which establishes that physical distancing of 2 m needs to be maintained. Individual schools may stagger recess to limit the number of students on the play area.</p>
19.	What is the plan for classes showing in the schedule that are outside of the core subjects? Music, Foods, Construction, Art, Gym – will they be continuing as normal or do they become theory classes or something else?	<p>Guidelines for in person learning Page 6 - Alberta School Re-entry Plan</p>
20.	What are the enhanced cleaning procedures and safety supports that will be in our schools?	<p>High touch areas are cleaned multiple times throughout the day, there will be hand sanitizer at the entrances and in the classrooms, wipes are available in the schools, there is an app for visitors to the school to fill out upon entry to determine if they are healthy. All visitors will wear masks.</p>
21.	How will hand washing and sanitizing be taught and supported?	<p>Staff will educate students on appropriate hand and respiratory hygiene. Hand sanitizer will be available at building and classroom entrances throughout the school and hand hygiene will be performed regularly including when entering and exiting the school and classrooms, after washroom use, and before and after eating. Students will be continually reminded of hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette by staff and through the use of age appropriate posters.</p>
22.	What are the expectations of students before they enter school?	<p>Parents/guardians will need to screen for symptoms every morning. This is part of the parent/guardian role.</p>
23.	What information can be shared with parents/guardians?	<p>Alberta Education has developed a parent guide which we will share in our next week's communication. We have a letter going out today to staff and also parents/guardians.</p>
24.	Will schools have Attendance Awards?	<p>BTPS is not recommending Student Attendance Awards in 2020-21.</p>
26	What should I do if I have a concern and/or a question(s) about my child/student returning to school during the pandemic, if they have diverse learning needs, physical/medical needs, behavioural needs, and/or social-emotional needs? Who should I contact?	<p>Parents/guardians should contact and share their concern/question(s) with their child/student's school Administrator and/or classroom teacher.</p>

27	How can staff and parents/guardians stay connected with information?	We have information posted on our BTPS website, our schools will have information about specifics to their schools and the division will update via email when additional information is available.
28	How are we preparing for a possible move into scenario 2 or 3?	<p>Should Alberta Education move us into scenario 2, parents will see that scenario 1 and 2 are very similar except for two significant differences. The number of students in our schools is to be limited significantly and true physical distancing (two metres spacing) becomes more critical. Depending on the size and context of the school, your students may not attend every day and would be completing a blend of at-home and in-person learning.</p> <p>Should we be moved into scenario 3, learning would look very similar to what occurred during the emergency shut down.</p> <p>Our teachers now have experience with programming online and will be more prepared to make a switch should the need arise.</p> <p>Health officials will continue to work with BTPS to make the decision to transition to partial in-class learning or at-home learning based on multiple factors including the number of COVID-19 cases in a community or a school and the risk of ongoing transmission.</p>