

Updated COVID-19 Protocols ... updated September 23, 2021



Important Note: As per Alberta Health Services' updated Daily Checklist, there are [new provincial protocols](#) for individuals who have been exposed to a case of COVID-19 in their household.

As per the provincial government's [COVID-19 measures](#) that were announced on September 15, Chinook's Edge is providing an update on how this impacts our schools during these temporary measures:

- Masks have been mandated for students in grades 4-12 and all school staff. Chinook's Edge will follow the same mask routine in classrooms as last year. (*Individuals who are unable to wear a face mask due to a qualifying health condition as determined by an authorized medical doctor, will qualify for a mask exemption*). For details on Alberta Health mask requirements, including information on mask exemption conditions, please [refer to this link](#). Chinook's Edge did inquire about individual school exemptions, but our schools do not qualify as 2 metre social distancing at all times is not possible. We also inquired about mask exemptions for grade 4 students in K-4 buildings.
- School staff meetings and school council meetings will be postponed or moved online.
- Visitors - by appointment only, will be permitted in school buildings. Appointments with external consultants (non CESD Staff) will be postponed during these temporary measures. All visitors must wear masks.
- Sports, music and fine arts activities for *students* will be permitted.
- Spectators - no spectators will be permitted for K-12 indoor athletic and performance events. (Previously planned activities, such as award ceremonies, that planned to take place prior to September 20 must adhere to 1/3 fire code capacity, attendees are limited to a single household or 2 close contacts if living alone and must be masked and maintain 2 metres physical distancing. All others must be moved online or postponed.)
- Outdoor school celebrations and events during the school day will be limited to students and staff temporarily.
- K-6 Cohorts - Please resume your school's classroom routines from last school year.
- Sharing resources, manipulatives, technology and other materials amongst cohorts is permitted.
- Community use of schools will be paused during these temporary measures.
- Field trips may continue if they meet the provincial guidelines.
- Parent Teacher Interviews will be held virtually until further notice. Special circumstances must be discussed with the principal.
- Full school assemblies will continue to be postponed until further notice.
- All Division Office meetings will move to an online format until further notice.
- [Isolation is still legally required](#) for people who have COVID-19 symptoms or tested positive.
- [COVID-19 testing for Albertans with symptoms](#) remains available at assessment centres.
- All other protocols that were in place for school start-up are unchanged:
 - Please continue to refer to this [Alberta Health Daily Checklist](#) to monitor your child for symptoms of COVID-19. Please let your child's teacher know of any pre-existing conditions your child may have, to ensure these won't be mistaken for COVID-19 symptoms.
 - Schools will continue to practice good public health practices to help reduce the risk of transmission, including proper hand hygiene.
 - Chinook's Edge will be closely monitoring student absences and will report to Alberta Health Services if any of our schools experience a **10 percent or higher illness absenteeism rate**.
 - Any food brought from home for sharing must be distributed by school staff - purchased/prepackaged food from home only at this time, nothing homemade. School Nutrition programs may continue.
 - Chinook's Edge will continue to **clean and disinfect** high touch surfaces each day, and provide hand sanitizer in multiple areas throughout each school. Buses will continue to be sanitized after each route. Carpets may be used in classrooms; however, cloth furniture is not permitted due to difficulty in sanitizing.
 - AHS will be holding voluntary **COVID-19 vaccination clinics** in certain schools for students and staff. Details on this AHS vaccination program will be sent to parents - vaccinations will only happen with a student who has written parent consent. **Chinook's Edge is strongly recommending that our staff get vaccinated.**