

COVID-19 Protocols

... updated September 8, 2021



As we prepared for school start-up, Chinook's Edge provided a message to parents and staff on August 25 indicating that our approach as a school division was to follow the guidance of the health experts at Alberta Health Services. We continue to take our lead from the Chief Medical Officer of Health and, as she has recently announced [new measures](#) with regard to COVID-19, we are providing an update on how this impacts our schools:

- **Masks have been mandated in all indoor public spaces and workplaces, but no masking changes are mandated in schools.** Masking will not be mandatory in Chinook's Edge schools and classrooms, but masks are required for all students and staff on school buses. Chinook's Edge continues to support students and staff who choose to wear a mask in our schools.
- Masks will be mandatory at Chinook's Edge Division Office and other non-school facilities which do not fall within the exemption for schools.
- The front doors will be open at our schools, but **parents and visitors are required to make a prior appointment** with the school office. All visitors will be asked to use sign-in sheets and wear masks while in the school. Special events will be modified to limit the number of visitors inside school buildings.
- Sports, music and fine arts activities will be permitted. These events will be considered an extension of school activities for staff and students, and masks will be voluntary. For all others in attendance, masks will be mandatory.
- Full school assemblies will 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 employ **good public health practices** to help reduce the risk of transmission of respiratory infections (including COVID-19, influenza and common colds) among students, staff and visitors. Details are available [here](#).
 - 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 absenteeism rate**. If an outbreak occurs we may require masking if directed by AHS.
 - Any food brought from home for sharing must be distributed by school staff.
 - Community use of schools is permitted.
 - 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.
 - Chinook's Edge **field trips** within the province of Alberta may resume effective September 9th.
 - AHS will be holding voluntary **COVID-19 vaccination clinics** in our schools for students and staff. Details on this AHS vaccination program will be sent to parents. Chinook's Edge is strongly recommending that our staff get vaccinated.

As the COVID-19 situation continues to change, Chinook's Edge will remain highly vigilant of safety protocols and will review these items regularly.