

Re-Entry for School Year 2021-2021

Frequently Asked Questions

The Alberta Education 2021-2022 School Year Plan is found on the Alberta Education [website](#). To support this Back to School Plan we have answered some questions below. The responses are based on guidance from Alberta Education and Alberta Health Services. These questions and the responses will be updated as more information becomes available or as health guidelines change. Please see the *Frequently Asked Questions* source documents below.

- [School Year Plan 2021-2022 Alberta Education \(August 13, 2021 edition\)](#)
- [Guidance for Respiratory Illness Prevention and Management in Schools](#)
- [Questions and Answers for School Administrators](#)
- **NEW** [Alberta Health Daily Checklist \(August 13, 2021\)](#)
- [Learning During COVID \(Alberta Education\)](#)
- [Parent letter from the Chief Medical Officer of Health](#)
- [Parent Guide for the 2021-2022 School Year](#)

Question	Response
What do parents/guardians need to know for Day 1 of school start up?	<p>Schools start on August 31, 2021. All Grades 1 - 9 students will attend school on this day. Kindergarten students may have alternate dates and individual schools will contact parents/guardians. Some schools may have alternative schedules please watch for school communication.</p> <p>Alberta Education's School Year Plan is here. We anticipate receiving updated information before school starts.</p>

Will Alberta Health Services test for COVID-19 and follow up with COVID-19 positive people?

Alberta Health Services will work with individuals that test positive for COVID-19. Parents and students may share information on a COVID-19 positive test result with your school, and Red Deer Catholic is not required to provide this information to Alberta Health Services.

Where staff have a positive COVID-19 test result or COVID-19 related symptoms, they are needed to ensure they inform their supervisor/school principal and the Director of Human Services.

There is still isolation for anyone with COVID-19 symptoms and for confirmed positive cases for up to ten (10) days. In the case of COVID-19 symptoms, where the student or staff member has a negative COVID-19 test result and no longer has symptoms may return to school or the workplace.

There is no longer contact tracing for staff or students in schools unless required by Alberta Health Services. As such, Red Deer Catholic nor schools will send out communications relating to positive COVID cases unless required by Alberta Health Services.

Will students and staff have to wear masks?

All students and staff (Prek - Grade 12) must wear masks on school buses & city transit at this time. Please note this includes all charters for field trips, athletics and/or mass. This will be re-evaluated on September 27, 2021

At this time, masks are optional for students and staff in school buildings. We recognize that masks add additional protection and many staff and students will choose to wear them. We support all decisions that are being made for personal wellbeing.

What are some of the health precautions that we will see in schools?

Red Deer Catholic will implement routine measures to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission which include having all staff and students remain at home when they are ill, enhanced disinfecting of high touch areas, facilitating hand hygiene with hand sanitizer at each entrance and classroom, and we will continue to provide Oxivir for each classroom to disinfect as needed.

Will students have a seating plan on the bus?

Students have a seating plan on a bus and are no longer required to cohort or be with siblings; however, this year, the first one on the bus does not have to load at the back of the bus. Bus drivers will assign seats to the students during the first week of school. Students are expected to remain in their seats for the duration of the bus ride and wear their masks.

Enhanced safety measures for disinfecting will occur on the bus.

Will students be cohorted during the day?

Students will no longer be required to be cohorted in schools unless required by Alberta Health Services.

Will parents/guardians and visitors be allowed into the school?

We are eager to welcome back our parents/guardians and volunteers into our schools. Schools will determine when and which visitors will be allowed, and the process for doing so.

We ask that everyone be cognizant of the impact of extra people in each of our schools.

Do parents/guardians and visitors to the school need to wear masks?

There is no requirement to wear masks, and masks may be worn if this is a preference for the individual.

What will happen with sports, clubs and other extracurricular activities?

All activities are able to proceed without COVID-19 restrictions.

Red Deer Catholic will follow guidelines that are sent out by Alberta Education and Alberta Schools' Athletic Association.

Will schools move to at-home learning during the year?

For students who are registered for in person learning, a shift to at-home learning will not be available for students unless required by Alberta Health Services.

RDCRS will continue to operate our At Home Learning Program for families to choose as an instructional option. Students remain a part of their catchment school community but receive online instruction from division teachers. If you are wanting to enroll your child in this program, please contact your catchment school principal. We ask families to commit to this program for one full semester (Sept. - Jan. / Jan. - Jun.). Enrollment outside of these timelines is available on a case by case basis and can be coordinated through the catchment school principal.

What mental health/psychological supports are available for students and staff?

- Mental Health Helpline: Phone: 1-877-303-2642
- Kids Help Phone: 1-800-668-6868
- [Red Deer Youth Resource Guide](#)
- [MORE - Menstrual Health Online Resources for Educators \(AHS\)](#)
- [Wellness Together Canada](#)

