

School re-entry

2021–2022 Back to School Plan Argyll Centre and Metro Continuing Education

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Message from the Superintendent

Parents, families and guardians,

Edmonton Public Schools looks forward to welcoming back more than 106,000 students for the 2021–22 school year. September is an exciting time—a new chapter and fresh start for our students, families and staff. Unchanged is our focus on high-quality teaching and learning in environments that keep everyone as safe as possible.

On August 13, the Government of Alberta announced further details about returning to school this year and released its Guidance for Respiratory Illness Prevention and Management in Schools. With the availability of vaccines, the province has indicated it will be a normal return to school this fall.

Provincial direction and feedback from families have helped determine what the start of the school year will look like for our Division. Last year, families told us they felt safe sending their children to learn in person during the pandemic because we had specific health and safety measures in place in schools, like regular hand washing, wearing masks, staying home when sick, and extra cleaning.

You'll be familiar with many of the school routines and safety strategies that are in place again this school year. We will continue to monitor information available to the Division and adjust our plan throughout the year, as we look forward to returning to a near-normal school environment.

As we prepare to welcome our students and staff back to in-person and online learning in September, we continue to be guided by three key themes:

- safety
- family choice
- high-quality teaching and learning

Safety First

Edmonton Public Schools will continue to use a range of safety strategies that work together to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19. These strategies include:

- requiring the use of masks for all students and staff
- daily health screening for students and staff before coming to school
- a stay-at-home protocol for those who are sick
- enhanced cleaning and disinfecting in schools and on yellow buses
- encouraging physical distancing where possible
- creating cohorts of students where possible

- hand hygiene requirements for students and staff
- partnering with Alberta Health to host vaccination clinics in schools

We based these measures on what we know about COVID-19 right now, including highly-transmissible variants of concern, with the safety of students and staff at heart. We intend to revisit these measures throughout the year, in response to changing public health information, such as vaccination rates.

We are looking forward to bringing back many of the events and activities that help make schools an engaging, fun and enriching environment for students. The wearing of masks provides a layer of safety that will enable us to do so much sooner.

Family Choice

Our Division will continue to offer families a choice between in-person and online learning for the first half of the school year. Our goal is to ensure all students receive a high-quality education, no matter what option they choose. It's our sincerest hope that we will be able to bring all students back to in-person learning for the second half of the school year.

High Quality Teaching and Learning

Just as we do every fall, teachers will be assessing students to confirm where they are at in their learning, with a focus on literacy and numeracy growth. This information will help teachers meet students where they are at in their individual learning journey and inform programming.

Similar to how we approached learning last year, we are coordinating in-person and online teaching to make sure students across the Division learn outcomes from the curriculum at the same time during the school year. This will reduce possible disruptions that are caused by the pandemic and support our anticipated transition to in-person learning for all students in the second semester.

Every School is Different

Our Division has more than 200 schools, each with unique student needs, grade levels and learning spaces. You'll notice parts of the plan offer flexibility for local, school-based decisions. Working with their staff, families and students, each school will determine how to move forward this year under the direction and guidance of our plan to create a safe school community focused on high-quality teaching and learning.

Shared Responsibility

I know that throughout the year, we will continue to work together to keep one another safe. It's a responsibility we all take seriously. We are looking forward to welcoming our students and staff back and to another exciting school year.



Darrel Robertson
Superintendent of Schools
Edmonton Public Schools

Message from the Director

Dear Students and Families,

The entire staff of Argyll Centre and Metro Continuing Education are genuinely thrilled to welcome students to the 2021-2022 school year.

Over the last year and across this summer, Argyll Centre and Metro Continuing Education have planned extensively to provide a wide range of high quality learning experiences within a commitment to maintain safety as well as flexibility and meaningful choice in education. Argyll Centre is taking on the role of the Division's full-year online option and has created two different types of virtual learning programming to maximise family choice. Metro Continuing Education will continue to provide virtual as well as hybrid (in-person) classes across a range of different programs.

We have been mindful of guidelines provided by the Province of Alberta, Alberta Health Services (AHS), and Edmonton Public Schools. As well, we have listened to families with a range of needs and thoughts. In balancing these, we have created a breadth of choice within the safety protocols that we are committed to upholding.

Protecting the health and safety of our school community continues to be the top priority, and we take this responsibility and duty of care seriously. Our protocols, procedures, and options are intended to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission, but do not fully eliminate risk.

This document is an overview and update on Argyll and Metro's Back to School Plan. This handbook provides insight into many important aspects of the different programs across the two sites. Please keep in mind that our procedures will be an evolving process throughout the year as we are given further guidance by the Province of Alberta, Alberta Health Services (AHS), and Edmonton Public Schools.

As we set off into the third school year in a row that has been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, we are cognisant that there are a range of varying emotions, concerns, and comfort-levels. We are committed to being proactive in creating a respectful and safe environment and responding to changes as they arise.

We appreciate your support and patience as we endeavour to provide both high quality learning as well as care for our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "P. Jean Stiles". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr. P. Jean Stiles, Director of Argyll Centre and Metro Continuing Education

Argyll Centre and Metro Continuing Education Back to School Plan 2021-2022

We are committed to the safety and well-being of staff, students and families. Our Division and school's Back to School Plan may exceed the provincial requirements when we feel that extra precautions are necessary to reduce the risk of Covid-19 in our school community. Our plan has been developed around three key themes:

- ✓ safety
- ✓ family choice
- ✓ high-quality teaching and learning.

The safety and well-being of staff, students and families is the foundation of this Back to School Plan. Our school-based protocols are intended to mitigate or reduce the risk of COVID-19, but do not eliminate all risk. Our plan's focus on safety does not depend on one single strategy, but many strategies that work together to support the safest environment possible within the complex dynamics of our school community.

The Division, and our school, will reassess throughout the fall and adapt measures, as needed, based on public health recommendations and vaccination rates for students who are over 12 years of age.

More information about the provincial contingency scenarios is included in the [Government of Alberta's 2021–2022 School Year Plan](#). To support families, the province has also released a [parents' guide for the 2021–22 school year](#).

Planning the Return to School

Safety and Wellbeing

Masking

Masks are an important way to mitigate the risk of spreading COVID-19, especially now as Alberta is still working toward all eligible individuals being fully vaccinated and children under 12 cannot yet be vaccinated.

Masks will also enable us to more quickly reintroduce many events that were postponed throughout the pandemic. With the extra level of safety that masks provide, we can slowly reintroduce parts of school life such as field trips, volunteers and special in-person events.

All staff and students in Kindergarten to Grade 12, as well as adult students, will be required to wear a mask while in our buildings. This applies to all Metro (Avonmore / Mckee ELI) and Caraway (Argyll Centre / Terrace Heights) students, staff, and possible volunteers.

Throughout the school year, Edmonton Public Schools will monitor health information and data related to the pandemic to help determine our ability to safely ease the use of masks for some or all students.

Some important things to know about the use of masks are:

- masks are required for staff who are wearing face shields
- masks are included on our school supply lists for families (Students are encouraged to bring their own

personal hand sanitizer and are required to have a mask. We recommend that each day, students wear one mask and bring a couple of extra masks in a sealed plastic bag.)

- Should a student forget their mask, disposable masks are available in our front foyer at the reception
- individuals who are physically, psychologically or developmentally unable to wear a mask, and those who cannot wear one for reasons under the Alberta Human Rights Act, may be excused from this health protocol—families should talk with school administration if this applies to their child

Physical Access - Argyll Centre

Argyll Virtual Students (Asynchronous and Synchronous)

Until further assessment as to COVID-19 protocol from the Division, students and families of virtual programming students will not be allowed into the building. All communication and contact with the school should be via email or phone. Please check the Textbook and Resource Collection Procedure Section for an explanation of this process.

Caraway Program (Argyll Centre Terrace Heights)

Until further assessment as to COVID-19 protocol from the Division, Caraway students, staff, and families will follow a process that is inline with the guidance provided by Edmonton Public Schools.

<p>Entering and Exiting Argyll Centre</p>	<p>Students will be welcomed into the building starting at 8:30 am, with classes commencing at 8:43 am. Students will be released from classes at 3:48 pm and are asked to be out of the building by 4 pm. This schedule is for every Monday through Thursday, and the thirteen Friday in-building days.</p> <p>Students in the Purple Room (room 1 - kindergarten to grade two), the Green Room (room 2 - grade four to grade six), and the Blue Room (room 3 - grades two and three) will enter and exit through the west doors only.</p> <p>Students in the Red Room (room k - grades seven to nine), the Yellow Room (room 4 - grades four to six), and anyone entering into room 5, will enter and exit through the south doors only.</p>
<p>Cohorting and Physical Distancing</p>	<p>All students will stay in their cohorted groups at lunch and during break/recess times. The cohorts are based on which classroom the student is assigned.</p> <p>All students will use the washrooms in the Caraway wing only, and will not be permitted into the rest of the building or to use the main entrance in order to contain any possible community spread. This includes using only the west and south doors exclusively for all purposes.</p> <p>Caraway staff will be asked to use the Sensory Room (room five) as the staff lunch room for the time being. The room will be fitted temporarily with a fridge, a coffee (Keurig) machine, a microwave, and tables and chairs. This will be a temporary measure until further guidance is given by the Province, AHS, or Division.</p>

Volunteers and Lunch Supervisors	<p>Volunteers will be welcomed into the building in October. Unless there is new guidance from the Province, AHS, or Division in the interim, all volunteers will be expected to follow Division rules around masking (at all times while indoors), cohorting, and social distancing. They will also be asked to use the entrances assigned to the cohort that they are volunteering with.</p> <p>Lunch supervisors are being hired as students are expected to be sitting and eating in their cohorts. Cohorts are expected to be maintained if students choose to spend lunch or recess outdoors.</p>
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Physical Access - Metro Continuing Education (Main Campus - Avonmore, the Bennett Centre & McKee - English Language Institute)

Entering and Exiting Metro	<p>Students will be welcomed into the building 30 minutes prior to the start of classes. When students are released from classes they are asked to leave the building at that time.</p> <p>Students in upstairs classrooms will enter and exit Metro through the South end doors.</p> <p>Students in downstairs classrooms will enter and exit Metro through the doors at Customer Service.</p> <p>Visitors who are meeting with Customer Services and/or Student Services will enter and exit the building through the doors at Customer Service and will need to check in with Customer Service.</p>
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Cohorting and Physical Distancing at Metro	<p>All students will stay in their cohorted groups/classrooms at lunch and during break times. The cohorts are based on which classroom the student is assigned. During break time, students will be asked to go outside instead of gathering in the hallways.</p> <p>All students will use the washroom on the same floor as their classroom. Washrooms will have a limit on capacity.</p> <p>The student lounge will not be open to students at this time, unless they are accompanied by their teacher/instructor.</p>
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Entering and Exiting McKee School	<p>Students and their children will be welcomed into the building 30 minutes prior to the start of classes. When students are released from classes they are asked to gather their children and leave the building at that time.</p> <p>Students and their children will use the designated ELI doors for entering and</p>
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	exiting the building.
Cohorting and Physical Distancing at McKee School	<p>All students will stay in their cohorted groups/classrooms at lunch and during break times. The cohorts are based on which classroom the student is assigned.</p> <p>During break time, students will be asked to go outside instead of gathering in the hallways.</p> <p>All students will use the designated ELI washroom. Washrooms will have a limit on capacity.</p>

Entering and Exiting The Bennett Centre	<p>Following Division guidance, the Bennett Centre will be working to provide virtual field trip experiences for students across Edmonton Public Schools during the first part of the year.</p> <p>As the year progresses, and based on further guidance, schools will be welcomed to visit the Bennett Centre for day trips. We will follow all Division safety protocols including masking, cohorting, and social distancing. Overnight field trips will remain suspended until further notice.</p> <p>The Bennett Centre will work with schools on creating in depth permission forms that are sent home prior to the field trips that outline COVID-19 protocols. As always, parents can choose whether their child participates in field trips.</p>
Cohorting and Physical Distancing at McKee School	<p>Students will be grouped in cohorts throughout visits to the Bennett Centre. Students are required to wear masks and practice social distancing at all times. Elementary students must remain in the regular cohort group for any field trips, including on the bus and at the field trip location.</p>

Physical Distancing

We will continue to physically distance students, wherever possible, and throughout our buildings, including in classrooms, hallways, washrooms and common areas. This includes:

- removing and rearranging some seating in common areas
- assigning specific doors to students for entry and exit
- managing hallways to promote the flow of foot traffic and physical distancing
- having a sign in/out binder for each class
- encouraging students to uphold physical distancing requirements when outdoors or taking public transportation

Screening for Illness

Screening for illness is a key strategy to slow down or stop the spread of COVID-19. Staying home when sick remains an important way to care for those around us. Before coming to school each day, families must complete the COVID-19 [Alberta Health daily checklist](#) for students and children under 18 to determine whether they can attend or should stay home. Families and staff are not required to submit the checklist to the school. It is a tool to assess wellness.

All approved visitors must also complete the Alberta Health daily checklist before entering our school. Students, staff or visitors who feel ill or have any symptoms of COVID-19 cannot enter the school. Anyone who tests positive or has symptoms of COVID-19 must follow [Alberta’s isolation requirements](#).

Families are reminded to contact the school office if your child is staying home sick.

Government Requirements Symptoms or Testing Positive for COVID-19

I have symptoms and....

<p>...a positive test result.</p>	<p>Isolate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • for at least 10 days or until symptoms have improved, and • until you have no fever for 24 hours, without using fever-reducing medications <i>whichever is longer</i>
<p>...a negative test result</p>	<p>Stay home until your symptoms are gone.</p>
<p>...I am a student who has not been tested</p>	<p>If you are a student and your symptoms include fever, cough, shortness of breath or loss of sense of taste/smell, isolate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • for at least 10 days or until symptoms have improved, and • until you have no fever for 24 hours, without using fever-reducing medications <i>whichever is longer</i>. <p>A student may have other symptoms (such as chills, sore throat/painful swallowing, runny nose/congestion, feeling unwell/fatigued, nausea/vomiting/diarrhea, unexplained loss of appetite, muscle/joint aches, headache or conjunctivitis).</p> <p>If you have one of these other symptoms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • stay home and monitor for 24 hours. <p>If your symptom improves, return to school when you feel well enough. (Testing is not necessary).</p> <p>If you have two symptoms or one symptom that persists or worsens:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • stay home until symptom(s) are gone. <p>(Testing is recommended but not required).</p>
<p>...I am an adult who has not been tested</p>	<p>If you are an adult and symptoms include fever, cough, shortness of breath, sore throat or runny nose, isolate:</p>

- for at least 10 days or until symptoms have improved, **and**
- until you have no fever for 24 hours, without using fever-reducing medications *whichever is longer*.

Adults who have other symptoms should:

- stay home until symptoms are gone.

I do not have symptoms and...

<i>...have a positive test result</i>	Isolate for at least 10 days from the date that you were tested (when the sample was collected)
<i>...have a negative test result</i>	You do not need to isolate.

Students with Pre-Existing Conditions

Families should contact our school office about any pre-existing conditions their child has and the related symptoms. This helps our school staff recognize the difference between these symptoms and symptoms that are a sign of illness.

Showing Signs of Illness While at School

If a student or staff member becomes ill during the school day, they are asked to leave the school immediately, staying in their cohort until they can be picked up.

When a student is sick, they will wear a mask if they can do so safely. School staff who supervise the student will also wear a mask and will:

- bring the student to the school infirmary,
- contact parents or guardians to pick up their child immediately, and
- follow Division safety strategies around personal protective equipment (PPE) and cleaning and disinfecting the area and school infirmary.

If a parent or guardian cannot pick up their child, the student will remain in the school infirmary until dismissal.

Anyone who tests positive or has symptoms of COVID-19 must follow [Alberta's isolation requirements](#).

If There is a Case of COVID-19 at School

As the school year starts, the province has indicated that schools will not be informed about individual cases of COVID-19. Staff and students may choose to notify a school about a positive COVID-19 test, but it is not required. If we receive notification about a positive case from Alberta Health Services in a school, we will communicate with our school community.

Quarantine is not required for close contacts under current provincial direction. This means classes will **not** be required to quarantine if there is a case of COVID-19 at school. Individuals who test positive will be expected to isolate based on the provincial requirements in place at that time.

If there is an outbreak of any respiratory illness, including COVID-19, at a school, the Division and our school will work with Alberta Health Services to share information with our school community. As a school, we will continue

to report an absence rate of 10% or higher to Alberta Health Services. This helps health officials monitor for a variety of illnesses—such as clusters of respiratory and gastrointestinal illness—and alerts Alberta Health Services to possible outbreaks.

Hand Washing and Sanitizing

Everyone who enters a school will be required to use hand sanitizer or wash their hands immediately. Students and staff will be required to wash and/or sanitize their hands throughout the day, including:

- every time they enter or exit the school
- before they enter classrooms
- before and after they use shared equipment
- before eating

Hand washing (not just sanitizing) is required prior to any activities where students will be preparing (Foods/Culinary classes only) or eating food (lunch time).

Students are strongly encouraged to bring and carry their own personal hand sanitizer for personal use throughout the day.

Cleaning Guidelines

All schools will continue to follow COVID-19 cleaning guidelines. These guidelines include enhanced measures such as:

- purchasing recommended COVID-19 cleaning supplies
- training for custodial staff
- removing excess furniture or items that cannot be cleaned easily on a regular basis
- frequently cleaning and disinfecting high-touch surfaces such as water fountains and door handles
- more frequent cleaning and disinfecting throughout the school, with specific attention to washrooms, high-traffic areas and classrooms

Ventilation

Proper ventilation and airflow is one of many ways we are maintaining safe learning spaces for staff and students. All of our Division schools meet or exceed recommendations from the American Society of Heating, Refrigeration and Air-conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) in relation to COVID-19.

We will continue to adapt to any changes to the ASHRAE guidelines throughout the year. In our schools, this means:

- using the highest grade filters possible
- more frequent filter changes scheduled throughout the year
- maximizing airflow and fresh air intake
- extending running time for mechanical systems by four hours during school days
- mechanical systems are inspected on an ongoing basis throughout the year. Our school has mechanical systems that allow for fresh air intake.

When weather allows, we encourage classes to open classroom windows and use the many outdoor learning spaces located on and around our school grounds.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Additional PPE is important when:

- it is part of plans to support our students with special needs who require complex medical supports
- custodial staff require PPE to support their work cleaning and disinfecting

Vaccinations

Receiving two doses of the COVID-19 vaccine is an essential strategy to keep each other safe. Currently, vaccines are available for all Albertans 12 and older. All Albertans are encouraged to book a vaccination appointment through their local health care provider. To increase people's access to COVID-19 vaccines, the provincial government announced immunizations will be available through temporary clinics for students in Grades 7–12, staff and community members. Parent or guardian consent will be required for students who wish to participate.

The province does not require proof of vaccination to attend school in Alberta. For more information about vaccination policies and requirements, [contact Alberta Health Services](#).

What School Will Look Like

First Day & Start Up:

Argyll Virtual Students (Asynchronous and Synchronous)

Virtual learning students will receive emails and google classroom invitations from their teachers. These emails will include information about attending the first online meeting, including time and google meeting information. Teachers will communicate through their google classroom and the google meets about schedules and procedures going forward.

Caraway Program (Argyll Centre Terrace Heights)

Caraway students will be welcomed into the building by Caraway staff on Thursday September 2nd at 8:30 am. Students will be following the entrance, cohorting, and scheduling information contained above in the Physical Access section.

Hand-Sanitizing and Handwashing:

Hand sanitizer will be located throughout the buildings for student and staff usage. As soon as students enter the school, they will be required to use hand sanitizer or immediately wash their hands. Students will also be required to use hand sanitizer again before they enter their classroom and prior to eating food. Families are encouraged to send their children to school with personal hand sanitizer.

Student Supplies and Learning Materials:

Students will use and store their own personal supplies. Students are encouraged to bring their own personal hand sanitizer and are required to have a mask. Students should only bring essential materials and supplies that they can carry in their bag or backpack.

Teachers will plan learning activities to reduce or minimize the need to share equipment, textbooks or materials. If a specific course requires specialized materials or shared equipment, teachers will establish and communicate routines or protocols around the use of materials, equipment and textbooks such as:

- Keeping individual student specialty supplies organized and separated in large ziplock bags or clearly labeled bins/ containers (e.g., for art classes, special education programs, etc.)
- Carefully planning lessons for limited use of shared equipment in Phys. Ed. (classes will be held outdoors as much as possible, all equipment cleaned after each use)
- Assigning materials/ equipment to individual students to reduce the risk associated with shared items within a lab setting
- Accessing safety glasses and sanitation units for Mechatronics/Innovation programming, chemistry and biology labs (glasses will be assigned to individual students and sanitized prior to use by another student)
- Using newly-purchased science lab coats, shop cloaks, and food aprons for students to use for the duration of a class (apparel will be laundered prior to distribution to another student)
- Ensuring students keep backpacks and jackets under or on the back of their assigned seats
- Students will wash or sanitize their hands both before and after using shared items.

Students will have limited access to technology during the school day. At times, teachers may book Chromebook carts for use with a class. Chromebooks will be sanitized prior to and after each use. Chromebooks will not be shared between students; devices will be checked out to individual students in a single class for the duration of a class. Students are encouraged and able to use their own devices during the day.

Library Access - Argyll Centre:

Virtual learning students will be sent an email containing physical resource and textbook collection information. The email will include a link to book an appointment to collect needed materials. Families can only collect materials during their set appointment times. No students or families will be allowed to access resources aside from the set appointment time.

When arriving to collect materials at the set time, one person per family will be allowed access to the building through the far southwest door facing the playground. Doors will be locked and to gain access there will be a doorbell set up. One person at a time will enter the building and then exit through the doors at the other end of the hall. Any person entering the building must wear a mask. We ask that if there are reasons a student or family member is unable to mask that they are not the person entering the building. We also ask that if you cannot make your appointment that you let us know as we have to set appointments for every student.

Caraway students will not be able to access the library until October as September will be spent providing resources to virtual learning families, and Caraway staff will provide any resources needed by students directly throughout September.

Student Teachers:

Our Division continues to support the placement of student teachers. Student teachers will be expected to follow all safety and health protocols in place for our staff and students. They will not be permitted to attend the school if they have symptoms of illness.

Transportation:

Public transit

Masks are required for students who take Edmonton Transit Service (ETS).

Yellow bus service (for our Interactions students)

To help keep students and drivers as safe as possible:

- all students riding the bus are required to wear a mask, as directed by the Government of Alberta
- students will be assigned regular seats, using a seating plan
- students will respect physical distancing while they get on and off the bus
- there will be a protective zone between the driver and student passengers
- the bus will be cleaned according to COVID-19 cleaning standards prior to each run, and this cleaning will be recorded by the driver

Carpooling

When possible, students and staff should only carpool with members of the same household. If you or your child must carpool with another family, please follow these safety guidelines:

- limit the number of people in the vehicle, where possible, to maintain physical distance of two metres
- make sure all occupants wear masks and wash their hands before entering the vehicle
- clean and disinfect commonly touched surfaces such as door handles, seatbelt buckles and arm rests after each trip

Emergency Preparedness:

We will continue to work with City of Edmonton Fire and Rescue to ensure that emergency drills (such as fire drills or lockdowns) reflect COVID-19 safe protocols. In the case of an actual emergency, we will adhere to our school's Emergency Preparedness Plan.

Teaching & Learning

School Fees:

There are no school fees for Edmonton Public School students attending Argyll Centre. Metro customer service has fee information for all of their programming, and Caraway is also in charge of their own fee structure.

Students with Complex and Special Needs:

Returning to school can cause additional concern or anxiety for our families of students with special needs. Families need to know we are taking steps to support students with special needs by:

- continuing COVID-19 safety protocols for complex medical interventions and supports that students require, to keep both students and staff as safe as possible
- continuing student-support plans, such as Individual Program Plans (IPPs), Medication Management Plans or Individual Behaviour Support Plans
- addressing effective learning strategies for online learning in IPPs

Communicating with the Schools:

Families can stay in contact with their schools through email and over the phone.

Field Trips:

As we start the school year, our students will participate in virtual field trips as much as possible. Day trips will be permitted as needed and we will work through all safety protocols with the host venue. When planning field trips:

- students will be grouped in classes throughout the trip and will be required to wear mask at the venue and on the bus
- schools will send home permission forms prior to a field trip that outline all COVID-19 protocols
- upon screening at the venue, if a student reports symptoms, parents/guardians will be contacted for a pick up
- parents can choose whether their child participates in school field trips

The Division will monitor field trips to support and work toward the opportunity for overnight field trips. National field trips are suspended at this time. However, we will continue to review the feasibility of these field trips. International field trips are suspended for the 2021–22 school year because of the uncertainty and potential risks associated with travel during COVID-19.

Supporting mental health and well-being

COVID-19 is causing a lot of uncertainty for families and our communities. To support students and families, our Division is working on a set of mental health resources that families and caregivers can use. These will be released in the coming weeks.

Parents or guardians who are concerned for their child’s well-being can reach out to these community resources:

- Mental Health Helpline: 1-877-303-2642
 - This toll-free helpline provides confidential and anonymous services, crisis intervention, information about mental-health services and referrals to other agencies.
- Kids Help Phone: 1-800-668-6868
 - kidshelpphone.ca
 - Text CONNECT to 686868
- Health Link: 811
- Alberta Health Services
 - [Help in Tough Times](#)
 - [Healthy Together](#)
- The federal First Nations and Inuit Hope for Wellness Help Line, at 1-855-242-3310, is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week; online chat at [Hope for Wellness](#).