

Updated 2021 - 2022 School Year Plan

January 2022

Elk Island Catholic Schools will continue to support our school communities in reducing the risk of transmission of illnesses and maintain a safe and healthy environment for our students and staff. EICS is committed to maintaining for the remainder of the 2021/2022 school year:

- daily screening following the [Alberta Health Daily Checklist](#);
- stay-at-home policy for any students or staff exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19;
- physical distancing maximization within the confines of a classroom;
- hand hygiene / respiratory etiquette
- enhanced cleaning and disinfecting including;
 - daily cleaning for all areas of the school, washrooms and high-touch surface areas cleaned several times a day;
- regularly scheduled deep cleaning when students are not present;
- enhanced cleaning protocol with healthcare grade system that kills human coronavirus;

The health, safety and well-being of our students and staff will always remain our first priority.

Health and Safety Measures for 2021 - 2022

Vaccines

- All eligible staff and students are encouraged to be fully vaccinated for respiratory illnesses, where applicable, such as COVID-19 and influenza.
- All staff and volunteers must comply with Administrative Procedure 489 - [Covid 19 Vaccination Status - Employees and Volunteers](#).

Respiratory Etiquette / Masking

- Masks are required at all times while at school with the following exceptions
 - A teacher/staff may remove a mask when alone at a workstation/in a classroom
 - While eating and drinking
 - While engaging in physical activity
 - During recess and outdoor activities
- Face shields are not equivalent to non-medical face masks and offer insufficient protection on their own. Other alternatives (e.g., neck gaiters, buffs or bandanas) offer less protection than masks and are therefore should not be used.
- Anyone unable to wear a mask due to an [approved medical condition](#) will require a [medical exception letter](#) from an authorized health professional.

Responding to Illness

- All individuals must review the [Alberta Health Daily Checklist](#) with their children before sending them to school each day. Students and staff exhibiting any symptoms must remain at home until symptoms resolve. This is the single most important thing each of us can do to support our schools at this time.
- Students and staff that have any of the [core symptoms](#), are legally required to isolate. If they test negative on a rapid covid test, they must still stay home and away from others until symptoms resolve.
 - For fully vaccinated students and staff (2 doses) who test positive on a rapid test for COVID-19:
 - Isolate for 10 days from the start of symptoms or until they resolve, whichever is longer, if symptoms are not related to a pre-existing condition.
 - Fully vaccinated students may return to school after five days if non symptomatic and have made arrangements to be masked at school 100% of the time (including during lunch).
 - For students not fully vaccinated (1 dose or less) who test positive for covid on a rapid test:
 - Isolate for 10 days from the start of symptoms or until they resolve, whichever is longer, if symptoms are not related to a pre-existing condition.
- Additional isolation information can [be found here](#).

COVID-19 Rapid Testing

All Elk Island Catholic School students and staff will receive a supply of at-home COVID-19 rapid test kits supplied by the Alberta government. Testing is voluntary and administered at home by a family member.

This initiative offers an added screening tool for asymptomatic and symptomatic individuals. If the test comes back positive, use the [COVID-19 self-assessment tool](#) for further health-related advice and report the positive case to your school.

Please find further information [here](#).

Confirmed cases of COVID-19

- Alberta Health Services (AHS) is currently unable to support COVID-19 and respiratory illness outbreak management in schools at this time. This means that families no longer receive letters home regarding positive cases.
- To keep our schools as safe as possible, please continue to inform your school if your child has tested positive on COVID-19 test, is exhibiting symptoms or will be staying home from school for any reason. Schools will continue to monitor school absenteeism due to illness.

Environmental Measures

- Enhanced cleaning protocols will continue. This includes regular cleaning and disinfection of high touch surfaces, regular scheduled deep cleaning when students are not present with our healthcare grade system.
- Physical distancing is encouraged within the confines of a classroom.

Hand Hygiene

- Hand washing/sanitizing will continue to be part of daily routines.
- Hand sanitizer will continue to be available throughout the school and at all entryways.

School Operations

Cohorting

- Cohorting practices are to be maintained for all grades within the current structures in place, and to the best of each school's ability.

School Activities

- School operations and activities will continue, guided by public health measures.
- Field Trips may continue providing all health measures are adhered to, and students are not mixing with members of the public in order to maintain their cohorts.

Extra-curricular Activities

- Indoor sports/performance/recreation/special activities are permitted with requirements for masking and for two-metre physical distancing, where possible.
 - Masks must be worn in all school areas including the change rooms / locker rooms.
 - Masks may be removed during warm up and while participating in the game.
 - Masks may be removed during physical activity.
 - Masks must be worn by the coach and players on the bench.
 - Spectators are not allowed in the schools/gymnasium.
- During outdoor events, modeling of mask use by coaches is strongly recommended.
- Parent planning meetings are to occur virtually.
- Masks must be worn when being transported to and from the event

Transportation

- Masks are required for all students and staff on school buses.
- Continued cleaning of high touch surfaces will occur.
- Seating plans are to be maintained, cohorts are encouraged.

School Access

- Before entering the school, visitors must screen for any signs or symptoms of Covid-19 using the [Alberta Health Daily Checklist](#).
- **All parents, volunteers, and guests are required to wear masks while in our schools.**
- Parents and guardians may be allowed into the school on an individual basis, for a specific purpose. Gatherings outside of classrooms or hallways are not to occur.
- All volunteers are required to adhere to [AP 489 - Covid-19 Vaccination Status - Employees and Volunteers](#).

e-Tutoring Hub

The government announced a new e-Tutoring Hub to support student learning in Grades 4-9, specifically in literacy and numeracy.

- Students in grades 4 to 9 and their parents will be able to view free online tutoring resources, through the e-Tutoring Hub, to catch up on important skills and learning students may have fallen behind on due to the pandemic.
- The e-Tutoring Hub will be launched with pre-recorded video tutoring sessions students and their parents can access any time to build literacy and numeracy skills. Later this year, Alberta Education will expand the online tutoring services to cover more grades and subjects, including live tutoring. Feedback from school authorities, parents and students will inform topics and needs for new tutoring sessions.

Mental Health and Well-Being

Support for students and parents can be found on our [website](#). School support teams will continue to be available to students, staff and families within Elk Island Catholic Schools.

Resources

[Alberta Health Daily Checklist](#)

[Education At-Home Rapid Testing Program: Information for parents, students, and school staff.](#)