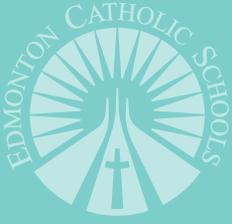


# EDMONTON CATHOLIC SCHOOLS DIVISION RE-ENTRY PLAN

August 2020 - 2021





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# MESSAGE FROM CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT MARTIN AND BOARD CHAIR PALAZZO

Our experience from the past many months has reminded us of the resiliency, flexibility, and perseverance needed to navigate the uncertainty of this pandemic. As a Catholic community, we continue to set our minds on Christ; for it is in Christ that we find our peace, our comfort, and our joy in times of trouble. We thank all of our students, families, staff, and stakeholders for walking together in Christ during these uncertain times.

In preparing for the upcoming school year, we know that we remain faced with the dynamic and complex challenges of Covid-19. Together, we will do our utmost to mitigate risks, and offer the best quality Catholic education possible. In scripture we read, “for surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope (Jeremiah 29:11). Our school division has invested considerable time researching, consulting, and planning for the return to classes this fall.

The intention of this re-entry handbook is to provide our stakeholders with the information, protocols, and recommendations pursuant to the province’s K-12 School Re-Entry Plan. Following the guidance from the Ministry of Education and Alberta Health Services, our planning provides direction on the three re-entry scenarios in such areas as risk mitigation, teaching and learning, and divisional supports for our schools. It will present the reader with an understanding of what must and should be considered throughout the school re-entry process.

It remains important to understand that this handbook is a “living document” and will remain responsive to necessary changes and adjustments needed to address challenges that may arise. Stakeholders will be apprised of changes and actions as we move forward, together.

The mission of Edmonton Catholic Schools is to provide a Catholic education that inspires students to learn and that prepares them to live fully and to serve God in one another. Our theme for 2020-21, God calls us each by name, reminds us of the importance to love and serve God in one another. With this in mind, we are thankful for the many students, parents, and staff who added their voices to our re-entry planning conversations. Those conversations and feedback have informed this handbook.

May Christ fill us with hope as we enter this new school year.

Robert Martin  
Chief Superintendent

Sandra Palazzo  
Board Chair

# EDMONTON CATHOLIC SCHOOLS DIVISION PRAYER

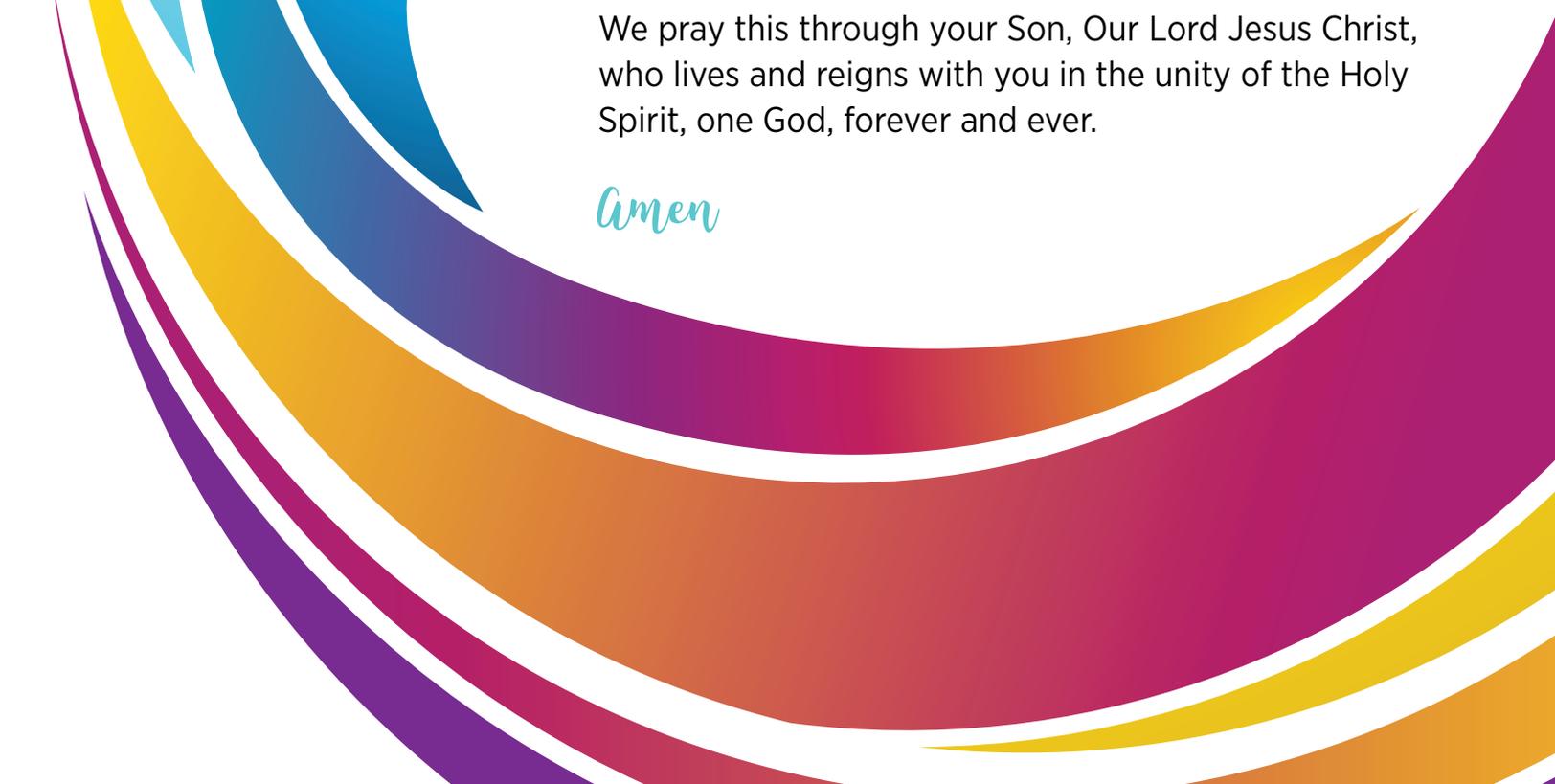
Loving Father, you sent your Son into the world to redeem us by his Cross and Resurrection. Send your Spirit upon us today to make us stewards of your gifts and witnesses of your Son, Jesus Christ, in our schools and in our world.

We were created in your image and likeness; each of us a precious gift. Through the intercession of our Most Blessed Mother, Mary, the Mother of God, we ask you to protect and guide our students and staff; caring and watching over us at all times.

Come live in our hearts and strengthen us to love and serve you. Let us glorify your name, being kind and generous to everyone we meet. With Christ as our model and our teacher, we celebrate and witness our faith, learning together, working together, and praying together in answering the call to a faith-filled life of service.

We pray this through your Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

*Amen*





## SAFETY & WELL-BEING IN ECSD

**The safety and well-being of staff and students remains our priority. The strategies that you will read in this guide are established with the goal of reducing the risks of exposure to COVID-19 to the greatest extent practicable, while adhering to the direction of the Minister of Education and the Chief Medical Officer of Health. As a Division we are guided by these directives, and will remain responsive and adaptable to any changes that may arise as more is learned about COVID-19 and the appropriate responses to reduce or mitigate the risks. Consequently, the guidelines set out below may change as re-entry to school progresses given the circumstances with which we are faced.**

Risk mitigation refers to the processes undertaken to reduce, minimize, or limit the potential for risk over which we have some measure of control. In the case of COVID-19, it refers to strategies, rather than guarantees, whereby all reasonable efforts are made to reduce the potential for transmission of the virus.

As directed by the Chief Medical Officer of Health, Edmonton Catholic Schools will seek to employ risk mitigation protocols when appropriate physical distancing cannot be achieved, or the sharing of manipulatives/resources is necessary for instruction. These protocols and strategies include the use of face masks, personal protective equipment (PPE), heightened cleaning, physical barriers, and other strategies as deemed appropriate.



## COHORTS

In the provincial re-entry plan, cohorts refer to a group of students and staff who remain together. This helps decrease the number of close contacts within the school environment. Where practical, students will be organized within smaller groups throughout the school day. In classrooms and on busses, students may be asked to adhere to smaller groupings and seating plans.

## PHYSICAL DISTANCING

All members of the school community are encouraged to physically distance as much as is practicable. Schools will put measures in place to promote physical distancing, which may include:

- Signage and directional arrows to control the flow of foot traffic
- Capacity limits for lunchrooms and washrooms
- Staggered times for movement through the hallways
- Staggered start and/or end times
- Assigned entrance and exit doors
- Removing or rearranging seating in common areas
- Limiting access to common areas

In classrooms, maintaining physical distancing of 2 metres may not be possible. In this case, the provincial re-entry plan suggests that student seating be arranged so they are not facing one another, to mitigate the risk should a student sneeze or cough. Classrooms will be arranged to promote physical distancing as much as possible.

## HEALTH SCREENING

Parents and caregivers must assess their child daily for symptoms of common cold, influenza, COVID-19, or other infectious respiratory disease before sending them to school. Staff will also assess themselves daily for symptoms of common cold, influenza, or COVID-19 prior to entering the school.

They should use the [health assessment checklist](#) to assess themselves daily prior to entering the school/site.

Any person who selects “yes” on any of the screening questions will not be permitted to enter the school, pending further testing for COVID-19.

Signs will be posted reminding persons not to enter if they have COVID-19 symptoms, even if symptoms resemble a mild cold.

## ILLNESS WHILE ONSITE

Should a student exhibit signs of illness at school, they will be moved to a designated private area within the school/site. Parent/caregivers will be notified and advised to pick up their child immediately. Please ensure that student emergency contact information is up-to date in the event that parents cannot be reached.

Should a student become ill, a parent/caregiver or emergency contact must pick up the student as soon as is practicable.

Staff supervising symptomatic students will:

- Keep all other staff out of the designated quarantine area;
- Provide the student with a face mask, provided that the student can wear it safely;
- Wear recommended PPE
- Use strict hand-washing techniques; and
- Maintain physical distancing.

## STUDENTS WITH PRE-EXISTING CONDITIONS

It is important that families establish a clear baseline for what being healthy looks like. In the case of students with pre-existing conditions, we encourage families to have a COVID-19 test conducted prior to returning to school. In this way, it will help establish that baseline for students with pre-existing conditions. Families should notify the school of any pre-existing condition and its symptoms. Should a student develop symptoms that are outside of those previously established, the student should have a COVID-19 test prior to returning to the school site.

## CASES OF COVID 19 AT SCHOOL

If there are cases of COVID-19 identified within school settings, the Zone Medical Officer of Health will work directly with the school division and school administration to provide follow-up recommendations and messaging for staff, parents/guardians, and students. Schools and sites will collaborate with division staff and the Zone Medical Officer of Health during potential and confirmed cases.

Alberta Health Services may request the school close in-person classes to allow a public health investigation to take place. The decision to send a cohort/class home or to close a school will be made by the local Medical Officer of Health. If this were to occur, the school will support students and staff to learn or work at home if they are required to self-isolate.

## HAND HYGIENE

Anyone who enters a school will be required to practice hand hygiene. Proper hand hygiene will help mitigate any virus transmission. Soap and water for 20 seconds are the preferred method for cleaning hands. Staff and students will practice hand hygiene:

- Before leaving home, on arrival at school, and before leaving school
- After using the washroom
- Before and after any transitions within the school setting (ex. To another classroom, indoor-outdoor transitions, etc.)
- After sneezing or coughing
- Before and after breaks and sporting activities
- Before and after using playground equipment
- Before and after eating any food, including snacks
- Before touching face (nose, hands, or mouth)
- Whenever hands are visibly dirty
- Regularly throughout the day

If a sink is not available, alcohol-based hand sanitizer may be used.



## CLEANING

We are developing a COVID-19 cleaning standard for all Division schools that aligns with provincial directives around cleaning and disinfecting. These increased measures include:

- purchasing provincially recommended COVID-19 cleaning supplies
- additional training for custodial staff
- removing any soft furnishings and area rugs from classrooms and common areas that cannot be cleaned to provincial standards
- frequently cleaning high-touch surfaces such as water fountains or door handles
- more frequent cleaning and disinfecting throughout the school, with specific attention to washrooms, high-traffic areas and classrooms

Our Division is procuring all COVID-19 cleaning and safety items on behalf of all our schools. This will help ensure all schools use products that adhere to health standards and meet requirements to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. It also ensures that all schools have equitable access to these supplies.

## PPE

Within the context of K-12 education, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is primarily focused on non-medical masks. Practices such as physical distancing, hand washing, staying home when sick, and increased environmental cleaning continue to be priority public health measures.

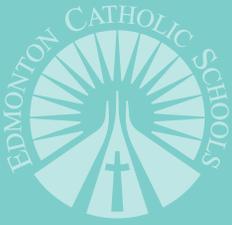
There may be certain contexts in which enhanced PPE is necessary and will be the expectation. This would include times when a student, staff or guest becomes ill while at school and is required to isolate until they can be safely picked up and taken home. Other contexts include staff working with medically complex students for whom it is impractical to maintain a distance of two metres while working with the student.

## MASKS

The present guidance from the Chief Medical Officer indicates that staff and students in Grades 4 - 12 will be mandated to wear masks. Although not mandated for K - 3, the use of masks is strongly recommended to help reduce the potential for transmission and exposure. All staff will be provided with 2 re-usable face masks and face shields for their use. Alberta Education will be providing two reusable masks for each student.

Masks are particularly recommended in circumstances where there is prolonged close contact (greater than 15 minutes) and distance of two metres cannot be maintained.





# OUR NEW NORMAL

## ARRIVING AT SCHOOL

All students will have an assigned door to use every time they enter and exit their school. When students arrive at school, they will:

- wear their reusable mask
- go to the area outside their assigned door
- follow physical distancing guidelines to stay at least two metres apart while they wait outside
- line up when it is time to enter the school, following physical distancing guidelines, and wait for staff to bring them into the school

School staff will be outside to remind students of these requirements and to help students line up keeping an appropriate distance from each other.

Many schools will develop staggered entry schedules to limit how many students enter the school at once. This schedule may be slightly different from the regular bell schedule.

During inclement weather, such as extreme cold or rain, schools will have a plan in place so students can enter the school early.

Adults bringing students to school will be asked to stay in their vehicle or outside the school, and to maintain a safe physical distance between themselves and others. Those who need to enter the school must book an appointment with the school office. Individuals without an appointment will not be able to enter the school.

## LOCKERS

At this time, lockers are not available for use. Students will keep their personal belongings with them. Students are encouraged to minimize the number of belongings they have at school.

## ASSIGNED SEATING

In order to promote physical distancing, students will be assigned seating throughout the day, including at lunch. This is in order to maintain cohort integrity and help assist with contact tracing, if required.

## SUPPLIES

Students must use their own personal supplies as much as possible. Sharing of materials is discouraged.

## WASHROOMS

Washrooms will be cleaned and high touch areas disinfected several times per day. Depending on the size of the school, students may be assigned a particular washroom for use. There may be a maximum number of students allowed in a washroom at one time.



## WATER FOUNTAINS

Water fountains present a challenge in the effort to reduce transmission of the COVID-19 virus. Students will be encouraged to bring water bottles from home, filled to start the day, and may subsequently fill those bottles throughout the day as needed. The use of water fountains in their traditional manner will not be available for use. Water filling stations will be the source of water for students to refill their personal water bottles.

## COMMON AREAS

Common areas, such as foyers, learning commons or T-intersections in hallways can result in students gathering. Schools will have measures in place to promote physical distancing in these areas, such as limiting the number of students allowed in the area at a particular time.

Students may be required to walk directly through some areas to prevent students from crowding together in groups. In high-traffic areas, such as the school office, signage such as posters and floor decals will remind students and staff to keep a safe physical distance. There will also be a maximum number of individuals who can be in the school office at one time. Staff will supervise these high-traffic areas and remind students of the need to adhere to any physical distancing protocols in place.



## DISMISSAL

School administration may develop slightly staggered dismissal times, where feasible, to allow students the opportunity to exit the building without the entire school population dismissing simultaneously. Such factors as age, bussing, and weather will certainly factor into these strategies. Your school administration will share more details on these strategies, if implemented.

A reminder that parents waiting for their children to be dismissed are asked to wait outside the school, and to park only in designated areas.

## PLAYGROUNDS

It is recommended that playgrounds on school property be off limits before and after school. During the day, students will be provided access to the school yard and playground equipment in a manner that supports cohort integrity and the maintenance of physical distancing. This could include such strategies as staggered recesses, zones of play, and schedules for equipment access. The details of these will be developed and shared by your school administration. Students will be expected to wash their hands using proper hand hygiene both before and after using playground equipment.

## CLOSED CAMPUS

In order to maintain cohort integrity for contact tracing purposes, all K-9 schools will have a closed campus for lunch. If your child goes home for lunch, we ask that you contact your school administration.

Students who have their parents' permission to leave the school during lunch must leave the school by their assigned door and maintain physical distancing from others while away from the school.

## LUNCH

Students will be encouraged to bring healthy lunches from home that do not require the need to be heated, as microwaves will not be available for use at this time. Additionally, canteen and cafeteria services may be restricted in their scope of offerings. Further, with closed campuses for K-9 schools, students will not be able to leave school to access convenience stores or fast food providers. Similarly, food trucks and food delivery services will not be permitted. These measures are to ensure that, while at school, every effort is made to reduce the risk of exposure from outside sources.

## FOOD IN SCHOOLS

There are clear provincial guidelines around food in schools during COVID-19. As a result, treats cannot be sent from home for birthdays or special days, and teachers will not hand out food or treats in the classroom. Potluck events, barbecues, food trucks or special lunch days (e.g. hot dog day) are all postponed at this time.



## NUTRITION PROGRAMS

Schools that offer school nutrition programs will need to adhere to the following provincial guidelines:

- the food preparation area will be closed off to non-designated staff and any students
- under Scenario 1, partner staff responsible for operating the school nutrition program will be allowed in the school to help deliver the program
- partner staff must adhere to all COVID-19 health protocols and will not be able to enter the school if they have symptoms
- all food served to students needs to be served in prepacked portions or served to students by designated program staff
- utensils will be used any time food is served to students
- there will be no shared food condiments or seasonings, such as ketchup or salt and pepper
- any leftover food from this service will be thrown out—schools will not be able to package leftovers to end home to families

## VOLUNTEERS

At this time, we are not allowing volunteers in schools. We value the support they provide us, however this is in an effort to maintain cohort integrity and promote physical distancing. We hope to be able to welcome parent volunteers at a later date.

## VISITORS TO SCHOOLS

All ECSD staff, including staff from multi-disciplinary teams and Facilities, will have access to school sites. Additional visitors directly related to the immediate educational programming of students (i.e. student teachers, psychologists, etc) will be permitted, following ECSD safety protocols. Artists-in-residence or other guest speakers are not permitted. Visitors are encouraged to wear a mask and maintain physical distancing. All visitors must wear a mask and practice hand hygiene upon entry to the school site.

Parents are key partners in their child's education. We encourage parents to make phone or online appointments with school staff rather than in-person visits to the school.

As a Catholic school community, scheduled visits from the Parish team (priest, youth workers) will continue to be welcomed into the school, following standard safety protocols.

## COVID 19 VISITOR LOG

When a parent or visitor enters the school with an established appointment, they should be asked to use the [self-screening tool](#) before entering. If a visitor or parent answers YES to any of the questions, they should not be permitted to enter the school.

Upon entry, the parent or visitor must wear a mask, hand-sanitize and then report directly to the general office to check in and sign the visitor log. From there, they will be directed to the person with whom they are meeting.

A record (sign in) of all visitors who remain within the school for more than 15 minutes must be kept, and which must include the first and last name of the visitor, the person with whom they are meeting, and the time of arrival and departure.

## LIBRARIES

Libraries and Learning Commons are integral to student learning and school culture. ECSD encourages the safe opening of Learning Commons spaces for student and staff use. Administrators will develop routines for the safe distribution of library materials in order to meet COVID restrictions. This may include limited access or wait times for materials.

## EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

The safety of students remains the priority. Drills must still be conducted in the interests of school/site safety practices as outlined within the school year.

Physical distancing should still be employed where possible (eg. Outside during a fire drill), and other risk mitigation strategies should be used including mandatory hand-washing/sanitization following a lockdown practice or fire drill.

The guiding principle of "life over limb" should be the prime consideration in emergency situations, with as much consideration of risk mitigation practices as possible, given the circumstances.



# TRANSPORTATION

- Parents and children/students should not be in the pick-up area or enter the bus if they have symptoms of COVID-19.
- Masks are mandatory for all students (K to Grade 12) on yellow buses. This does not include pre-kindergarten/100 Voices students; however the Division does recommend the use of masks for pre-kindergarten/100 Voices students as physical distancing is not always possible on yellow buses. Exemptions also apply to students in Inclusive Education programs who are not capable of putting on and using a mask properly or students with severe sensory issues that make mask wearing not feasible. ECSD staff will collaborate with parents to determine if a student with special needs is capable of wearing a mask properly. Bus drivers will have a limited supply of masks for students who do not have a mask with them.
- The driver will be provided with a protective zone, which may include:
  - 2 metre physical distance;
  - non-medical mask
- Students will be assigned seats and a record of this seating plan will be kept in order to assist with contact tracing in the case of a student having COVID-19. Students who live in the same household should be seated together.

- Schools should develop procedures for student loading, unloading, and transfers that support physical distancing of 2 metres between all persons (except household members), when possible and may include:
  - Children/students start loading from the back seats to the front of the bus
  - Children/students start unloading from the front seats to the back of the bus
  - Where feasible, limit the number of students per bench unless from the same household
  - Students from the same household may share seats
  - Students start unloading from the front seats to the back of the bus
- If a child becomes symptomatic during the bus trip, the driver will inform school staff upon arrival at the school so that appropriate arrangements can be made to pick up the child/student.
- All contracted carriers will be implementing enhanced cleaning procedures. Cleaning of high touch surfaces will be done before and after every run. Increased frequency of cleaning and disinfection of high-touch surfaces includes wipe down the entry doors, wipe railing, wipe seat tops-backs-fronts-seats, and wipe wall under windows. Drivers' protocol includes wipe steering wheel, hazard and indicator arm, dash, buttons, seat belt buckles, and radio.



# TEACHING AND LEARNING

## FAMILY CHOICE

In March, the Alberta government announced that in-person classes were cancelled indefinitely and students shifted to distance and online learning. Students, families and staff across our Division did a great job navigating this sudden change.

As we organize for 2020–2021, we know that all our students need access to high-quality instruction. We also recognize that in-person classes might not be appropriate for all families and staff, depending on their personal circumstances and well-being. That is why we are offering choice.

## A QUARTERLY SYSTEM FOR 2020–2021

Families will be able to decide, at four key times throughout the school year, whether their child will attend school in person or choose to learn at home through online instruction.

To offer this choice, we are organizing the year into four instructional quarters at the high school level (10 week periods of learning), which will align with these key entry or exit times.

**Quarter 1: September 3 to November 9**

**Quarter 2: November 10 to January 29**

**Quarter 3: February 1 to April 20**

**Quarter 4: April 21 to June 25**

## IN-PERSON LEARNING IN SCENARIO 1

Students who attend school will be assigned to a class where a classroom teacher will support their learning. If the student is registered in an alternative or language program, they will continue to receive instruction in that program. If a student needs to stay home due to illness, their classroom teacher will provide work to support their learning. The teacher will not provide online instruction.

## CHOOSING ONLINE

First, families will indicate their intent to register for online learning through PowerSchool. Information regarding this process will be sent to families in mid-August. Families must decide if each child will return to school in person or if they will choose online learning at home. Then, schools will organize resources and staff to support the choices that families make in those school communities.

Three weeks before the start of each quarter, families will be asked to indicate their choice for the following quarter. Whether families choose in-person or online learning, they remain enrolled in the school where they registered or pre-enrolled for 2020–2021.

## ONLINE LEARNING IN SCENARIO 1

Students who learn online will be part of an online learning group with an assigned teacher. This learning format will include live online teacher instruction, directed activities and assignments that students will complete independently. Online students will remain enrolled at the school where they registered for 2020-2021. However, their online teacher may not be a staff member at that school. As well, students in an online learning group will often be from more than one Division school.

Online instruction will cover all the required areas of the provincial curriculum. Teaching will focus on the core subject areas, with a modified focus on complementary courses (electives). The Division will explore meaningful ways to deliver alternative programming to online students, but we cannot guarantee that all alternative programming options will be available online. Families with children registered in an alternative program will continue to receive information from their school about the program.

## ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION

Alternatives to traditional high school programming exist through Revelation Online, Cardinal Collins High School Academic Centres, Fresh Start Academic Centres, Summer School and Part-Time Alternative Self-Paced School (PASS).

Students who require an alternate mode of delivery may explore these options, being offered in semestered and quarterly models.

## INCLUSIVE STUDENT NEEDS

In accordance with our Division foundation statement, all resident students and their parents/caregivers are welcomed into our schools. The Learning Team is committed to collaborating, identifying, applying, and monitoring practices enabling all students to reach their potential spiritually, socially, emotionally, physically, and academically within the program of studies alongside their peers.

Needs are assessed on a case-by-case basis to determine levels of support required to safely bring students into the school environment and any specialized supports will be noted in the IPP. In circumstances in which students who require specialized supports and services are not able to follow health or distancing guidelines and require support and adaptation to public health measures, plans must be developed within and documented on the student's Individualized Program Plan (IPP).

Transition meetings to support the successful re-entry of students requiring specialized supports and programming to meet their complex and diverse needs will be scheduled as needed.

## SCHOOL FEES

School fees continue to be assessed and collected for those items that enhance the educational experience of students, as well as the supplemental education fees as authorized by the Minister of Education. The fees for your school are posted on the school website, and remain in place for the 2020-21 school year. We recognize that COVID-19 has created hardship for many families, and if you find yourself in a difficult financial position, you are asked to speak to your school principal to co-develop a plan to address the school fees assessed your child(ren).

## INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

International students who are currently living in Canada can be welcomed into our schools. Once Canada lifts travel restrictions and non-essential international travel resumes, international travel programs and international education programs in Alberta can resume if quarantine requirements and public health orders are followed.

## TECHNOLOGY USE

Schools will organize in-person instruction to minimize sharing of devices such as Chromebooks and iPads. That could mean schools assign technology to specific cohorts at certain times, or to individual students for extended periods of time. Devices will be disinfected between uses according to Division COVID-19 cleaning guidelines.

Students may be encouraged to bring their own devices to school. Families interested in buying a Chromebook for their child may access special pricing from our Division suppliers through the Chromebook purchase program. Please contact the school office for more details. Students who bring their own device will be responsible for taking it home to charge it every night.

Families who choose to have their child participate in online instruction require access to a device and a reliable internet connection at home. Families without this access should contact their school to borrow a device and arrange internet access, if needed.

## ASSESSMENT

Consistent with established ECSD practices, students will continue to be assessed through outcomes-based, ongoing assessment and reporting. Parents can review their child's achievement using their PowerSchool login. Students in high school will receive their summative assessment grades at the end of every quarter.

At this time, parent interviews will be conducted via phone calls or online.

### Provincial Achievement Tests & Diploma Exams

- Participation in Grade 3 SLAs remains at the teacher's discretion.
- As a division, ECSD will be participating in the Grade 6 and 9 Provincial Achievement Tests in scenarios 1 or 2.
- Grade 12 Diploma Exams in scenario 1 are required by the province and will continue to count as 30 percent of the student's final diploma course mark.





# INSTRUCTION

## MUSIC

Learning experiences involving unprotected (without a mask or physical barrier) in-person singing, cheering, shouting, or playing wind instruments must be postponed at this time. Alternatives will be explored, such as:

- Recording or live-streaming individual performers in separate locations
- Focusing on music appreciation or theory
- Playing instruments that are lower risk (ex. Percussion or string instruments over wind instruments)

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Physical activity is an important element in student health and well-being. In order to provide physical education experiences for students:

- Equipment will be cleaned before and after use
- Activities supporting increased physical distancing are encouraged
- Use of shared items or sports equipment is discouraged
- Shared equipment will be cleaned before and after each use; users must perform hand hygiene before and after each use
- Students are encouraged to come changed for their activities as lockers will not be accessible
- Outside activities to be encouraged when and where possible

## ART

No sharing of equipment or art supplies unless equipment and supplies can be properly sanitized between needed use by multiple students.

To produce art in classroom, procedures will exist regarding:

- Small group instruction
- No students moving around the room
- Individualized art supplies for in-class use

## CTS

For CTF and CTS programs, all participants should ensure they are practicing hand hygiene before and after each use. As much as is practicable, shared equipment and surfaces will be cleaned between use.

## LABS

Schools will follow COVID-19 health protocols to determine how to deliver lab-based learning safely. In some cases students will participate directly in the learning experience; in other situations, teachers may need to demonstrate the learning experience.

## WORK EXPERIENCE

Work experience may resume as long as the risk of infection is mitigated for all participants. The student is expected to follow health rules set out by the workplace which should comply with the [Workplace Guidance for Business Owners](#).



# ACTIVITIES

## FIELD TRIPS

Field trips involving extended travel, overnight accommodation, provincial, national or international travel are suspended until further notice. If a field trip occurs within close proximity to the school, including the local parish, and other safety protocols remain in place, they will be supported.

## ASSEMBLIES & CELEBRATIONS

Assemblies and celebrations will be conducted in small groups or virtually within the school to adhere to appropriate physical distancing requirements. Cohort integrity is the priority focus when determining whether assembling students is required.

## ATHLETICS AND EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

At this time, athletics and extracurricular activities are suspended. These frequently involve travel, close contact, lack of cohort integrity, and, while valuable, not essential to the educational needs of the students. Further direction is expected on this aspect of school operations.

## GRADUATION

Planning for graduation activities for the 2021 grad class is allowed, however specific contingency plans **MUST** be put in place by the school administration in the event large gatherings are not supported by the Chief Medical Officer.

Any planned activities scheduled for the class of 2020 in the fall are currently to be put on hold until further notice.

## SCHOOL COUNCIL

School councils remain vital to school administration in the operations of the school. Parent voice and engagement is essential. School council members and the school principal/administration may choose to meet via an online environment or face-to-face. If these meetings are to occur face-to-face, they must meet outside the regular school day and follow school and AHS guidelines and protocols around hand sanitizer use, size of meeting, wiping surfaces, and maintenance of physical distancing.

School Councils are respectfully cautioned in the use of Council funds to supplement Division-supplied materials and equipment related to COVID-19 safety measures. Although well-intentioned, the Division has approved vendors, and will continue to equitably provide appropriate resources according to the mandates as directed by AHS and in compliance with OHS standards.



# ACCESSING SUPPORT

## MENTAL HEALTH

Edmonton Catholic Schools supports student mental health through a Comprehensive School Health Framework. This framework is an internationally recognized approach to supporting improvements in students' educational outcomes while addressing school health in a planned, integrated, and holistic way. This whole-school model builds capacity to incorporate well-being as an essential aspect of student achievement. Actions address four distinct, but inter-related components that comprise a comprehensive school health approach:

- Social and physical environment
- Teaching and learning
- Healthy school policy
- Partnerships and Services

When actions in all four components are harmonized, students are supported to realize their full potential as learners – and as healthy, productive members of society.

For additional supports, parents can also access:

- **Mental Health Helpline:**  
**Phone: 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.
- **French Mental Health Help Line:**  
**Phone: 1-800-567-9699**  
Same services as above
- **Kids Help Phone: 1-800-668-6868**  
[www.Kidshelphone.ca](http://www.Kidshelphone.ca)  
Text CONNECT to 686868
- **French Kids Help line:**  
[www.jeunessejecoute.ca](http://www.jeunessejecoute.ca)
- **Health Link: Phone: 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**  
24 hour availability, 7 days a week, or chat online at [Hope For Wellness](#)



# PLEASE HELP PROTECT OUR COMMUNITY