



Exshaw School
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Dear Exshaw Families:

As we begin the 2021 - 22 school year, Exshaw School places the safety and well being of all students and staff as priority. We want to welcome back students into our safe, nurturing learning environments with the guidelines from Alberta Education and the Chief Medical Officer of Alberta. As well, the data from our district survey was taken into consideration when developing a plan for this current school year. This re-entry plan will be reviewed following the government review of current health measures on September 27th, 2021. Thank you for your ongoing communication, cooperation and understanding as we navigate these times.

Links to Alberta Government Parent Resources

1. [Parent's Guide 2021/2022 School Year](#)
2. [Guidance for Parents of Children Attending School, Childcare or Camps](#)
3. [Mandatory Isolation Requirements](#)
 - Albertans are legally required to isolate for 10 days if they test positive or have any core symptoms that are not related to a pre-existing illness or health condition.

Health Measures

- At Exshaw School, we will continue to promote the following measures to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19 and other respiratory illnesses:
 - Staying home when sick;
 - Ensuring regular cleaning and disinfection of high traffic/touch areas and surfaces;
 - Maintaining physical distancing where possible;
 - Promoting and facilitating hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette and;
 - Maintaining ventilation

Daily Self Screening Practices

- Each day before coming to school, staff and students (or their caregivers) will need to assess whether they feel well enough to attend school by using the [Alberta Health Daily Checklist](#)
- If a child has any of the core symptoms (fever, cough, shortness of breath, loss of sense of smell or taste), the child is required to isolate for 10 days from the onset of symptoms OR receive a negative COVID-19 test and feel better before returning to activities.
- Any child that has symptoms such as chills, sore throat/painful swallowing, runny nose/congestion, feeling unwell/fatigues, nausea/vomiting and/or diarrhea, unexplained loss of appetite, muscle/joint aches, headache, conjunctivitis, should assess their child using the [AHS Online Self-Assessment tool](#) and seek appropriate health care advice and stay home.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- All students that will be attending Exshaw School and will be riding Nakoda Bus Lines must be wearing masks for the entire trip on the bus as mandated by the provincial government. Unlike the 2020- 21 school year, the responsibility to provide masks is for the family to provide the mask.
- It is strongly recommended that students in grades K-3 wear non-medical masks in common areas within the school (this includes hallways, during assemblies in the gym, etc.)
- Students in grades 4 -8 are required to wear non-medical masks in common areas.
- All permitted visitors will continue to be required to wear non-medical masks.
- All school staff are required to wear non-medical masks in common areas (hallways, staff work room, snacketeria, office, during assemblies).

Students with Pre-Existing Conditions

- At the start of the 2021-22 school year, families will be required to provide updated information on a student's pre-existing health condition on the annual school demographic update/verification 202/21.

What Happens When A Child Becomes Sick While At School?

- If a student presents with COVID-19 symptoms during the school day, as per the [Alberta Health Daily Checklist](#) and as determined by school staff, families will be contacted immediately to pick up their child.
- The student will be placed in the school's infirmary until they are picked up. If there is more than 1 student in the infirmary, the students should remain more than 2 meters apart whenever possible. Students cannot be placed on the bus. If a parent is unable to pick up their child, they must designate an emergency contact for student pickup, via the Annual School Demographic Update/Verification 2021/2022.
- Students showing symptoms will be given a mask while waiting to be picked up. Staff caring for the student will wear PPE
- In extenuating circumstances, where a parent cannot pick up their child by the end of the day, [AP 386](#) will be enacted.

What Happens If There Is a Case of COVID-19?

- AHS Public Health will not inform school authorities or the principal of individual cases of COVID-19 within their school setting, as notification to the school is not required for the individual's case management.
- Families with children in a class with a positive case or who have had direct contact with the positive case will continue to be informed directly by the principal if the school becomes aware of the positive case..
- Staff, students or parents/guardians may choose are strongly encouraged to notify the principal of a positive COVID-19 test result.
- Additional health measures may be put in place in classrooms with a confirmed case of COVID-19.
- There will be no classroom isolations unless an outbreak occurs which Alberta Health Services will investigate. A decision to isolate a class or school will be made in consultation with AHS.

What Happens If My Child Tests Positive for COVID-19?

- Alberta Health Services states that you are legally required to **isolate** for a minimum of **10 days** if they have tested positive for COVID-19. Isolation period is for 10 days from the **start** of symptoms, or until symptoms resolve, whichever takes longer.

How Does My Child Learn While Self-Isolating or Ill?

- At Exshaw School we strive to ensure that your child continues to learn through the most difficult times. If a child is self-isolating or ill, teachers will support students to work from home as per typical practices when a student is ill and must remain at home, but is still able to complete school work. Learning will be provided through SeeSaw or google classroom (not through real time/live classroom streaming). Families who make the personal decision

not to have their child attend school face to face due to reasons other than those mentioned above will be provided with information on home schooling for Alberta School divisions that offer this option.

Student Cohorting

- Students at Exshaw School will remain together as a cohort (group of students and staff who remain together) whenever possible during instruction. The students will be encouraged to physically distance and use appropriate handwashing and respiratory etiquette at all times.

Visitors/Parents/Volunteers

- To continue to minimize the number of additional adults in the building at any given time, parents/guardians may only enter Exshaw School with an appointment made 24 hours in advance, except in emergency situations.
- Only essential visitors will be permitted in Exshaw School at this time. Essential visitors at this time include parents/guardians, delivery personnel, CRPS staff, AHS and RCMP. Before possible entry to Exshaw School, all possible essential visitors must complete the [Alberta Health Daily Checklist](#). If they answer YES to any of the questions, they will not be permitted to enter the school. All essential visitors will be required to sign in at the front office of the school and complete contact tracing with the administrative assistant.
- While at Exshaw School, all permitted essential visitors will be required to wear a non-medical mask that covers their nose and mouth at all times except in the case of an exemption as per the regulations and remain in the school for as limited a time as possible. They will be required to follow all other safety protocols observed by all adults in the building.
- Volunteers, knowledge keepers, face to face classroom guest speakers and Elders may be used outdoors only.

Extracurricular activities

- Extracurricular activities will be reinstated at Exshaw School and will be offered following the context of health measures that may be in place at the time of the activity. As of September 2021, we will begin the year with outdoor practices for volleyball and cross country running. All public health measures and recommendations must be followed during extracurricular activities.

Field trips

- Exshaw School students may participate in field trips within our local area at this time.

Lockers, Changerooms, Bootrooms

- Lockers, changerrooms and bathrooms will all be used for the 2021-22 school year.

Washrooms

- Regular washroom access is maintained for all students. Students will be taught to physically distance and not to have more than two students in the bathrooms at one time. There will be physically distance stickers on the floor for students to wait on and staff will teach the students how to use the new routines in the washrooms. Signage will be placed about washing hands and physically distancing. Washrooms will be a priority for cleaning regularly. Students will be assigned to use certain washrooms.

Shared Equipment/Resources

- At Exshaw School, we are lucky to have access to a number of fantastic resources such as sports equipment, math manipulatives, many books to read, to name a few! When handling shared resources, students will be encouraged to use proper hand hygiene before and after using the resources.

Snacketeria

- Students at Exshaw School have the ability to have a free breakfast and the ability to be a lunch for \$3.00 that includes a sandwich, a piece of fruit, vegetables and a granola bar! This is by far the best deal in the valley! Students can also choose to bring their own lunch if they choose to from home. For the month of September, students will be eating in their classrooms.

Provincial Assessments

- Exshaw School, as well as the other schools in Canadian Rockies Public Schools, will be participating in the Grade 6 Provincial Achievement Tests.

Supporting Students Who Require Individual/Specialized Support and/or Medically Fragile Students

- In situations where staff are working with medically fragile students or students who are immunocompromised, Exshaw staff will *always* wear a face shield, a non-medical mask, gloves and a lab coat which will be provided by CRPS.
- In situations where ongoing or significant physical contact is required to support students with exceptional learning needs, staff will always wear a non-medical mask.
- Students/family members should consult with their primary care provider to consider their personal risk and make a decision on what supports may be needed or what is the best option for learning. In addition to consulting a physician, Albertans can assess the risk of experiencing severe health outcomes from COVID-19 using the [COVID-19 personal risk severity assessment](#).
- CRPS contracted service providers will be required to wear PPE provided by the school division and as directed by the school division. They must also follow all personal hygiene recommendations.

Student Transportation

- All students and drivers will be required to wear a mask on buses. Attendance will be taken daily and students will be seated in designated sections depending on bus route requirements.

We look forward to welcoming your child(ren) back to Exshaw School for the upcoming school year! We are excited to start a new school year learning together!

Yours in Education,

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