

**Nov. 25, 2020**

**New COVID-19 Public Health Measures: Information for Students, Parents/Legal Guardians, and Staff**

On Nov. 24, Premier Jason Kenney [declared](#) a state of public health emergency in Alberta. In response to continued rising cases of COVID-19 across the province, the Alberta Government has put in place “bold and targeted” [province-wide public health measures](#), including [some within schools](#), to slow down the spread of the virus. Unless otherwise stated, these mandatory restrictions came into effect immediately and will be in place for at least three weeks. The [province says](#) that, together, these measures will help protect our health care system, keep schools and businesses open as much as possible, and protect vulnerable Albertans. Health officials and government authorities are monitoring the situation and will adjust measures if required.

Starting Nov. 30, students in Grades 7 to 12 will move to at-home learning until Jan. 8, except for the Christmas break (Dec. 19 to Jan. 3). Diploma exams are optional for the rest of the school year. In-person learning for students in Pre- K to Grade 6 will continue until the scheduled break and will move to at-home learning following the break (Jan. 4 to 8). In-person classes for all students (K to 12) will resume on Jan. 11. School principals will provide more information to parents/legal guardians in the days to come. If you have specific questions, please reach out to your child’s school directly.

The province has also mandated the use of masks in all indoor workplaces in Edmonton and surrounding communities. As well, there is a temporary ban of any indoor social gatherings in any setting, including workspaces and private homes.

To read [all of the public health measures](#) instituted by the province, please visit the Alberta Government [website](#). Updated information is also provided in our [Parent Guidebook for School Re-Entry: 2020-2021](#), on our [website](#), and through our social media channels ([Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#)). Your child(ren)’s school principal can best address your concerns as they apply to [your child\(ren\)’s school](#). We continue to work closely with Alberta Health Services and surrounding school authorities to enact measures that mitigate the risks of further transmission.

Families are still required to continue using the [COVID-19 Alberta Health Daily Checklist for Children Under 18](#) daily, **before** sending their child(ren) to school. If your child is ill or has any symptoms, even if they seem mild, please keep him or her at home, call 8-1-1, and follow all instructions for testing and isolating.

While these temporary restrictions are challenging, they are required to help keep everyone safe. I know that many in our faith and learning community have been struggling, and yesterday’s provincial announcement may cause additional stress and hardship. If you or your child are experiencing signs of mental duress or require support, please reach out. [This simple resource](#) provides succinct information on where you can turn for help, as do the community resources listed in the “Supporting Mental Health and Wellness” section of the *Parent Guidebook*. Furthermore, our Division provides all students with access to professional school counselors. Please contact your child’s school’s principal if your child needs help.

Thank you for your understanding as we work together to support student learning and bend the curve. Blessings.

Sincerely,

Dr. Clint Moroziuk  
Superintendent of Schools