



Fort Vermilion School Division Welcome Back

September 2021

August 31, 2021

Introduction

Fort Vermilion School Division is pleased to provide the 2021 Welcome Back Plan. One of the division's guiding principles for decision making is "we will ensure health and safety for our students and staff." This plan is designed to support our collective responsibility to ensure health and safety for students and staff while student learning continues.

It is based on the best available information and conditions at the time of creation.

I wish to thank all stakeholders for their continuing patience, understanding and support throughout these challenging times. You have done a magnificent job of promoting FVSD's mission of "Our Children, Our Students, Our Future." FVSD's goal is to have normal conditions.

Mike McMann
Superintendent of Schools

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General Building Safety

During COVID-19, general building safety is of great importance in all FVSD schools and facilities. Each school and facility must adhere to all the guidelines listed below:

- Prior to school opening for the 2021-2022 school year, all schools are undergoing a thorough cleaning.
- Regular cleaning and disinfection are essential. FVSD facilities will be cleaned and disinfected in accordance with the AHS Cleaning and Disinfectants for Public Settings.
- Hand Hygiene - Students and staff are encouraged to wash their hands frequently as per the AHS guidelines posters. Proper hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette should be promoted. Schools must develop procedures that outline hand hygiene.
- Water Bottle Fill Stations: Students and staff will have access to bottle fill stations and are encouraged to use personal water bottles.
- The school day will run from 8:40 am to 2:45 pm with 5 hours of instruction.
- Students in all grades and schools are welcome to wear masks at any time.

All schools will be cleaned as per the following schedule:

- The school will be cleaned thoroughly every evening after the school is closed.
- Disinfectant will be utilized as per AHS guidelines.

Screening

It is important for students and staff to self-screen daily, as per the following guidelines:

- Before leaving home each day they plan to enter school for work or education, staff, students, parents/guardians, and any other visitors must self-screen for symptoms using the AHS Screening [Questionnaire](#). **Note:** There are separate screening tools for students and for adults age 18 and above.
- Parents and students must be provided with a copy of the screening tool during school registration with the expectation that it needs to be completed daily.
- Schools must keep records of children's known pre-existing conditions. If a child develops symptoms that could be caused by either COVID-19 or by a known pre-existing condition (e.g., allergies), the child should be tested for COVID-19 to confirm that it is not the source of their symptoms before entering or returning to school. (FVSD respects the right of parents to choose not to be tested, this would mean the child with any of the 5 core symptoms (Fever, Cough, Shortness of Breath, Runny Nose, Sore Throat) would have to remain at home for 10 days from the onset of symptoms, or until symptoms resolve, whichever is longer.)
- Those who report symptoms will be required to stay home, seek health care advice as appropriate (e.g., call Health Link 811, their primary health care practitioner, or 911 for emergency response), and fill out the AHS Online Self-Assessment tool to determine if they should be tested.
- Signs must be posted reminding persons not to enter if they have COVID-19 symptoms, even if symptoms resemble a mild cold.

Expectations for drop-off/pick-up and entry areas at schools

- Each school will release a schedule and guideline for drop-off for urban and rural students. Please contact your school for local information.

Parents/Guardians

- Parents/Guardians must report directly to the office.
- Prior to entering a school, everyone must use the self-screening [tool](#). If a prospective visitor answers YES to any of the questions, the individual will not to be admitted into the school.
- Signs will be posted reminding persons not to enter if they have COVID-19 symptoms, even if symptoms resemble a mild cold.
- A record of everyone that enters the school will be kept, including the tracking of entry and exit times.

Transportation

- Prior to the start of the 2021-2022 school year, all school buses will undergo a thorough cleaning.
- Students will be assigned seats in family cohorts, and a record of this seating plan will be kept and updated as needed in order to assist with contact tracing.
- Family cohorts will maintain physical distancing on the bus.
- Attendance records will be kept for contact tracing purposes and retained for four weeks.

Parents continue to have a choice in the type of education that their children can access.

In-School Learning

Please contact your local school.

At Home Learning (teacher directed)

Please contact Sean Price at the At-Home Learning Center at 1-587-323-8840.

Outreach Learning (teacher directed)

Please contact Anne Roberts at the Learning Store at 780-926-3626.

Home-School Learning (parent directed)

Please contact Chad Fyke or Rachel Neufeld at Northern Home Education 780-928-0212.

Response to Illness

During the school day, staff should ensure that:

- If a student is showing core symptoms (fever, cough, shortness of breath, loss of taste/smell) of COVID-19 the student will be isolated and the parent/guardian will be notified immediately to pick up the student.
- If a student is sent home due to exhibiting core symptoms of COVID-19, the parent/guardian should call 811 and follow the advice provided by Alberta Health Services.
- The school will dedicate an isolation space for the sick.

Staff should:

- Upon exhibiting core symptoms of COVID-19, notify their administrator and go home. Staff will be required to complete a leave request using sick days for the time they are away from school.
- Complete the [COVID-19 Self-Assessment](#) or call 811 for further instructions.