



Parkland School Division

Early Education Re-Entry Plan

We are excited to start this school year with you and your child. Early Education, as with the rest of our schools, will look a little different this year as we take measures to keep children and staff as safe as possible for in-person learning.

Families are encouraged to read the COVID-19 [Parkland School Division 2020-21 Plan for School Re-entry](#) to learn more about how the Division is approaching in-person and online learning in schools. For more specific information regarding your school please refer to your school's re-entry plan that can be found at:

<https://www.psd70.ab.ca/COVID19.php>

This Early Education information is based on the Division's Re-entry Protocols and outlines what families can expect before school starts, what in-person classes will look like, and what to expect throughout the year.

Before Early Education Starts

To get children and families ready for the first few days of school, your teacher will reach out to you with information about:

- Scheduling your initial school visit where you will:
 - visit your classroom
 - meet your teacher
 - drop off your supplies (please have them all labeled with child's name)
 - discuss what a typical day will look like, including drop off and pick up
- In addition to the school's safety protocols, Early Education will employ:
 - cleaning the classroom between cohorts (morning and afternoon classes)
 - minimize the sharing of materials between cohorts

Health and Safety Measures

Screening protocol

Prior to school:

- Parents please answer the questions found on the [COVID-19 Screening Questionnaire](#) each morning before sending your child to school.
- If you have answered “Yes” to any of the questions, please DO NOT enter the school at this time. You should stay home and use the [AHS Online Assessment Tool](#) to determine whether you need to be tested COVID-19.
- Please call the school to let them know that your child will be absent.

If a student shows symptoms at school:

- Parents will be contacted to pick up the child immediately (please ensure your school has up-to-date contact information). All care and compassion will be used to respect the student’s privacy.
- Students will be required to wear a mask and be isolated in a separate room or kept at least 2 metres away from others.
- Schools will ensure that all parents provide names and information of two emergency contacts with the understanding that these individuals would be expected to pick up a sick child in a timely manner if they become symptomatic.
- There may be some confusion as to when parents should keep their children home from school or when parents are allowed to return their children back to class. First and foremost, **it is the parents' role to screen their child(ren) for symptoms every morning**. For a visual tool you can print off and keep posted somewhere at home, check out the Parkland School Division [Stay at Home Guide](#).

The bottom line: students with symptoms must not attend school. According to Alberta Health Services guidelines, if a child develops symptoms that could be caused either by COVID-19 or by a known pre-existing condition (e.g. allergies, chronic cough), the child should be tested for COVID-19 to confirm that it is not the source of their symptoms before returning to school. Anyone who exhibits symptoms must stay home and seek health care advice as appropriate: parents can call Health Link 811 and/or their primary health care practitioner (family doctor), and fill out the [AHS Online Self-Assessment tool](#) to determine if their child should be tested.

If a student has pre-existing conditions with symptoms similar to COVID-19:

- A number of students may have conditions (i.e. allergies, asthma, other medical conditions) that may present symptoms similar to COVID-19. Please fill out the [Pre-existing Medical Conditions Form](#).
- If the student has pre-existing conditions, they should be tested at least once before returning to school and have a negative COVID-19 test result. These symptoms would be their baseline health status.
- If symptoms present themselves that would be consistent with the pre-existing condition, (i.e.; runny nose from allergies) as long as the cough or runny nose is always the same and does not get worse, the student can attend school.
- You will need to inform the school (with appropriate documentation: a letter from a doctor) of your child's pre-existing condition.
- If the symptoms from the pre-existing condition, (i.e.; runny nose, etc.) worsens, students will be required to stay home for the required amount of time, potentially get tested for COVID-19 and will be permitted to return once symptoms have resolved.

Promote Healthy Hygiene Practices

- In Early Education, teachers will ensure that students are taught and reminded about proper hand washing techniques, the importance of physical distancing, and coughing and sneezing technique.
- Students will have access to required handwashing stations and/or hand sanitizer.

Personal protective equipment (PPE)

- It is required that all teachers and staff wear masks while in shared areas of school, outside the classroom, and on school buses where they may not be able to maintain the recommended physical distancing requirements.
- In Early Education, we know that social distancing can be difficult for 3 and 4 year olds, staff need to assist children with certain tasks, provide support for their emotional well-being or help manage conflict, therefore staff will be wearing masks in the classroom.
- In Early Education, while it is not mandatory that children wear masks, families may still encourage their child to do so. Students must be able to put on and take off their own masks.
- For diaper changes, surfaces will be cleaned before and after use. Staff are required to wear a mask, face shield and gloves. Gloves are disposed of after each use.

Cohorts

- Cohorts, a group of children and staff who remain together for learning and activities. Cohorting is a strategy to help support the safest school environment possible. Cohorting decreases the number of close contacts staff and children have in their school and helps with contact tracing, if needed. Cohort sizes depend on the classroom size and number of children assigned to the teacher.
- In Early Education, we have a morning and an afternoon class. Each of these classes are considered a cohort.

Snack Time

- Families can send children with food from home, which will be kept with the child. Food cannot be shared with other children, as per provincial health guidelines. Staff must wash or sanitize their hands before and after assisting a child with opening their snack items.

Personal belongings

- Please leave non-essential personal items at home. Provide clearly labelled backpacks, coats and indoor shoes for your child.

Inside the classroom

Our youngest students are curious and eager to explore. To keep everyone as safe as possible, we are taking the following precautions in our Early Education classrooms:

- Materials that aren't easily cleaned, such as blankets and plush materials, will be removed from the classroom.
- Equipment that is shared between cohorts will be disinfected and cleaned before another group uses it.
- If children are using shared materials, such as blocks or cars, they must wash or sanitize their hands before and after use.
- Mouthed toys are immediately put into a designated bucket to be cleaned and disinfected.
- Rooms and equipment will be cleaned and sanitized every day, including between cohorts of children.
- Children will not do activities that involve cooking or preparing food.
- Where possible, schools will take children outdoors to enhance learning.

Recess and playgrounds

- Students will remain in their assigned learning cohort for recess. Schools may stagger break times or assign student cohorts to specific areas of the schoolyard. If children are playing on equipment, they must follow proper hand hygiene before and after using it.

Connecting with your school

- Families are an integral part of our school communities. Although this school year looks a little different, our schools are excited to connect with you. Some of the key methods we use to communicate with families are:
 - Your school website
 - Parkland School Division website.
 - PSD social media accounts – Facebook, Twitter, Instagram.
 - Your school social media accounts. Please check with your school office.
 - Your teacher may have additional contact information ie. google classroom, seesaw, remind101, class dojo

Visiting the school

To keep everyone safe, families will only be allowed in the school with an appointment. Before entering the school, all visitors will need to complete a [Visitor Entry Protocol for Schools and PSD Sites form which includes a COVID-19 Screening Questionnaire](#) and sign the school's visitor log.

Resources for families

If you have questions about our Early Education programming, please contact your school.

Here are additional resources to help you get ready for the school year.

- Alberta Education: [Parents' Guide to 2020-21 School Year](#) will help you understand your role in reducing the risk of COVID-19 in schools
- [Mental Health Help Line](#) is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Additional supports for families are available through Alberta Health Services.
- View the Alberta Education video: [Returning to School Safely](#)