



Parkland School Division Responding to Illness Protocol

Students will return to school daily at the beginning of the new school year. There are health measures that everyone has to follow to reduce the risk of COVID-19 and help stay safe. This Responding to Illness protocol will be in effect for the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic.

While your school will develop a plan to meet the government's health recommendations, everyone will have a role to play.

School staff should ask students daily if they have self-screened (where appropriate). Students should stay at home if they feel sick or if they are in contact with someone who is sick. However, the division recognizes that there will be instances that occur where a student only starts exhibiting symptoms after they arrive at school.

If a student shows symptoms at school:

- parents will be contacted to pick up the child immediately (ensure your school has up-to-date contact information). All care and compassion will be used to respect the student's privacy.
- student 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.

If a school has a confirmed positive case:

- the zone medical officer of health will work with school authorities to quickly:
 - identify when symptoms developed
 - identify and contact people who had close contact with the person who tested positive, offer testing, and set the isolation measures:
 - people are legally required to [isolate](#) for 14 days if they live with or are a close contact of a person who tested positive for COVID-19
 - only people in direct contact with a confirmed case need to isolate
- Under the direction of Alberta Health Services, Parkland School Division will:
 - notify staff and parents if a case is confirmed at school
 - support students and staff to learn or work at home if they are required to self-isolate
 - contact tracing, investigations and notifications will be conducted under the direction of Alberta Health Services

If a school has 2 or more cases:

- the school would be considered to have an outbreak by Alberta Health Services
- medical officers will assess the spread and exposure risk to determine if it affects multiple grades and areas, or is confined within close contacts of a confirmed case, and provide specific recommendations – an outbreak will not automatically lead to school closure
- If the student requires close contact and care, staff can continue to care for the student until the parent is able to pick up the student. Staff should wear a mask during all interactions with the student and should avoid contact with the student's respiratory secretions.
- Staff/students must wash their hands before donning a mask and before and after removing the mask (as per [mask guidance](#)), and before and after touching any items used by the student.
- All items the student touched/used while isolated must be cleaned and disinfected as soon as the student has been picked up. Items that cannot be cleaned and disinfected should be removed from the classroom and stored in a sealed container for a minimum of 10 days.
- The room used to isolate must be appropriately cleaned and disinfected following use.

Pre-existing conditions (that could present as symptoms of COVID-19)

A number of students and staff may have conditions (i.e.; allergies, asthma, other medical conditions) that may present symptoms similar to COVID-19.

- If the student or staff member 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) 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 or get tested for COVID-19.

Testing Family Members

If a child is being tested for COVID-19, it does not necessarily mean that immediate family members will have to self-isolate. If you check yes on the PSD Self Screening Questionnaire, it does not automatically mean you require a COVID test or need to self-isolate. If you check yes, you are required to complete the AHS COVID-19 Self-Assessment (found [here](#)) **and follow the direction from AHS**. Currently, the AHS guidelines do not require family members to self-isolate or get a COVID test unless a family member has tested positive. If in doubt, we recommend calling 811.

School Procedures

- Schools should 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.
- Schools should ensure they establish an appropriately located 'infirmar' to accommodate students exhibiting symptoms while they wait for parent/emergency contact pickup.
- Schools must keep records of a student's known pre-existing conditions. If a student develops symptoms in or outside of the program that could be caused by COVID-19 or by a known pre-existing condition (e.g. allergies), the student should be tested for COVID-19 at least once to confirm that it is not the source of their symptoms before entering or returning to the school.
- If two or more staff/students within a cohort are identified as having symptoms consistent with COVID-19, the school should follow outbreak notification procedures as per AHS zone protocols. In such an event, principals must contact Division Office.
- Staff exhibiting symptoms will be required to go home and complete the AHS self-assessment and follow direction from AHS.

Any school authority/school connected to a confirmed or probable case of COVID-19 will be contacted by Alberta Health Services (AHS) and may be required to close in-person classes to allow the public health investigation to take place. The decision to send a cohort/class home or to close a school will be made in consultation with the local Medical Officer of Health.