

## 2021 - 2022 School Year Plan

**September 9, 2021**

Elk Island Catholic Schools is looking forward to welcoming students and staff back to school for 2021-2022, and to the resumption of school activities such as field trips, extracurricular activities, school masses and celebrations, hot lunch programs and graduation activities.

On August 13, 2021, the Alberta government shared the [2021 - 2022 School Year Plan](#) with stakeholders.

While the Government of Alberta has removed school restrictions, our 2021-2022 School Plan will support schools in reducing the risk of transmission of illnesses and maintain a safe and healthy environment for our students and staff. EICS is committed to maintaining for the start of the 2021/2022 school year:

- enhanced cleaning and disinfecting including;
  - daily cleaning for all areas of the school, washrooms and high-touch surface areas cleaned several times a day;
- regularly scheduled deep cleaning when students are not present;
- enhanced cleaning protocol with healthcare grade system that kills human coronavirus;
- stay-at-home policy for any students or staff exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19;
- physical distancing maximization within the confines of a classroom;
- hand hygiene / respiratory etiquette
- daily screening following the [Alberta Health Daily Checklist](#)

EICS will review our plan on September 27th, 2021, in accordance with the Chief Medical Officer of Health's scheduled update. The health, safety and well-being of our students and staff will always remain our first priority.

### Health and Safety Measures for September 2021

#### Vaccines

- All eligible staff and students are encouraged to be fully vaccinated for respiratory illnesses, where applicable, such as COVID-19 and influenza.

#### Environmental Measures

- Enhanced cleaning protocols will continue. This includes regular cleaning and disinfection of high touch surfaces, regular scheduled deep cleaning when students are not present with our healthcare grade system.

- Physical distancing is encouraged within the confines of a classroom.
- Schools are implementing 2-day staggered entry. This allows a focus on new routines and classroom protocols regarding covid.

### Hand Hygiene

- Hand washing/sanitizing will continue to be part of daily routines, as per the [Guidance for Respiratory Illness Prevention and Management in Schools](#).
- Hand sanitizer will continue to be available throughout the school and at all entryways.

### Respiratory Etiquette

Beginning September 7th, 2021, the following applies

- All students and staff in grades K - 12 will be required to wear a mask in all common areas, hallways, foyers, lunchrooms, libraries and in areas where social distancing is not possible. Masks may be removed in classrooms when students are seated. When outside, masks are not necessary, but we encourage all students to practice physical distancing.
- There will be circumstances in which individuals will be eligible for mask accommodations or exemptions. Exemptions may be available for:
  - persons who are unable to place, use, or remove a non-medical face mask (i.e. developmental and/or physical reasons);
  - a medical condition or disability (i.e. mental or physical);
  - anyone unable to wear a mask due to a medical condition will require a medical exemption letter from an authorized health professional
- EICS is supportive of a safe return to extra-curricular activities. The hope is that current restrictions can be diminished throughout the year as the threat of covid reduces in society and our schools.
  - Masks must be worn in all school areas including the change rooms / locker rooms.
  - Masks may be removed during warm up and while participating in the game.
  - Masks must be worn by the coach and players on the bench.
  - At this time, NO SPECTATORS are allowed in the schools/gymnasium.
  - Outdoor events will allow spectators; it is highly encouraged that spectators wear masks and adhere to social distancing protocols.
  - During outdoor events, modeling of mask use by coaches is strongly recommended.
  - Parents are not allowed in the school for planning meetings, these meetings are to occur virtually.
  - Masks must be worn when being transported to the event.

## Responding to Illness

### Symptomatic Students and Staff

- Before coming to school, students and staff must screen daily for any new signs or symptoms of Covid-19 using the [Alberta Health Daily Checklist](#).
- Anyone with new onset or worsening symptoms of COVID-19 are not to attend school and are directed by Alberta Health to stay home, seek health care advice and fill out the [AHS Online Assessment tool](#) to determine if they should be tested for COVID-19.
- Should a student develop symptoms of illness at school, parents will be notified and advised to pick up their child as soon as possible.

### Confirmed cases of COVID-19

- Parents/guardians are encouraged to notify school administrators of a positive COVID-19 test result. All reporting continues to be confidential.
- Staff and students who test positive for COVID-19 are required to isolate for a minimum of 10 days. (See Appendix B)
- At the direction of the Chief Medical Officer of Health, AHS will no longer notify close contacts of a potential COVID-19 exposure at school.

## School Operations

### School Activities

- School operations and activities will resume as normal.

### Transportation

- Masks are required for all students and staff on school busses.
- Continued cleaning of high touch surfaces will occur.

### School Access

- Before entering the school, visitors must screen for any signs or symptoms of Covid-19 using the [Alberta Health Daily Checklist](#).
- Parents, visitors are permitted to enter the school provided there is a valid reason. Gatherings outside of classrooms or hallways are not to occur.
- All parents, volunteers, and guests are required to wear masks while in our schools.

### Mental Health and Well-Being

- Support for students and parents can be found on our [website](#). School support teams will continue to be available to students, staff and families within Elk Island Catholic Schools.

## Appendix A

### [Alberta Health Daily Checklist](#)

## Appendix B

# Appendix B: Management of Symptomatic Individuals and Individuals Tested for COVID-19

Symptoms	COVID-19 Test Result:	Management of Individual:
Symptomatic	Positive	Isolate for a minimum 10 days or until symptoms have improved AND no fever for 24 hours, without the use of fever-reducing medications, whichever is longer.
	Negative	Stay home until symptoms resolve.
	Not tested	<p><b>Student:</b> If symptoms include fever, cough, shortness of breath or loss of sense of taste/smell: Isolate for a minimum for 10 days or until symptoms have improved AND afebrile for 24 hours, without the use of fever-reducing medications, whichever is longer.</p> <p><b>Adult:</b> If symptoms include fever, cough, shortness of breath, sore throat or runny nose: Isolate for a minimum for 10 days or until symptoms have improved AND afebrile for 24 hours, without the use of fever-reducing medications, whichever is longer.</p> <p><b>Student:</b> If other symptoms (chills, sore throat/painful swallowing, runny nose/congestion, feeling unwell/fatigued, nausea/vomiting/diarrhea, unexplained loss of appetite, muscle/joint aches, headache or conjunctivitis):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ONE symptom: stay home, monitor for 24h. If improves, return when well enough to go (testing not necessary).</li> <li>• TWO symptoms OR ONE symptom that persists or worsens: Stay home until symptom(s) resolve (testing recommended but not required).</li> </ul> <p><b>Adult:</b> If other symptoms, stay home until symptoms resolve.</p>
Asymptomatic	Positive	Isolate for a minimum of 10 days from the collection date of the swab.
	Negative	No isolation required.

## Reference Material

- [Letter from Chief Medical Officer of Health - August 13th, 2021](#)
- [Guidance for Respiratory Illness Prevention and Management in Schools](#)
- [2021-2022 School Year Plan](#)
- [Parents' Guide 2021 - 22 School Year](#)