

Parent Q&A

Question and Answer Form

On July 21, 2020, the Government of Alberta announced that all Kindergarten to Gr. 12 students will re-enter school this fall under Scenario 1: In-School Learning with class resuming at near-normal operations and health measures. We understand parents and students have questions about school resuming and Rocky View Schools (RVS) is working hard to provide this clarity as soon as possible. **Please connect with your school administrators if you have questions about your school/classroom. Contact information is available on your school's website.**

RVS is committed to providing updates as soon as we know more and encourage you to submit your questions through our website Q&A form. Responses will be posted regularly. Thank you for your ongoing input and patience as we prepare for a safe return to school.

Questions and answers have been organized according to topic. New questions that have been recently answered are highlighted **NEW**.

Government Guidelines

RVS is following the guidance outlined in the Alberta Government's 2020-2021 School Re-Entry Plan for our return to classes.

COVID-19 Information & Resources

Families are encouraged to stay updated on the latest COVID-19 information provided by the Government of Alberta and Alberta Health Services:

Government of Alberta Coronavirus information for Albertans

Government of Alberta COVID-19 information: Guidance for school re-entry

Government of Alberta COVID-19 information: get the facts: back to class for 2020-21

Government of Alberta self-screening questionnaire (available in multiple languages)

Government of Alberta's COVID-19 School Outbreak Resource Guide

Government of Alberta's Isolation Requirements

Alberta Health Services COVID-19 Self-Assessment Tool

Government of Alberta's Guidance for wearing non-medical masks

Last updated Aug. 31, 2020

Re-entry Scenario

- **Q: Can the school board adopt a different scenario for re-entry independent of the government recommendations? (For example, could you choose to do a blend of online and in-person learning as is outlined in Scenario 2?)** No. The scenario for school re-entry is directed by Alberta Education and the Provincial Medical Officer of Health, as outlined in the Alberta Government's 2020-2021 School Re-Entry Plan.

Child/School-specific Questions

- **Q: Who do I contact with questions specific to my child's school and/or my child's complex needs/IPP's? Principals have returned to school and any child/school-specific questions should be directed to them. They will get back to you as soon as they can. Please be patient as there is a higher volume of inquiries than normal given the unique circumstances this school year.**

Choosing Your Child's Education Option

- **Q: What is the deadline for informing schools of our family's decision regarding in-class, online or home education? The deadline to make a selection for the fall semester has passed. All students who did not make a selection through the intake form will be registered for in-person learning. Once all online and in-person registrations have been processed, there may be an opportunity to make a change, if it is identified that space and resources are available. It is important to note that families will have a one-time opportunity to change from either online or face-to-face learning (Feb. 1, 2021).**
- **Q: What if my child attends in person class for the first few weeks and decides that they are not comfortable with distancing measures within the school itself, are they able to transition to online learning?** Depending on the numbers and resources in the online environment this may

not be possible to accommodate.

- **Q. If we chose in-school learning and the schools are transitioned to Scenario 2 or 3, will the quality of learning be similar to that offered for online learning or will it be more reflective of the at-home learning offered in spring 2020?** More information about what learning will look like under the different scenarios is available by clicking Scenario 2, Scenario 3.
- **Q. How do I find out how many children will be in their in-school class?** In-class sizes will look similar to how they have in previous years. Online class sizes are anticipated to be similar to their face-to-face peers. Specific numbers will not be available until early September.
- **Q. Will the teachers and staff be trained on the new expected procedures?** Communication with staff is ongoing. Clear expectations on re-entry planning and school procedures that support this will be shared with staff upon their return.
- **Q. How do we cancel a registration for Kindergarten and, if we do decide to send our child to kindergarten can we withdraw them if we start to feel uncomfortable?** Parents wanting to withdraw their child from Kindergarten can contact their child's school to advise them of the choice to withdraw. The following year, if your child is 6 years of age or older (as of Sept. 1, 2021), they will be placed in Gr. 1. You may withdraw your child from Kindergarten at any time.

Online Learning

- **Q. If I'm not comfortable having my children attend in-person school, will there be an online learning option available for all grades?** Yes. Please visit the RVS Online Learning page to learn more about this option.
- **Q. How do I register my child for RVS Online Learning?** The deadline to make a selection for the fall semester has passed. All students who did not make a selection through the intake form will be registered for in-person learning. Once all online and in-person registrations have been processed, there may be an opportunity to make a change, if it is identified that space and resources are available. It is important to note that families will have a one-time opportunity to change from either online or face-to-face learning (Feb. 1, 2021).
- **Q. Are there limited spots for RVS Online Learning? Is it based on first come, first served? We are currently processing online and in-person registrations which will determine the number of required classes/teachers. Acceptance is not based on a first come, first served model.**
- **Q. Will the presentation of the curriculum be structured similarly to this past March to June or will it be structured and evaluated similar to in-class learning?** Unlike the emergency at-home learning that took place in the spring of 2020, the learning outcomes for each grade and subject will be taught and assessed as they would for students in regular classes. For Gr. 1 – 9, each week, parents and students will receive a weekly learning plan with specific tasks and activities for students, along with weekly suggestions for physical literacy activities. For Gr. 10 – 12 courses, students will have access to the full course that they can work through at their own pace in preparation for diploma exams and course final assessments.
- **Q. If we chose the online offering for our French Immersion students, but there isn't sufficient registration to run a program, will they be able to elect to take the in-person offering to remain in French Immersion or will they still have the option to attend in-person classes?** If there are insufficient numbers to run online French Immersion, those parents who choose online French Immersion will need to decide between English online learning or French Immersion in-person classes.
- **Q. With regards to the online option, how long are the two Zoom meetings per day?** The exact and specific length of online meetings will be determined by the online teacher.
- **Q. We are interested in the online learning. My son will be attending the P3 Hockey Academy through Manachaban. Will the real time twice per day online meetings be scheduled to avoid conflicts with the Academy program (and travel time/prep to and from the arena)?** Unfortunately, the P3 Hockey Academy is available to students attending in-person classes only.

Daily Self-screening Practices & COVID-19 Testing

- **Q. Will staff and students be required to go through a daily health check?** Yes. Before coming to school each day, students, staff, parents/guardians and permitted visitors who will access the school must be screened for symptoms using the Daily Health Check. These questionnaires will provide guidance around whether it is safe for an individual to enter a school or worksite. Teachers will also be asked to monitor students throughout the day for any COVID-19-related symptoms.
- **Q. What if my child has pre-existing symptoms that may appear like COVID-19?** Individuals who have allergies or ongoing health issues must be tested at least once according to the Alberta Health Services Guidance document. This will establish a baseline for the individual. If symptoms change (worsen, additional symptom, change in baseline) the individual must stay at home and use the COVID-19 Self-Assessment Tool to determine whether your child needs to be tested for COVID-19.
- **Q: My child(ren) have asthma, allergies and/or seasonal allergies that can cause similar symptoms to COVID-19. Do they have they have to complete a COVID-19 test prior to school commencing?** Yes. According to Alberta Health Services Guidelines, a student showing COVID-19 symptoms who has allergies or other pre-existing medical conditions that cause similar symptoms should get at least one negative COVID-19 test result before returning to school.

These symptoms would be their baseline health status. The student can attend school as long as they stay the same. Talk to your school about your child's pre-existing medical conditions so the school may keep a confidential record of these conditions, as they would with other medical conditions.

- **Q. If a child is displaying one of the symptoms on the daily checklist but completes the self assessment tool and does not require testing can they return to school the next day?** As per Government of Alberta requirements, parents and students and school staff must review the self-screening questionnaire each day before going to school. If they answer YES to any of the questions, they are to stay home until their symptoms resolve.
- **Q. Students and teachers must complete daily self-screening per the re-entry plan. How will compliance with the completion of the screening be monitored?** In order for school re-entry to be successful, all students, families and staff must work together to minimize risks. One of the critical strategies is completion of screening daily before arriving to school. Should anyone answer "Yes" to any of the daily health check questions they are prohibited from entering the school and must stay home.
- **Q. Does Rocky View Schools follow the same daily health checklist for staff and students as recommended by Alberta Health Services?** Yes. All RVS students, staff, parents and guardians will complete Alberta Health Services' daily health checklist/questionnaire before leaving home each day.
- **Q. My spouse is considered an essential worker and travels out of country for work on a weekly basis (e.g. long-haul trucker, pilot, etc.). Does this mean that my child can't attend in-person learning?** No. As per Alberta Health guidelines, your child can attend in-person learning as long as they are symptom free and they have not had close contact (unprotected face-to-face contact within 2 meters) with a confirmed case of COVID-19).
- **Q. I have two children at the same school. If one of my children displays symptoms, does the other child also need to stay home even if they are symptom free?** No. As per Alberta Health guidelines, your child can attend in-person learning as long as they are symptom free and they have not had close contact (unprotected face-to-face contact within 2 meters) with a confirmed case of COVID-19.

Illness While at School

- **Q. What happens if my child has COVID-19-like symptoms at school?** If your child begins to feel sick while at school, they will be taken to a supervised infirmary room or designated space and given a disposable face mask to wear, if required. Parents/guardians will be contacted and must pick up their children immediately.
- **Q. What happens if a teacher or staff member exhibits COVID-19 symptoms during the school day?** Staff will be asked to leave the school site immediately to self-isolate.

Confirmed Cases of COVID-19

- **Q. If a student, staff or teacher tests positive for COVID-19 will the entire school shut down? How will parents know if their child has come in contact with this person? If there are cases of COVID-19 identified within school settings, RVS' Zone Medical Officer of Health will work directly with the jurisdiction and school administration to provide follow-up recommendations and messaging for staff, parents/guardians and students. Additional guidance is provided in the Alberta Government's COVID-19 School Outbreak Resource Guide.**
 - Schools will not be expected to engage in contacting close contacts but will be required to provide information to AHS Public Health staff. As per Alberta Health's Resource Guide for Outbreaks, AHS Public Health will contact all confirmed cases and their close contacts and provide them clear direction.
 - Alberta Health Services may request the school close in-person classes to allow a public health investigation to take place. The decision to send a cohort /class home or to close a school will be made by the local Medical Officer of Health. If this were to occur, the school will support students and staff to learn or work at-home if they are required to self-isolate.

In-class Learning

- **Q. When can we expect communication from our child's school about what to expect for the first days of school?** Parents will receive communication from their school by Aug. 28, 2020.
- **Q. I know that schools provide school supplies from Kindergarten - Gr. 4, is there anything else that we can provide/supply to help get them ready? Materials, worksheets, books?** Schools will provide school supplies for all students K – 4. All materials, worksheets, and books will be provided by the school. If there are other items that may be optional for bringing to school, your child's school will advise parents.
- **Q. Will there be field trips?** Guidance from Alberta Health states that field trips and activities requiring group transportation should not be scheduled. As such, field trips should be restricted to locations within walking distance of the school. All field trips beyond a reasonable walking distance are cancelled and should not be planned (e.g. international, out-of-province, out-of-community, across town trips).
- **Q. RVS' school Daily Template document includes a suggestion to bring our own device if possible. How can I find out what kind device they should bring? How will they be able to secure these devices if lockers will not be available?** Please refer to RVS' Laptop Standards for information about appropriate devices for student use. Parents may also want to contact their school to determine if there are specific courses offered where students may benefit from more robust hardware. Students should consult with their teacher regarding the most appropriate ways to secure their device. Students are ultimately responsible for their own personal items.
- **Q. Will there still be celebrations in some way, (e.g., Halloween, Christmas, Birthdays)? With assemblies/concerts eliminated, will the cohort groups still be able to have class parties in some way?** Schools will find ways of observing traditional school celebrations while following AHS guidelines.

Supporting Learning While Self-Isolating or Ill

- **Q. If a child presents symptoms of COVID-19, test results come back negative but is unable to attend school because of symptoms, can they do online learning to stay up-to-date while they await test results and symptoms to reside?** Students who are ill or who remain at home due to other issues will be supported in a similar way to which students were supported in the past. Teachers will provide work for students to complete while they are unable to come to school.

Mask Use and Hand Sanitizer

- **NEW How do I wash my child's the reusable mask that was supplied by the Alberta government?** Old Navy recommends washing their masks in cold water and tumble drying on low.
- **Q. Will my child have to wear a mask to school?** Detailed information about mask use in RVS can be found on page 6 of the Scenario 1 plan.
- **Q. With the announcement of mandatory masks, it was also mentioned that there would be exemptions by Alberta Health Services. How would a parent obtain an exemption for their child that is not able to tolerate a mask due to anxiety and sensory issues?** For all students in grade 4–12, as well as staff, who are unable to wear a mask due to one of the exemptions, the school administration should be informed of the exemption and should ensure adherence to the other public health measures. No official approval of an individual's exemption is required. Exemptions to mask requirement for all teachers and staff in all school settings and students in grades 4-12 include:
 - Persons who are unable to place, use or remove a non-medical face mask without assistance;
 - Persons unable to wear a non-medical face mask due to a mental or physical concern or limitation;
 - Persons consuming food or drink in designated areas;
 - Persons engaged in physical exercise;
 - Persons providing care or assistance to a person with a disability where a non-medical face mask would hinder that caregiving or assistance;
 - Persons engaging in services that require the temporary removal of the non-medical face mask, and
 - Spaces where physical barriers have been installed between persons.

Additional information about selecting a mask, when and how to use a mask and care of cloth masks can be found on the Alberta Government's website.

- **Q. Will schools provide masks and handwashing stations/sanitizer for students?** The province is providing all students and staff with two reusable cloth masks. If a student forgets their mask, schools will ensure there are supplies available for all students and staff. Details about how these will be distributed are being determined and we will provide more details when we have more information.

In addition, there will be ample hand sanitizing stations throughout the schools, including at entrances, exits, classrooms entrances, high-touch equipment and other high-traffic areas. These hand sanitizing stations will supply sanitizer containing at least 60 per cent alcohol content (or a non-alcohol based sanitizer approved by Health Canada) as per the Alberta Health Services Guidance document.

Students may also bring additional sanitizer supplies should they wish to.

- **Q. My child will not be able to use hand sanitizer due to health reasons. What protocols will be in place for these kids?** There will be ample hand sanitizing stations throughout the schools, including at entrances, exits, classroom entrances, high-touch equipment and other high-traffic areas. However, if your child is unable to use hand sanitizer for health reasons, washing hands with soap and water is available. Please contact your school administrators to discuss the needs of your child specifically.

Physical Distancing and Student Flow Within Buildings

- **Q. If my child is placed in a class with none of their friends will there be some point during the day they can socially interact or will kids stay with their class cohort exclusively?** Each school will determine their own recess and break times for classes and/or cohorts. Your school will publish information on breaks and recess.
- **Q. Will there be traffic markers and physical distance reminders throughout schools and classrooms?** Yes. Inside each school there will be directional signage in halls and stairways to reduce physical interaction. Posters will also be displayed throughout the school reminding students and staff to physically distance. In addition, schools will assign all students an entry and exit point to minimize risk. Your school will communicate their processes directly to students and families.
- **Q. How will class transitions happen to minimize risks?** Middle and high school students will have class transition breaks in their daily schedule. This is a challenging time due to the sheer volume of students moving throughout the building at the same time. Where possible, teachers will be encouraged to move rather than students. These breaks are for moving to the student's next class, washroom breaks or refilling water bottles. Schools may stagger the end of various classes to reduce the volume of students transitioning at once.

Your school will provide more details on their specific recess procedures.

- **Q. How will physical distancing be supported within the schools?** It will not be possible to physically distance at all times. However, measures will be in place to reduce direct contact with others and minimize risks to provide a safe and secure learning environment, including:
As outlined in the Alberta Guidance for School Re-Entry in situations where physical distancing is not possible, extra emphasis will be placed on hand hygiene, coughing/sneezing etiquette, not participating when sick and cleaning and disinfecting on a regular basis.
 - Assigned seating in classrooms
 - Keeping groups, or a classroom, of students and staff together (also known as cohorting)
 - Maximized distancing of desks and/or their positioning so students aren't facing each other
 - Staggered classroom transitions
 - Signage to direct traffic flow and remind students and staff to physically distance
 - Designated school entry and exit protocols

As outlined in the Alberta Guidance for School Re-Entry in situations where physical distancing is not possible, extra emphasis will be placed on hand hygiene, coughing/sneezing etiquette, not participating when sick and cleaning and disinfecting on a regular basis.

Cohorting

- **Q. What is a cohort and what does that look like for my child?** For kindergarten through grade 9, your children's cohort is their classroom group. This classroom group will interact with one another and stay together throughout the school day, including recess.

For those in Gr. 10 – 12, student cohorts may be multiple classroom groups that reflect their individual and more personalized educational paths.

Keeping staff and students together decreases the number of close contacts.

- **Q. Will my twins be placed in the same class/cohort?** Student class assignments are a school-based decision. Please contact your child's school administrators for details specific to your children.

Student Arrival, Entry and Dismissal

- **Q. Will there be before and after school programs?** RVS has approved the reopening of Before and After School Programs operated in RVS sites. Questions about specific programs should be directed to the Before and After School Program provider.
- **Q. What will entry and exit look like at my child's school?** Each school will provide information before the school year begins with how they are addressing school entry, class transitions and school dismissal/exit.
- **Q. How will arrival and dismissal work for younger children, where we previously used a hand-to-hand transition if parents must remain off school grounds?** In order to support student health and safety, parents must remain off school grounds or within their vehicle when dropping off or picking up their children. Your school will assign all students an entry point and develop a schedule that ensures all entrances and exits are supervised.
- **Q. When will we know our child's arrival and dismissal times?** Your school principal will provide you the plan for your school's arrival and dismissal times, as well as the entry and exit process.

Water Fountains

- **Q. Will water fountains be open?** No. Water fountains will not be open. Students are asked to bring a water bottle to school and refill it with water from sinks or water refilling stations.

Eating Lunch

- **Q. Will lunch spaces be open for use or will my child be remaining in their classroom?** Staff and students will practice physical distancing to the best of their ability while eating lunch. Common lunchroom areas may be utilized but must be cleaned after each use. Students and staff are prohibited from sharing food, utensils, dishes, water bottles and drink containers. Students will be asked to wash their hands or use hand sanitizer before and after eating. They may be asked to help wipe down their own desks or tables used for eating. Student-shared microwaves will not be available.

For specifics about your school's procedures for lunch, please contact your school administrators.

- **Q. Will my child be allowed to go home for lunch?** Yes. As in the past, families who choose to have their children go home for lunch will still have that option.

Recess

- **Q. Will students have recess and social time with friends?** Yes. Recess breaks and transitions will be taken by class groups to limit the number of students in hallways at any one time.
- **Q. What will recess look like?** Schools will develop a coordinated exit/entry schedule using as many exit and entry doors as possible for grades/classroom groups to leave their class/learning space to go outside for recess and to return to class/learning space.

Schools will follow the Government of Alberta's Guidance For Playgrounds when using schoolyard and outdoor equipment.

Schools will provide more details on their specific recess procedures.

- **Q. Will students have access to outdoor playgrounds?** Yes. Schools will follow the Government of Alberta's Guidance For Playgrounds when using schoolyard and outdoor equipment. Before and after school, school staff will be assigned to supervise areas outside school entrances. This supervision will help support physical distancing. With this in mind, schools will not be assigning staff to supervise playground equipment before and after school. To support safety, this equipment will be off limits to students during these times.

Lockers

- **Q. Will students have access to lockers or coat rooms? In order to reduce congestion in the hallways, hallway lockers will not be accessible. Lockers in gyms can be used for students only while participating in physical education or team practices. If lockers are utilized, they must be disinfected between classes/cohorts.**
- **Q. If students don't have access to lockers where will they keep snow gear in the winter? How will they store valuables, such as laptops and other electronic devices?** Hallway lockers are not being used to minimize hallway crowding. Students will bring their belongings with them to class.

School Supplies and Technology

- **Q. Will children share materials or be required to bring their own? (i.e. crayons, markers, books, etc.)** Children in younger grades requiring supplies such as crayons, markers and pencils will receive their own personal supply from their teacher at the start of the school year.

For those in higher grades, they will be encouraged where possible to use their own personal items, including writing utensils.

- **Q. What will be the impact on the use of instructional equipment, such as science equipment or computers?** Staff and students will be encouraged where possible to use their own personal items such as electronic devices to minimize the need to share items. Laptops and devices will still be available for those students who require them. Shared resources will be sanitized between individual use.

Gym

- **Q. Will there still be gym? Will students be required to wear masks during gym class?** Schools will continue to provide physical education. Alberta Education and Alberta Health Services recommend that when possible, physical education should be done outside instead of inside and with activities that support physical distancing. Where there is shared equipment, those pieces of equipment must be sanitized before and after use. We will continue to follow Alberta Health Services Guidelines for Recreational and Physical Activity, which recommends masks are not worn when students are engaging in intense physical activity.

School Sports and Extra-curricular Activities

- **Q. Are sports and fine arts re-opening in RSV this fall?** Extra-curricular athletics and extra-curricular fine arts are permitted in a practice format only with no interschool games or in-person performances being allowed until further notice. The 50-person maximum includes all involved: coaches/staff, instructors and student athletes/performers. Extra-curricular athletics must follow the Alberta Schools' Athletic Association (ASAA) The Safe Return to High School Athletics guidelines. Extra-curricular fine arts must follow the Alberta Government Guidance for live music, dance and theatre guidelines. Where a club can meet while maintaining physical distancing they can continue as long as they wipe down touched surfaces. Clubs that cannot maintain physical distancing are cancelled until further notice.

Cleaning

- **Q. Will enhanced cleaning be undertaken?** Yes. RVS will ensure enhanced cleaning of its school sites, including daily cleaning and disinfecting of washrooms and high touch surfaces several times a day. Regularly scheduled deep cleaning will take place when students are not present.
- **Q. Will more custodial staff be hired to accommodate the increased cleaning required?** RVS is assessing the custodial resourcing needs at all of our schools to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all students and staff.

Supporting Students Who Require Individual/Specialized Support

- **Q. What will be offered for children who need extra supports like aides, speech therapy or nurses, who often help multiple children in a day?** RVS will maintain learning opportunities for students specific to their Individual Program Plan (IPP) using a variety of approaches. Students with complex or differing learning needs will continue to be intentionally included in the learning of the whole classroom with support from Learning Supports. Where required, a registered nurse and/or licensed practical nurse will be engaged and will follow all AHS guidelines. Divisional supports, such as occupational therapists, speech-language pathologists, psychologists, physical therapists, will provide service following their professional association guidelines. Some of these services will be face-to-face but physically distanced where possible, while some may be online.
- **Q. Will a child registered for online learning also be able to access their extra supports (speech, occupational therapy etc.)?** Yes. Divisional support, such as occupational therapists, speech-language pathologists, psychologists, physical therapists, will provide service following their professional association guidelines for both in-person and online learning approaches. Some of these services will be face-to-face at a location to be determined and will be physically distanced where possible. Some of the services will be provided online. We would expect that many of these professionals will need to wear various personal protective equipment in order to minimize risks.

Divisional Supports and Substitutes

- **Q. Will divisional supports and substitutes be working in multiple schools? If so, how will the risk be minimized?** RVS staff may be required to work in multiple schools. They will follow Alberta Health Services and RVS guidelines to ensure student and staff health and safety.

Supporting Learning While Self-isolating or Ill

- **Q. How will my child(ren) be supported with at-home learning if they are required to self-isolate or become ill?** Consistent with what happens during non-pandemic times, should a child need to stay home for a period due to illness or self-isolation, classroom teachers will provide key work for the student to be able to complete while at home. Homework bundles or tasks will be provided to the student by their teacher.

Kindergarten

- **Q. How will kindergarten look?** Will the activities continue to be play-based and developmentally appropriate? Teachers will ensure they are supporting the learning needs of all students while following the provincial school re-entry guidelines. Each teacher's approach will look different reflecting the uniqueness of that teacher's experience, teaching approach and style.
- **Q. Will there be an online option for Kindergarten?** No, as Kindergarten is optional, online programming will be available for Gr. 1 – 12 only.

Kindergarten classrooms will be cleaned and disinfected between classes, and each classroom of students will have their own set of toys, manipulatives and resources to support learning. These materials also will be cleaned and disinfected daily.

Traditional Home Schooling

- **Q. If our child cannot attend in-person school and we choose traditional home schooling (following Alberta Education curriculum) will their designated school be required to take them back the following year?** Yes, at the start of each school year all students may attend their designated school.
- **Q. Will students be able to continue in French Immersion if we choose RVS Online Learning option?** If enough students per grade who are currently enrolled in French Immersion are interested in online learning this option may be provided.

Bus Protocols

- **Q. What precautions will be taken on buses to minimize risk?** Students registered for service will be assigned a route and be expected to utilize their electronic pass each and every time they enter and exit a buss to assist with contact tracing should that need to occur.

Families are required to complete the daily health check list prior to sending their child to the bus stop. Should they answer "yes" to any of the daily health check questions, they must stay home.

Bus drivers will develop seating plans, keeping siblings together wherever possible. The seating plan will attempt to spread out the riders to the best of the ability given the limited space on the bus. Individuals must sit in the assigned seats and cannot move seats to sit with friends. Youngest riders will be seated closer to the front of the bus.

In between runs, the bus driver will put on gloves, mask and goggles and use a provided pump sprayer to sanitize the bus.

In terms of masks, we will align with current advice provided by Alberta Education and Alberta Health. All staff and students in Gr. 4 - 12 will be required to wear a mask on school buses. Mask use for Kindergarten to Gr. 3 students continues to be recommended.

Mental Health

- **Q. What mental health supports will be in place to support students and staff?** COVID-19 is causing a lot of uncertainty for our students, families and staff. Mental health supports exist in all schools to support how the schools are operating in light of this pandemic. Ways to support one's mental health will also be explicitly taught by the schools.