

Fox Creek School  
Re-entry Information  
January 2022

As you will know, students had an extended break this week to allow Fox Creek School staff time to engage in planning for a variety of learning scenarios. While we have spent time considering what online learning will look like for our students, we also prepared for return to in-person instruction. On Wednesday, January 5, the announcement was made that students will return to in-person instruction on Monday, January 10.

Our ability to continue to maintain in-person learning will be greatly reduced if we experience staffing shortages due to illness and are unable to provide coverage for classes in the school. Should it happen that we cannot staff the school, or certain classes within the school, there may be a need to move to online for a period of time. While we have prepared for that possibility, it is not our preferred instructional delivery mode. We ask that staff, parents and students do their part to limit the likelihood of others being exposed to, and possibly contracting, COVID-19 at school.

**We are excited and ready for students to return!** We will continue to place the highest priority on student and staff safety with enhanced cleaning and disinfection of common areas and high-touch surfaces, and promoting and facilitating hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette. We will continue with students entering and exiting through their assigned doors as per the map on our website and social media.

Here are a few things to be aware of as we meet again together in-person:

- **Masks** will continue to be mandatory for K-12 students and all staff. Medical grade masks will be available to all students and staff as we receive our supply from the provincial government. We strongly encourage everyone to wear the medical grade masks once they are available. All visitors to the school will continue to be required to wear masks.
- **Rapid Test Kits** will be available for all students and staff for voluntary, at-home use to determine if they are positive for COVID-19. If you do not want your child to receive their government-issued test kits, please contact the school.

- Continue to do the [Alberta Health Daily Checklist](#) each day to screen for COVID-19 and **stay at home when sick** with any symptoms. A new checklist is currently in development, and we will share this with our community once it has been released by the government. Your cooperation in this area is critical to ensure we are able to continue to offer in-person learning.
- **Notification of positive cases and contact tracing.** AHS will now investigate cases in high-risk settings, but not in schools. Students and staff will be notified by AHS of their own test results, but AHS will not be doing contact tracing for close contacts. Details regarding AHS' different approach to school reporting will be forthcoming from the provincial government.
- **Diploma exams.** January diploma examinations for senior high students are cancelled. No decisions have been made about the April and June diploma examinations. Provincial Achievement Tests (PATs), Part A, have been postponed to the week of January 20. High School Final Exams will run as scheduled the week of January 20 to January 27. The weighting for final exams has been reduced to 10% given the disruption in learning that has occurred this semester due to COVID - 19.

### Before School Each Day

- Students: Complete the COVID-19 Alberta Health Daily Checklist (For children under 18) [COVID-19 Alberta Health Daily Checklist - updated September 2021](#)
- Staff: Complete the COVID-19 Alberta Health Daily Checklist (For Adults 18 years and older) [COVID-19 Alberta Health Daily Checklist - updated September 2021](#)
- Everyone: Once At-home Rapid Tests are distributed (we expect this to be by the end of next week) it is recommended that staff and students test twice a week. (Sunday/Wednesday evenings or Monday/Thursday Mornings) Do not attend the school if it is a positive result, but follow the guidelines of AHS at that time regarding isolation requirements. [isolation requirements.](#)
- On the Bus: All students will be masked for their bus rides

### At School

- Students and Staff will be required to be masked in all common areas - hallways, cafeteria, washrooms, office.
- Students and staff will wear masks when moving around the classroom, when working in groups, when facing each other.

- While not required, students and staff are encouraged to wear masks at all times in the classroom, even when sitting at their desks with everyone facing forward.
- Students and Staff will use hand sanitizer upon entering the school; when entering classrooms and before using shared equipment.
- If a student or staff member becomes ill during the day they will be required to leave. For students, we will contact their parents/guardians to have them picked up.
- Whenever possible, students and staff will maintain physical distancing.
- Upon arrival at school, during lunch and for other breaks, students will need to put belongings in/take materials out of their lockers as quickly as possible and report to their classrooms. Students cannot “hangout” in common areas like the hallway or washrooms.
- Students will be assigned spaces for lunch.
- Students should bring a water bottle to school and not drink directly from the water fountain.
- The Learning Commons will remain open for students but physical distancing and masking must be maintained at all times.
- Once students have their food for lunch they will need to report to their assigned space to eat. There will be no eating or drinking in the hallways.
- Extra-curricular activities will continue, with masking and physical distancing in place whenever possible.
- Desks will be sanitized.....

It is important to note that failure to follow the above expectations will be considered defiance and breaking of school rules and disciplinary actions may be taken for those students who do not comply with them.

As part of the plan for a safe return to school, the Government of Alberta will be distributing masks and rapid test kits for all staff and students. We do not know when we will receive them, but will distribute them as quickly as we can once they are at the school.

We are awaiting updated guidance documents from Alberta Education and will continue to update and communicate information as it becomes available. I have great admiration for the hard work and commitment Fox Creek School staff have shown once again this week, preparing for multiple scenarios to ensure learning will continue for our students. They need to be commended for this work and dedication.

We understand the mental, emotional, physical, and academic impacts on our students, staff, and families of nearly two years of a global pandemic. The changes and disruptions we’ve faced have been tremendously challenging. As a school community of administrators, teachers, educational assistants, administrative assistants, IT personnel, bus drivers, maintenance and custodial staff

working in partnership with parents, I feel confident that we can continue this school year strong, doing our very best for every student attending Fox Creek School.