

Northland School Division Re-entry Parent/Guardian Guide



On July 21, 2020, Jason Kenney, Premier, Adriana LaGrange, Minister of Education and Dr. Deena Hinshaw, Alberta's Chief Medical Officer of Health announced that in-person classes will resume under scenario 1, which is a complete return to school with health and safety measures to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission.

Prior to the announcement, Alberta Education with support from Dr. Hinshaw, provided guidance documents to support school divisions with re-entry plans. As a result, Northland School Division (NSD) has developed a re-entry plan that reflects the guidance and recommendations from Dr. Hinshaw.

The plan outlines how schools are operating and expectations throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. NSD is keeping students and staff safe in the following ways:

- mandatory use of masks for all staff and students Grades 4-12 and highly recommended for students Kindergarten - Grade 3;
- mandatory use of masks for all students Kindergarten to Grade 12 riding the school bus;
- enhanced cleaning and hygiene protocols;
- daily screening requirements;
- strict stay at-home guidelines for individuals who feel unwell or have symptoms related to COVID-19;
- enforced public-health measures; and
- cohort and physical distancing strategies.

If at any time, the province transitions to Scenario 2 (a partial return to in-school classes) the plan remains the same, using a change in how the students are scheduled to attend. For families not yet ready to send their child to school (due to pre-existing health conditions/immune compromised, or in the absence of a COVID-19 vaccine) NSD will offer an at-home learning option. Both the in-school and at-home learning options allow students to stay connected to their school throughout their learning.

Overall, it ensures the transition back to school is smooth, and operations take place in the safest way possible. It's essential parents and students understand and adhere to the guidelines, so the risk of transmission remains low and students can continue learning in a safe classroom setting.



Northland School Division Re-entry: Health & Safety Protocols



NSD is guided by the following health and safety principles:

- Every student, staff and visitor completes the daily COVID-19 Screening Questionnaire before entering an NSD facility.
- No one is allowed to enter an NSD facility if they feel unwell. If symptoms include a dry cough, fever, shortness of breath, runny nose or sore throat—unrelated to a pre-existing condition—the person must legally self-isolate for 10 days or until receiving a negative COVID-19 test result. Posters will be placed on school premises with the same message.
- Contact tracing reporting occurs within all NSD facilities and division school buses.
- Hand sanitizer will be available in all NSD facilities and on division school buses.
- Encourage the preventative strategies including physical distancing, cohorting and personal protective equipment (masks) are strictly followed.
- Strict protocols to reduce congestion in high-traffic areas—hallways, and offices.
- Prohibit large-group gatherings. For example, assemblies, field trips, tournaments and performances.
- Avoid shared-use items, supplies and equipment. All elementary students will have their own supplies contained in a tote. Junior and Senior high school students will have their totes with supplies and textbooks. Digital textbooks have been requested if not enough individual text books are supplied.
- Strict protocols about food handling and food sharing.
- High-risk activities prohibited. For example, athletic activities, singing and wind instruments.
- Provide all NSD staff with access to mental health supports for students and families.
- Regular and ongoing cleaning and disinfecting of all NSD facilities and high-touch surfaces.
- Mandatory use of masks - applicable to all staff and students Grade 4-12 and highly recommended for students Kindergarten to Grade 3. Kindergarten to Grade 12 students must wear masks when riding the bus.
- All staff must wear a mask at school. The use of face shields will be at the discretion of the individual staff member. While face shields can help reduce exposure, they are not equivalent to masks. Therefore, staff who choose to wear a face shield will still be required to wear a mask.
- Any staff or student who are symptomatic at school/work will need to produce a negative covid 19 test to return to school or work.

Northland School Division Re-entry: COVID-19 Screening Questionnaire



1.	Do you, or your child attending the program, have any of the below symptoms:	Circle one	
		Yes	No
	• fever	Yes	No
	• cough	Yes	No
	• shortness of breath or difficulty breathing	Yes	No
	• sore throat	Yes	No
	• chills	Yes	No
	• painful swallowing	Yes	No
	• runny nose or nasal congestion	Yes	No
	• feeling unwell or fatigued	Yes	No
	• nausea, vomiting or diarrhea	Yes	No
	• unexplained loss of appetite	Yes	No
	• loss of sense of taste or smell	Yes	No
	• muscle or joint aches	Yes	No
	• headache	Yes	No
	• conjunctivitis (pink-eye)	Yes	No
2.	Has the person entering the NSD building returned from travel outside of Canada in the last 14 days?	Yes	No
3.	Has the person entering the NSD building had close unprotected* contact—face-to-face contact within two-metres - with someone who travelled outside of Canada in the last 14 days and is ill with any symptoms listed above?	Yes	No
4.	Have you, or anyone in your household, been in close unprotected* contact in the last 14 days with someone being investigated for or confirmed to be a case of COVID-19?	Yes	No

*unprotected means close contact without appropriate personal protective equipment.

If you answer “**Yes**” to any of the above questions, **DO NOT** enter the school or an NSD building at this time. Stay home and use the [COVID-19 Self-Assessment Tool](#) for further health-care advice.

If you answer “**No**” to all the above questions, you can attend school and enter an NSD building.

Northland School Division Re-entry: Classroom Protocols



NSD schools reopen to students on Sept. 8, 2020. Unlike previous years, students will return using a staggered entry—meaning only certain grades start back on September 8. The school will contact families to share the start date for each child. It also helps schools explain to students the new routine and health and safety measures before a full restart takes place. Any staff or student who are symptomatic at school/work will need to produce a negative COVID-19 test to return to school or work.

Pre-Kindergarten - Kindergarten

- Children stay in their classrooms during learning times.
- Teachers, not children, move between classrooms, as required.
- All individuals practice good hygiene.
- Classroom organized to encourage maximum space between children.
- Personal bins provided for supplies and personal items.
- No sharing of food, utensils, electronic devices, toys, books, games and learning aids.
- All eating takes place in a designated classroom.
- At this time no toys and items from home are permitted in the school.
- Play centres will be designated to only child for a specified time and then the centre will be disinfected or removed for a minimum of 72 hours before another child will have access to it.
- Clorox Total 360 to deep clean play centres.
- Mandatory masks worn by staff at all times.

Grades 1-6

- All students Grades 4-6 are required to wear face masks and highly recommended for students Kindergarten - Grade 3.
- Children stay in their classrooms during learning times.
- Teachers, not children, move between classrooms, as required.
- All individuals practice good hygiene .
- Classroom organized to encourage maximum space between students.
- Personal materials stored in individual totes organized by cohort groups or proper physical-distancing guidelines.
- No sharing of food, utensils, electronic devices, toys, books, games and learning aids.
- Eating takes place in a designated classroom. Students must remain seated.
- Staggered break times and recess.
- At this time no toys and items from home are permitted in the school.
- Mandatory masks worn by staff at all times.

Northland School Division Re-entry: Classroom Protocols & School Bus Transportation



Grades 7-12

- All students Grades 7-12 are required to wear face masks.
- Classroom organized to encourage maximum space between students.
- Teachers, not children, move between classrooms, as required.
- All individuals practice good hygiene .
- No sharing of food, utensils, electronic devices, books, games and learning aids.
- Eating only takes place in designated areas using physical distancing.
- Cleaning and disinfecting of classrooms and desks before and after student or cohort use.
- The sharing of books and equipment is only allowed within a cohort group. Before another student or cohort group uses a shared item, it must be cleaned or stored for 72 hours.
- Staggered break times and transitions.
- Mandatory of masks by staff.

School Bus Transportation

- Effective for the 2020-2021 School Year, all students must be registered to ride the school bus. This includes contracted buses and students attending junior high and high school in another town. Students will not be permitted to ride the bus if they are not registered through the Transportation Department.
- Prior to the start of the 2020-2021 school year, all school buses will undergo a thorough cleaning. The NSD Transportation Department will meet with all school bus drivers and principals prior to school start-up to review COVID-19 requirements.
- Parents will be required to complete daily at-home screening for their child(ren)'s symptoms prior to students boarding the school bus COVID-19 Screening Questionnaire (**see page 3**).

For more information, visit www.nsd61.ca to view NSD's Re-entry Plan.

