



Valhalla Community School

Northern Alberta's First Rural Leadership Charter School

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2020-2021 Re- entry Plan for Valhalla Community School

August 11, 2020

As we organize for the 2020-2021 school year, we know that all students need to access to high quality instruction. We also recognize that in person classes may not be appropriate for all families, depending on their personal circumstances and well being. That is why Valhalla Community School is offering choice.

Two choices for teaching and learning

In Person Instruction:

Classes resume with significantly increased health and safety measures. Students who attend school will be placed in a class with a teacher who will support their learning. If a student cannot attend in school classes due to illness or Covid - 19 their classroom teacher will provide work to support their learning.

At Home Learning:

Students will remain enrolled at VCS for the 2020-2021 school year. Students who learn remotely will participate with their in school class via Google classroom, and direct teacher communication. Format may include a combination of online and print based instruction. Teaching will focus on the four core subject area with a modified focus on complimentary courses. **Internet will be required.**

Parents who choose this option, are encouraged to contact the school by August 21, 2020.

Families will be able to decide at three key times through out the year whether their child will attend in person or learn at home.

Term 1 - Sept 1, 2020 to November 13, 2020

Term 2 - November 16, 2020 to March 12, 2021

Term 3 - March 15, 2021 to June 25, 2021

Three weeks before the start of each term, families are asked to notify the school with their choice for the next instructional period. Whether you choose In Person or At Home Learning your child will remain enrolled with Valhalla Community School for the 2020-2021 school year.

Bussing

Parents

- Screen Questionnaire to be completed with each student every morning before loading the bus
- If yes is answered to any of the questions the student must say home. No symptomatic students are permitted
- Parents will be advised to contact AHS 811 or use the online self assessment tool to determine if Covid – 19 testing is needed.
- The daily screening of students by parents is critical. If students are not screened and try to get on the bus with symptoms the bus will have to wait at the bus stop until parents can come and pick up their child. As per AHS mandate, no symptomatic students are allowed on the bus or at school.
- Bus pick up and drop off times may have to be changed periodically due to ongoing circumstances throughout the year.
- There will be no eating or drinking permitted on the bus due to mandatory masks

Driver

- Procedure to load the bus
 1. Students line up one at a time in their family group
 2. Students must wear a mask
 3. Driver takes student temperature
 4. Sanitize hand
 5. Load bus back to front in family group

Procedure if a student appears to be symptomatic at the bus stop

- Student is masked if not already and isolated. The student may stay in the stepwell while isolated in the winter or at the driver's discretion for weather conditions. Outside the bus if possible is preferable
- The parent will be contacted immediately to come and pick up their child
- The Transportation Director and the school will be notified
- The bus will stay at the bus stop until the parent picks up the child
- If bus is delayed subsequent parents will be contacted
- If a student becomes symptomatic while at school, they will not be permitted to ride the bus home
- For any questions or concerns please contact the Transportation Director, John Moutray at 780-978-1030 or the school at 780-356-2370

Staggered loading and unloading of students at the school

Drivers will be required to sanitize the bus after each run, morning and evening

School Entry

- School doors will remain locked at all times
- Door Bell system is to be installed at the main entrances. Ring the door bell and step back from the door.
- Procedure for admittance is
 1. Screen questionnaire
 2. Mask
 3. Take Temperature
 4. Hand Sanitize
 5. Maintain Social Distancing

VCS Daily Routine

- All staff members are to complete the Screening questionnaire before attending work each day
- Sanitation Stations will be set up at all entrances to the school, classrooms and bathrooms
- Water fountains will be closed. The water fill station will be open for filling water bottles only. Each student is to have a refillable water bottle
- Microwaves will be removed from all classrooms
- Food sharing is not permitted
- There will be no made on site healthy snack items such as frozen sandwiches
- Sharing of any school supplies or personal items is not permitted. All school supplies need to be labeled with child's name as anonymous supplies will be discarded.
- One way traffic in hallways
- Staggered entry and dismissal
- Staggered access to lockers
- Mask use in all common areas (hallways, office or where social distancing cannot be maintained) grades 3-9. No mask use in classrooms, grades k-9 where social distancing can be maintained by cohort
- Classroom seating in rows with social distancing
- Cohort groupings will be maintained at recess breaks. Staggered entry with multiple bells
- **Our school day will be shortened by 35 minutes a day. Dismissal will now be at 2:55pm for all students. This is subject to review**

Symptomatic Students

If a student becomes symptomatic at school the student will be masked and isolated. Staff will ensure students are treated gently and caringly. The parents will be contacted and asked to come and pick up their child. The child will not be permitted to ride the bus home, parents must pick them up.

Absent Students

We understand that higher absentee rate is to be expected. Teachers will post classroom instruction and assignments online. Teacher expectation for absent students may be modified.

PE

In cohorts we will focus on outdoor activities as much as possible with weather permitting.

School Sanitation

- Classroom staff to maintain ongoing sanitation in classroom
- Staff to maintain sanitation of high contact surfaces outside of classroom
- Planning to use an approved disinfectant
- Spray bottled and paper towel/cloths will be provided for each room

The Screening Questionnaire on the next page must be completed by parents with each child every morning at home before school.

If answered “yes” to any of the questions, please DO NOT send your child to school at this time. You should keep them home and use the Covid – 19 Self Assessment tool online to determine whether you need to be tested for Covid – 19.

<https://myhealth.alberta.ca/journey/covid-19/Pages/COVID-Self-Assessment.aspx>

If answered “no” to all the questions, they may attend school.

If you have any questions or concerns about VCS Re- entry plan, please contact the school office at 780-356-2370 or email the Principal, Steve Mumert at smumert@valhallaschool.ca, Transportation Director, John Moutray at moutray@xplornet.ca or Superintendent, Darwin Eckstrom at darwineckstrom1@gmail.com, or Secretary Treasurer, Anna Odd at aodd@valhallaschool.ca

Should you require further information regarding Covid – 19 contact Alberta Health Services at 811. <https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/topics/page16944.aspx>

COVID-19 INFORMATION

Screening Questionnaire

PARENTS/GUARDIANS/STUDENTS MUST USE THIS QUESTIONNAIRE DAILY TO DECIDE IF THE STUDENT SHOULD ATTEND SCHOOL

Risk Assessment: Initial Screening Questions

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 / Difficulty Breathing	YES	NO
	• Sore throat	YES	NO
	• Chills	YES	NO
	• Painful swallowing	YES	NO
	• Runny Nose / Nasal Congestion	YES	NO
	• Feeling unwell / Fatigued	YES	NO
	• Nausea / Vomiting / Diarrhea	YES	NO
	• Unexplained loss of appetite	YES	NO
	• Loss of sense of taste or smell	YES	NO
	• Muscle/ Joint aches	YES	NO
	• Headache	YES	NO
	• Conjunctivitis (Pink Eye)	YES	NO
2.	Has the person attending the activity/facility travelled outside of Canada in the last 14 days?	YES	NO
3.	Have you/your child had close <u>unprotected*</u> contact (face-to-face contact within 2 meters/6 feet) with someone who has travelled outside of Canada in the last 14 days <u>and who is ill**</u> ?	YES	NO
4.	Have you/your child attending the program or activity had close <u>unprotected*</u> contact (face-to-face contact within 2 meters/6 feet) in the last 14 days with someone who is ill**?	YES	NO
5.	Have you/your child or anyone in your household been in close <u>unprotected*</u> contact in the last 14 days with someone who is being investigated or confirmed to be a case of COVID-19?	YES	NO

* "unprotected" means close contact without appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE).

** "ill" means someone with COVID-19 symptoms on the list above"

If you have answered "Yes" to any of the above questions, please DO NOT enter the school at this time. You should stay home and use the [COVID-19 Self-Assessment Tool](#) to determine whether you need to be tested for COVID-19.

If you have answered "No" to all the above questions, you may attend school.

COVID-19 INFORMATION

GET THE FACTS: BACK TO CLASS FOR 2020-21

Returning to daily in-class learning at schools

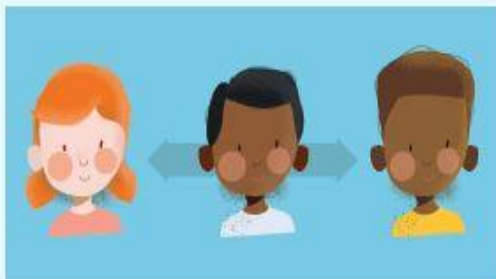
The decision to allow in-school learning with public health measures in place weighs the risks of prolonged school closures on students' educational experience and overall wellbeing against the risk of COVID-19 outbreaks.

The experience of other countries indicated that closing schools was not a significant factor in limiting community spread of COVID-19. Health officials in Alberta closely watched the situation in other provinces and countries who returned to school earlier to evaluate the most effective public health measures at schools.

Public health measures

The public health measures include students and staff members staying home when sick, frequent hand washing and/or hand sanitizing before and after entering the school and classrooms, increased cleaning of surfaces at schools and on buses, avoiding sharing personal items, maintaining a physical distance of 2 metres from others when possible and keeping students in cohorts (groups).

Parents, students and staff are expected to complete the daily screening checklist on a daily basis prior to entering the school. Visitors should also use the self-screening questionnaire to determine whether they may enter the school.



Handling situations when students cannot keep 2 metres away from others

If physical distancing is not possible, it is strongly recommended to put extra emphasis on hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette, and cleaning and disinfecting on a regular basis before and after activities.

In a classroom, if desks cannot be kept 2 metres apart, students should be seated so they are not facing each other, such as arranging desks in rows. This way, students are not likely to cough directly on the face of another student.

In addition to physical distancing, arranging groups into cohorts can reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission by limiting contact and potential exposure to a small group instead of the whole school.

Safety for students or staff with underlying medical conditions

For students with underlying medical conditions or risk factors, parents should consult their child's physician to consider the health risks and make a decision that will best support the child. Contact your child's school to discuss available options and support. School staff should also consult a physician and discuss available options and support with their school board.

For more details: alberta.ca/returntoschool

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Alberta



Wearing masks at school

Students and staff may choose to wear a face mask to protect one another. If students or staff choose to wear face masks, care should be taken to ensure the mask is used correctly and safely. Practices such as physical distancing, cohorting, hand washing, staying home when sick and increased cleaning of surfaces continue to be the priority public health measures.



If a student shows symptoms at school

Parents will be asked to pick up the child from school immediately. The student will be asked to wear a non-medical mask if able to do so safely, and be isolated in a separate room or kept at least 2 metres away from others. Parents should ensure the school has their most up-to-date contact information.

If a student has symptoms related to allergies or a pre-existing medical condition

The student 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. As long as the cough or runny nose is always the same and does not get worse, the student can attend school. Talk to your school about your child's pre-existing medical condition so the school may keep a confidential record of this condition.

How long student/parent/staff members should isolate after having symptoms

You are legally required to isolate for a minimum of 10 days, or until symptoms resolve whichever takes longer, if you have a cough, fever, shortness of breath, runny nose, or sore throat that is not related to a pre-existing health condition or if you test positive for COVID-19.

If you tested negative and have no known exposure to the virus, stay home until your symptoms resolve. If you tested negative and have had an exposure to the virus, you are legally required to quarantine for 14 days from the exposure date.

If there was a COVID-19 case at school

A public health team will investigate the case to find out when the symptoms developed and support the school to minimize the spread. It is likely that only the group of students and staff who came in close contact will be required to stay home for 14 days, and not the whole school. Parents will be notified if a case of COVID-19 is confirmed at school and public health officials will contact those who were in close contact with the case.

Public health measures for school buses

The public health measures for school buses include increased cleaning and disinfection of high touch surfaces, maintaining a protective zone for the driver, assigning students to seats that are grouped with other household members, and using loading/unloading procedures that support physical distancing of 2 metres between students when possible.

For more details: alberta.ca/returntoschool

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COVID-19 INFORMATION FOR ALBERTANS

PREVENT THE SPREAD OF CORONAVIRUS

You can help prevent the spread of COVID-19 in Alberta. Prevention starts with awareness.

- Practice physical distancing
- Self-isolate if you're feeling sick
- Wash your hands frequently
- Cover coughs and sneezes
- Avoid touching your face
- Do not travel outside of Canada

PRACTICE PHYSICAL DISTANCING

All Albertans have a responsibility to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. Take steps to protect yourself and others:

- Limit the number of times you leave your home
- Stay at least 2 meters away from others when you go out for groceries, medical trips, and other essential needs
- Have groceries or other items delivered if possible
- If you go outside for fresh air maintain 2 meters distance from others
- Avoid overcrowding in elevators and other enclosed spaces
- Wash your hands after touching communal surfaces such as handrails, handles
- Postpone family visits, friend gatherings, and group outings, especially if household or family members are senior citizens or have high-risk medical conditions
- Do not gather with other people if you have a fever or a cough, even if symptoms appear to be mild.
- Obey all mandatory self-isolation requirements and mass gathering restrictions now in place in Alberta.

Legally enforceable public health measures are in place to limit the time Albertans spend in contact with each other. Anyone violating these restrictions is now subject to fines.

MONITOR YOUR SYMPTOMS

COVID-19 symptoms are similar to influenza and other respiratory illnesses. Symptoms can include:

- cough
- fever
- shortness of breath
- runny nose
- sore throat

If you have any of these symptoms stay home and self-isolate; do not go to an ER or medical clinic. Call Health Link at 8-1-1 for more information. Services are available in 240 languages.

SELF ISOLATE

You are legally required to self-isolate for:

- 14 days if you returned from international travel or are a close contact of a person with COVID-19
- 10 days if you have a cough, fever, shortness of breath, runny nose, or sore throat that is not related to a pre-existing illness or health condition

If you are self-isolating:

- Stay home — do not go to work, social events or any other public areas or community settings
- Avoid close contact with other people, including household members but especially seniors and people with chronic conditions or compromised immune systems
- Do not use public transportation or ride sharing
- Do not go for walks in public places. This includes children in mandatory self-isolation.
- If you go outside, you must remain on private property not accessible by others.
- If you live in an apartment building or high-rise, you must stay inside and cannot use the elevators or stairwells. If your balcony is private and at least 2 metres away from other balconies, you may use your balcony to get fresh air.