

# Clear Vista School Re-entry Plan 2020-2021

### A Guide for Clear Vista Students and Families

<u>Note</u>: Information contained within this document is subject to change as additional information about COVID-19 becomes available. New directives and restrictions from the province or the Chief Medical Officer of Health may shift how WRPS and Clear Vista conducts its operations before students return or at any time during the school year. As the situation evolves, WRPS and Clear Vista will update and adjust the plan, as necessary. We encourage you to keep checking back to our website for the latest information.

2

Message from the Principal

Dear Clear Vista Families;

This is a follow-up document to accompany the WRPS School Re-Entry Plan with site specific

information pertaining to Clear Vista School only. Please note that this information is accurate

as of the point of publishing and is subject to change as guided by school and health

authorities.

We are excited for the new school year and we are looking forward to reconnecting with our

students after a long break! Our first and most important priority is to do our best to keep our

school community safe, this means that we will have to change how we are approaching in

person learning at Clear Vista School which will be challenging and will require a team approach

between families, staff, and students. We will be adhering to the guidelines that are put forth by

Alberta Education along with Alberta Health Services and Wetaskiwin Regional Public Schools

and your support is essential and greatly appreciated!

As we may need to move between Scenario 1, Scenario 2, and Scenario 3 at different times this

school year when directed by Alberta Health Services and Alberta Education, it will be important

for school and family communication lines to remain accurate. Please keep the school informed

of any changes to your contact information in the event that we need to contact you.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the school administration

so that we can help as needed.

Warm Regards,

Trevor Van Someren

Mike Daly

Principal

Vice Principal

# Possible Re-Entry Scenarios for the 2020-21 School Year

In June, the province released its <u>2020-21 School Re-Entry Plan</u>, detailing three possible scenarios for school resumption. As of August 2020, Alberta Education is moving forward with Scenario 1, which is a complete return to school with health and safety measures to reduce the risk of COVID- 19. Throughout the pandemic, the province may need to transition from one scenario to another, on short notice. As such, school divisions must be prepared for all three scenarios at any given time.

#### Scenario 1: In-School Classes Resume, with Health Measures

- Regular in-school classes resume for K-12 students.
- School divisions must follow public-health measures.
- Physical distancing when possible.
- Mandatory mask use for staff and students in Grades 4 to Grade 12.
- We strongly recommend that students in K-3 also wear masks.
- Continue assessment of students.
- Focus on cohorting students as often as possible.

#### Scenario 2: In-School Classes Partially Resume, with Health Measures

- In-school classes resume for K-12 students on an alternating, Day-1 and Day-2, schedule to reduce class sizes.
- School divisions must follow public-health measures.
- Physical distancing required.
- Mandatory mask use for staff and students in Grades 4 to 12.
- We strongly recommend that students in K-3 also wear masks.
- Continue assessment of students.
- Focus on cohorting students as often as possible.

#### Scenario 3: In-School Classes Are Suspended

- In-school classes are suspended for all students.
- All grades offer out-of-school learning opportunities.

## **Health Requirements to Enter Clear Vista**

- The COVID-19 Screening Questionnaire will be made available to all students.
- Before leaving home, students must self-screen for symptoms each day that they enter the school using the COVID-19 Screening Questionnaire.
- Anyone who is ill shall stay home.
- Anyone ill at home shall seek health care advice as appropriate (e.g., call Health Link 811, or their primary health care practitioner, or 911 for emergency response), and fill out the <u>AHS Online Self-Assessment</u> tool to determine if they should be tested.
- Signs are posted to remind people not to enter if they have COVID-19 symptoms, even if symptoms resemble a mild cold.
- Students with known pre-existing conditions.
  - A student with pre-existing conditions should be tested at least once before returning to school and have a negative COVID-19 test result to confirm that COVID-19 is not the source of their symptoms. 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.
  - Schools keep records of student's known pre-existing conditions. If a student develops symptoms that could be caused by either COVID-19 or by a known pre-existing condition (e.g., allergies), the student should be tested for COVID-19 to confirm that it is not the source of their symptoms before entering or returning to school.
  - It is important that families and schools discuss a student's pre-existing medical condition, so the school may keep a confidential record of this condition.

Clear Vista School Entry Information		
Health Requirements	<ul> <li>Before leaving home, students must self-screen for symptoms each day that they enter the school using the COVID-19 Screening Questionnaire</li> <li>Anyone who is ill shall stay home</li> </ul>	
Masks	<ul> <li>Masks are mandatory for students in Grades 4-8 in all school settings where physical distancing cannot be maintained. This includes wearing them in the hallways and for all K-8 students on busses.</li> <li>In classrooms, students are able to remove their masks provided:         <ul> <li>the student is seated at a desk or table</li> <li>the desk or table is arranged to prevent persons who are seated from facing each other and,</li> <li>the desks are spaced to allow the greatest possible distance between seated persons</li> </ul> </li> <li>Masks for Kindergarten to Grade 3 students are highly encouraged</li> </ul>	
Staggered School Entry	<ul> <li>September 2: Grades 3, 6</li> <li>September 3: Grades 2, 5, 8</li> <li>September 4: Grades 1, 4, 7</li> <li>September 8: All Grade 1-8 students attend and regular classes begin</li> </ul>	
Student Drop-Off	<ul> <li>Drop off time is between 8:25 and 8:35 am</li> <li>Students are encouraged to wear a mask on school property</li> <li>Students are to go directly to their assigned doors and line up with their homeroom</li> <li>Families are able to walk their children to outside doors if they respect physical distancing and wear a mask</li> </ul>	

Student Pick-Up  Visitors	<ul> <li>Families should arrive at 3:00pm for student pick-up</li> <li>Families are able to wait outside the doors for their children if they respect physical distancing and wear a mask</li> <li>Parents/guardians can attend the school if they are required</li> <li>All visitors must make an appointment before coming to the school</li> </ul>	
School Operations		
Lockers	<ul> <li>Students in Grades 3-8 will be able to access assigned lockers in the morning and at the end of the day.</li> <li>In the morning, each homeroom will go, one at a time, to gather all the materials they will need for the day.</li> <li>At the end of the day, each homeroom will go, one at a time, to return their materials to their lockers</li> </ul>	
Personal Belongings	<ul> <li>Where possible, students will leave their school belongings at school to reduce possible transmission of COVID-19</li> <li>All students are encouraged to use a backpack for their learning materials throughout the school day</li> </ul>	
Cohorts	<ul> <li>All students will remain in a homeroom cohort throughout the school day</li> <li>Junior high CTF classes will be taught maintaining homeroom cohorts</li> <li>Teachers will move between classes and students will remain at their desks</li> </ul>	
Water Bottles and Fountains	<ul> <li>Water fountains will remain open</li> <li>It is recommended that students bring their own water bottle (labelled with their name)</li> </ul>	
Lunch	Students will need to bring their own lunch everyday	

	<ul> <li>Lunches will be stored with the student's materials (in their backpack)</li> <li>There are no student microwaves</li> <li>Schools will not be able to accommodate family members who want to drop off lunches</li> <li>If a student forgets their lunch, families should phone the school to work out a solution</li> <li>Emergency lunches will be available from the school (pre-packaged sandwich and snack)</li> <li>Hot lunch and bake sales are cancelled</li> </ul>
Library	<ul> <li>For the beginning of the school year, the library will be closed.</li> <li>Once safety procedures are in place, the library will be opened on a limited basis</li> </ul>
Physical Education	<ul> <li>Where possible, physical education will be taught outdoors</li> <li>Teachers will choose activities that support physical distancing whenever possible</li> <li>Equipment that must be shared will be cleaned and disinfected before and after each use</li> <li>Students will remain in their homeroom cohort while in Physical Education class</li> <li>Gymnasium locker rooms will not be used at this time.</li> <li>Students in Grade 7 &amp; 8 that wish to change can do so using the washrooms</li> </ul>
Recess	<ul> <li>All students will be outside for a morning and an afternoon recess break. This will be reviewed as the year progresses</li> <li>Students will be divided into a zone for there recess break to maintain their cohort</li> </ul>
Band / Foods classes	Band class and Foods class will be

	cancelled. This will be reviewed as the year progresses
Extracurricular Sports	<ul> <li>Extracurricular sports will be cancelled. This will be reviewed as the year progresses</li> </ul>
Responding to Illness	<ul> <li>If a student develops symptoms while at the school:         <ul> <li>The student will be supported to wear a non-medical mask and be isolated in a separate room</li> <li>The student will wash their hands and then wear gloves</li> <li>The student's temperature will be taken, recorded, and reported to the parent/guardian</li> <li>The parent/guardian will be notified to come and pick up the student immediately</li> <li>Parents/guardians are to ensure the most up-to-date contact information is provided to the school office</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Special School Events	
Parent Teacher Interviews / Celebrations of Learning	Teachers will schedule Google Meets with Parents/Guardians
Christmas Concert	More information will be provided as we approach December

#### **Hygiene Strategies**

- Hand sanitizer, meeting AHS requirements, will be made available and located in entrances, exits, washrooms and near high-touch equipment.
- Signage will be posted in each facility to address hygiene and safety protocols.

#### At Clear Vista:

- Everyone must perform hand hygiene (hand sanitizer) when entering and exiting the school and classrooms.
- Posters promoting hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette, physical distancing, etc. posted in visible locations.
- Microwave ovens and vending machines are being taken out of service.
- High contact surfaces (including water fountains and washrooms) and shared equipment shall be cleaned on a scheduled basis.

#### Masks:

- It is expected that students and staff will use a clean mask.
- Masks are mandatory for all students on the bus.
- Masks are mandatory for students in grades 4-8 in all school settings where physical distancing cannot be maintained. This includes wearing them in classrooms and shared areas such as hallways and buses.
- Students will be able to remove their masks in their homeroom classrooms provided:
  - They are seated at a desk or table
  - They are within a classroom where the instruction, course or program of study is taking place
  - the desks or tables are arranged in a manner:
    - To prevent persons who are seated from facing each other and,
    - To allow the greatest possible distance between seated persons
- Masks for kindergarten to grade 3 students at school is strongly encouraged.
- Masks are mandatory for staff in all settings where physical distancing cannot be maintained.
- Government of Alberta guidance on mask use is available here.

#### **Physical Distancing**

- Physical distancing (2-metre spacing) is a useful public health measure to help prevent the spread of disease. Increasing the space between persons decreases the risk of transmission. Where 2 metres is not possible between desks, the following measures will be taken.
  - Students will be arranged so they are not facing each other (e.g. arranged in rows rather than in small groups of 4 or a semi-circle).

 In situations where physical distancing is not possible (e.g., busses, classrooms and some sporting activities), there will be an extra emphasis on hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette and cleaning.

#### **Visitors**

- The public is allowed into the school following the procedures and protocols established at the school.
  - The public should not enter the school if they are ill.
  - Parents/guardians can attend the school if they are required.
  - All visitors must make an appointment before coming to the school.
  - All visitors must wear a mask and complete the self-screening tool before they enter the school.
  - A record of all visitors will be kept.
  - Preschool and Kindergarten families will be invited to come to the school to meet their teacher and see their classroom prior to the beginning of the school year.
     Unfortunately, once the school year begins, parents and guardians will not be permitted to enter schools at drop off and pick-up. Parents are welcome to walk their children to outside doors if they respect physical distancing and wearing a mask.

#### **Staggered School Entry**

- Kindergarten teachers will contact families on or before September 2, 2020, to arrange a start date during the week of Sept 8 11.
- Families that choose the "School-At-Home-Learning" option will be contacted during the week of September 14.
- September 2: Grades 3, & 6 only
- September 3: Grades 2, 5, 8 only
- September 4: Grades 1, 4, 7 only
- September 8: All Grade 1 8 students attend and regular classes begin.

#### **School Protocols**

- Class sizes will be similar to previous years as there is no additional funding to hire more teachers.
- Teachers will have seating plans for all classes, and students will be required to sit in their assigned seats.
- Students and staff will wipe their own workspace such as desks, Chromebooks, etc. before and after using. Younger students may require help from the teacher or educational assistant.

- Students will be encouraged to avoid sharing personal property (pens, crayons, rulers, etc).
- There is no additional funding to hire staff to clean playground equipment. Students will be encouraged to use hand sanitizer before and after using playground equipment.
- Gymnasiums will be used to deliver physical education programming.
  - When possible physical education should be done outside instead of inside as the risk of transmission is more likely to occur indoors rather than outdoors. Staff will follow the <u>Guidance for Sport, Physical Activity and Recreation</u> as relaunch progresses.
  - Administrators and teachers should choose activities or sports that support physical distancing (i.e., badminton over wrestling).
- Use of shared items or sports equipment should be discouraged. Equipment that must be shared should be cleaned and disinfected before and after each use, or users should perform hand hygiene before and after each use.
- Use of shared items or equipment is to be avoided where possible. Equipment that must be shared should be cleaned and disinfected after each use.

#### **Expectations for personal belongings**

- All students and staff are encouraged to use a backpack for all personal belongings.
- Lunches are to be stored with personal belongings (in a backpack). Please consider wide mouth thermos containers for hot food as microwaves will not be available.
- Where possible, students will leave their school belongings at school to reduce possible transmission of COVID-19.
- Personal belongings are not to be shared with other students. (cell phones, games, etc.)

#### Water Bottles and Fountains

- AHS guidelines state that water fountains can remain open. Mouthpieces of drinking fountains are not a major source of virus transmission and require regular cleaning according to manufacturer recommendations.
- Water fountain knobs and push buttons are considered high touch surfaces and will be regularly cleaned and disinfected.
- It is recommended that students bring their own water bottle (labelled with their name) and fill water bottles rather than having them drink directly from the mouthpiece of a fountain.

#### Cohorting

- The risk of transmission of COVID-19 is reduced by limiting exposure to others.
- Contact tracing is also more feasible when groups (cohorts) are maintained.
- Where possible, students are cohorted by class. Efforts will be made to maintain physical distancing even within a cohort.
- Every effort will be made to limit the number of cohorts that each student is part of.

#### **Food Handling**

- All students must wash their hands before eating, and eat only their own food. Students are not permitted to share food under provincial health guidelines.
- At this time, microwaves and vending machines will not be available to students.
- The sharing of food among students or staff will discontinue.
- Hot lunch programs and bake sales are cancelled until further notice.
- Division/School approved nutrition programs will be served by staff in self-contained packaging. Self-served programs are cancelled.
- Lunch
  - It is important for students to bring their lunch each day.
  - Schools will not be able to accommodate family members who want to drop off lunches.
  - If a student forgets their lunch, families should phone the school to work out a solution.
  - Students will store lunches with their other personal belongings.
  - Students will remain in their cohort to eat lunch.
  - Food delivery services for students will not be permitted in any school.
- For classroom meals and snacks:
  - No self-serve or family-style meal service. Instead, switch to pre-packaged meals or meals served by designated staff.
  - Food provided by the family should be stored with the student's belongings.
- Food-handling staff shall practice meticulous hand hygiene, and they are excluded from work if they are symptomatic.
- Utensils shall be used to serve food items.
- Students shall practice physical distancing while eating. There will be no common food items (e.g., salt and pepper shakers, ketchup).

#### **School Council Meetings**

- School council meetings for the 2020–2021 school year may proceed.
- Schools will support their school council members to determine if they will hold in-person meetings or online virtual meetings.

#### **Responding to Illness**

- Staff members, parents, and students may not enter the school if they have symptoms of COVID-19.
- If a student develops symptoms while at the school:
  - The student should be supported to wear a non-medical mask if they are able to, and be isolated in a separate room.
  - It is also expected that the student washes hands then wears gloves.
  - The student's temperature shall be taken and recorded using a contactless thermometer. The student's temperature will also be reported to the parent/ quardian.
  - The parent/guardian should be notified to come and pick up the student immediately.
  - If a separate room is not available, the student should be kept at least 2 metres away from other students.
  - The student should be encouraged to access COVID-19 testing by accessing the <u>AHS Online Testing tool</u>.
  - o If the student requires close contact and care, staff can continue to care for the student until the parent is able to pick up the student. The student and staff are expected to wear a mask and close interactions with the student that may result in contact with the student's respiratory secretions should be avoided. If very close contact is required and the student is young the staff member should also use a face shield or eye protection.
  - Staff/students must wash their hands before donning a mask and before and after removing the mask (as per <u>Alberta Health mask guidance</u>), and before and after touching any items used by the student.
  - All items the student touched/used while isolated must be cleaned and disinfected as soon as the student has been picked up. Items that cannot be cleaned and disinfected (e.g. paper, books, cardboard puzzles) should be removed from the classroom and stored in a sealed container for a minimum of 10 days.

#### **School-at-Home-Learning Options**

- While we anticipate the return of most students, some families may want to continue with school-at-home-learning even though Alberta Education has directed school jurisdictions to provide in-class learning.
- School-at-home-learning temporarily bridges teaching and learning requirements due to specific COVID-19 concerns related to attending school.
  - Students will remain registered in their current school if parents apply to have their child participate in school-at-home-learning.
  - Opportunities to support families considering school-at-home-learning options will be considered recognizing that resources are limited.
  - A consistent approach that respects the school and family context will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.
- School-at-home-learning will:
  - Provide students with learning packages developed to assist parents in leading learning environments within their home.
  - Identify supportive online resources designed to enhance learning.
  - Deliver on-line support to students that may combine multiple grades or subjects.
  - Require parents to lead student work on a daily basis.
  - Monitor and assess student progress.
- School-at-home-learning will be delivered by teachers working as part of a division team.
  - The teacher may or may not work at their community school.
  - The order of topics learned may not be consistent with the student's home school.
- Timelines are established to support school-at-home-learning and in-school learning changes:
  - o Time periods will align with report card terms or quarters.
  - 30 days notice is required to make changes from school-at-home-learning and in-school learning.
- Families considering school-at-home-learning will review this option with their school principal.
  - Families must confirm their choice of this option by September 2, 2020 with their school principal.
  - Principals will forward the names of families choosing this option to Central Office by September 3, 2020.
- For students with identified special education needs, school-at-home-learning may be
  what is best for the student. Parents, school learning teams and division staff will
  collaborate to address IPP priorities within available means. Schools will attempt to
  provide services remotely, understanding that the service may be limited.

#### **Transportation**

#### **Bussed Students**

- Parents and students will not be in the pick-up area or enter the bus if they have symptoms of COVID-19.
- Students will complete the self-screening tool each day prior to leaving their home for the bus.
- Students will be assigned seats and a record of this seating plan will be kept in order to assist with contact tracing in the case of a student being a case of COVID-19.
   Students who live in the same household will be seated together.
- As much as practical, students start boarding from the back seats to the front of the bus.
- As much as practical, students start disembarking from the front seats to the back of the bus.
- All students must perform hand hygiene (hand sanitizer) when entering the bus until further notice.
- Mask use is mandatory for all bussing students. However, in exceptional circumstances, mask usage for students with identified special needs will be reviewed by the school learning team. Expectations regarding mask usage for these students will be determined and outlined in the Individual Program Plan and on a case by case basis.
- If a student becomes symptomatic during the bus trip, the bus driver will notify the school upon delivering the student so that the school can make the appropriate arrangements to pick up the student (see Responding to Illness).
- No sharing of personal items (food, toys, water bottles, cell phones, gaming devices, etc.)

#### **Non-Bussed Students**

- Students should only have people from their household in the vehicle with them.
- Students who are walking shall maintain a two meter distance from other people, except for household members.
- Students will follow arrival and departure expectations developed by their school.
   Expectations will address arrival and departure times and student movement.

#### **Resources for Families**

#### **Alberta Education Resources**

Alberta Education's 2020-21 School Re-Entry Plan

Guidance for School Re-entry - Scenario 1

Alberta's Relaunch Strategy

**COVID-19 Information for Albertans** 

**COVID-19 Screening Questionnaire** 

General Relaunch Guidance

**Guidance for Playgrounds** 

**Guidance for Outdoor Fitness** 

Guidance for Sport, Physical Activity and Recreation: Stage 3

Get the Facts: back to class for 2020-21
Parent's Guide: 2020-21 school year