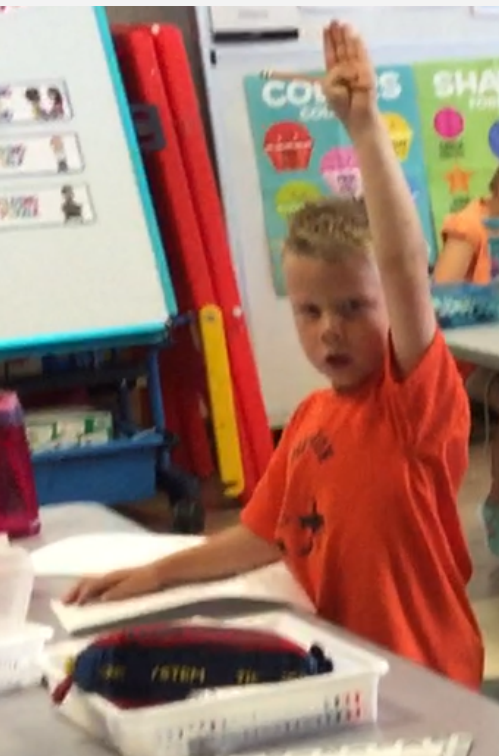


“Return to Near Normal”

2021-2022 WRPS School Year Plan



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 conducts its operations at any time during the school year.

NOTE: Any updates will be in orange.



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Overview

Our 2021-2022 “Return to Near Normal” plan is based on Alberta Education’s [2021-2022 School Year Plan](#), and [Guidance for respiratory illness prevention and management in schools](#) which emphasize a return to near normal.

We continue to follow the safety requirements provided by the Chief Medical Officer and the Minister of Education. Our staff continue to be flexible and responsive to any changes that are announced by the government or the Chief Medical Officer. The 2020/2021 school year taught us that when conditions in the community change, we need to quickly respond to these changing conditions.

Although schools will no longer follow all the same measures as last year, they will continue to use good health practices to prevent the spread of illness. Thank you for supporting our school division to take all measures to protect one another. The safety and well-being of our students and staff is our priority.

Risk Mitigation Strategies

Public health measures that will remain in place as per Alberta Education’s requirements:

- **Masking**
 - Everyone is required to wear a mask on school buses at least until September 27,
 - We support students, staff and visitors in their choice to wear a mask. Students, parents/guardians, staff and visitors should consider their own risk of acquiring COVID-19, influenza and other respiratory illnesses when making decisions on wearing a mask.
- **Hand Hygiene**
 - We promote and facilitate hand hygiene by
 - Providing soap, running water and hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol.
 - Placing hand sanitizer in convenient locations throughout the school where soap and water may not be available or nearby, such as in entrances, exits and near high touch surfaces.
 - Promoting hand hygiene before/after activities (e.g., entering/leaving school or classroom, boarding/exiting the bus, changing activities, before and after using shared equipment, before and after eating or serving food, after using washrooms, before and after having physical contact with other staff or students, etc.).
- **Respiratory Care**
 - We encourage students, staff and visitors to use proper respiratory etiquette (e.g., sneezing into the elbow or a tissue, discarding tissues immediately into a lined bin, performing hand hygiene).

- **Enhanced Cleaning**
 - We are ensuring regular cleaning and disinfection of high traffic/touch areas, and maintaining ventilation systems in schools to ensure that air handling equipment is running effectively.
- **Monitor Symptoms**
 - Continue using the [Covid-19 AHS daily checklist](#) to monitor symptoms of staff and students,
- **Staying Home When Sick**
 - Students and staff are to stay home when sick. Parents/guardians play an essential role as they support actions in the home such as keeping children/students home when sick.
- **Reporting Levels of High Absenteeism**
 - If absenteeism reaches 10% or higher, the Division will notify Alberta Health Services. In these situations, an outbreak may be declared and additional voluntary health measures may be recommended.
- **Isolation of Positive Cases**
 - Isolation after testing positive for COVID-19 is still required.
 - Individuals who test positive must isolate for at least 10 days from when their symptoms started, or until their symptoms have improved, whichever takes longer.
- **Furniture in Schools**
 - Schools are to follow the guidelines in [AP 516 - Furniture](#)

Public Health Measures Removed

Public health measures that will **no** longer be in place:

- requirement for students and school staff to wear masks in schools, and
- need for students and school staff to remain in strict cohorts.

Vaccines

- Vaccination is an effective means of protecting Albertans from COVID-19, and it is an important part of the overall plan to lift health restrictions and safely get back to normal.
 - Albertans who are eligible should get the COVID-19 vaccine. Currently, Albertans born in 2009 or before are eligible for COVID-19 vaccine.
 - By fall 2021, the majority of individuals in this age group will have had the opportunity to be fully vaccinated with two doses of COVID-19 vaccine.
 - WRPS will respect students and staff decisions regarding vaccinations. The decision to be vaccinated is a personal choice.
 - In accordance with Alberta's privacy legislation, the Personal Information Protection Act and the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, everyone must respect the health privacy of students and staff, including their vaccination status.
 - WRPS will support students and staff who require time away to receive their

vaccination.

- COVID-19 immunizations will be available in schools in September and October for eligible students in Grades 7-12. Staff in those schools will also be able to access immunizations, if desired. Immunization is an effective means of protecting Albertans from COVID-19, and it is an important part of ensuring our schools can return to normal.
 - The intent is for the COVID-19 school immunization program to begin the week of September 7.
 - An AHS parent/guardian consent form must be completed for each student that will be vaccinated under this program.

Visitors & Service Providers

- For the safety of students and staff, contracted service providers (i.e., additional maintenance businesses, psychologists) who need to visit a school for an essential service must schedule an appointment with the school staff to enter the building.
- Parents and visitors are permitted to enter the school, provided they contact the school in advance.
- Meetings will be held virtually where possible (i.e., via telephone or video conferencing).
- Transfers of items shall be arranged at the front door.

Dealing with Illness

- Symptomatic students and staff
 - Schools have a plan in place if a student or staff member develops any symptoms of illness while at school. This will include:
 - Sending home students or staff who are sick.
 - Having a separate area for students and staff who are sick.
 - A staff member caring for an ill student should consider wearing a mask.
 - If a student or staff member begins developing new symptoms of respiratory illness (e.g., cough, fever, sore throat, runny nose, loss of taste or smell, etc.), they should be provided with a mask to wear while waiting to go home.
 - Proof of a negative COVID-19 test result is not necessary for a student or staff member to return to school.
 - Individuals should not return to school until they are feeling well.

Confirmed Covid-19 Cases

- AHS Public Health will not inform school authorities or administrators of individual cases of COVID-19 within their school setting, as notification to the school is not required for the individual's case management.
 - Staff, students or parents/guardians may choose to notify school administrators of a positive COVID-19 test result. Administrators will complete the WRPS

tracking form.

- Individuals are not required to share their COVID-19 test results with school administration. School administrators and/or school authorities are not required to contact AHS to report student or staff cases.
- School administrators should continue to monitor their school population for additional cases (e.g., an individual voluntarily shares they are positive for COVID or they start to experience COVID-19 symptoms while at the school) and/or absenteeism due to illness.
- Additional measures may be considered or recommended if AHS communicates if a school meets the criteria for a COVID-19 “outbreak”. If a school is experiencing an outbreak, one or more outbreak measures may be implemented.
 - Examples of these outbreak measures include:
 - active health screening with questionnaires,
 - increasing frequency of cleaning and disinfection,
 - maintaining classroom cohorts,
 - mask recommendations,
 - and/or limiting extra-curricular activities.

School & Extracurricular activities

School activities will resume near-normal this fall, including:

- Field trips, assemblies, celebrations, etc.
- Regular classroom and recess activities,
- Diploma and Provincial achievement exams.

The Board is prepared to approve extra-curricular activities for students with the following conditions:

- Staff and students have the choice to be involved in any extra-curricular activities.
- As per the Guide to Education, extra-curricular activities complement and are not part of instructional time where there is student-teacher interaction and supervision.
- School staff will communicate with parents which extra-curricular activities will be offered during the 2021-2022 school year.
- WRPS is working with Alberta Health and education partners, including the Alberta School Athletics Association, to support athletic activities and events within the context of health measures that may be in place.
- School staff, parents/guardians, students and community members must continue to follow public health measures and recommendations that may be in place.
- International trips remain postponed.

Work experience, band, libraries, bake sales, hot lunch programs and school cafeterias may operate according to AHS guidelines. Microwave ovens may be used in schools provided there is 30 amp service and adult supervision.

Community Use of Schools

Requests for community use of schools will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

School Council Meetings

The school principal will consult with the school council to determine the format for meetings (virtual, in-person, or combination).

Mental Health Supports

The COVID 19 pandemic has resulted in prolonged stress, loss of control, and unpredictability for students, parents, and staff. Upon re-entry to school we can predict students, parents and staff will experience higher levels of dysregulation and require mental health and psychosocial support.

Dr. Bruce Perry's work around trauma and the R's will be used as the framework for responding to students, parents, and staff's mental health and psychosocial needs.

Regulate: Individuals must first be regulated before they are able to connect to others, learn new content, or engage in reasoning.

Relate: An individual is only able to connect and relate to another individual after they are regulated (in a calm state).

Reason: Once an individual is regulated and feels safe and connected to others, then they are able to reason and learn new content.



	Students	Parents	Staff	
	Mental Health Capacity Building program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Google Classroom <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wellness and Mental Health Mini-Lessons and Activities (Self-Lead) Live sessions Social Emotional Learning Programs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Division I - Kimochis, Kids Have Stress Too Division II - Stress Lessons Division III - From Stressed Out to Chilled Out, Big Life Journals Division IV - Merrell's Strong Teens Facebook Page https://www.facebook.com/WRPSWST 	Mental Health Capacity Building program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Google Classroom <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wellness and Mental Health Mini-Lessons and Activities (Self-Lead) Live sessions Google Site for Parents Facebook Page https://www.facebook.com/WRPSWST Parent Presentations (recorded and on demand) 	Mental Health Capacity Building program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff Wellness Google Site https://sites.google.com/wrps11.ca/staff-wellness/virtual-wellness-break Staff Wellness Padlet Wellbeing 101 (Google Classroom) 	Healthy to Stressed
	Family School Liaison Worker <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Link to community resources 	Family School Liaison Worker <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Link to community resources 		
	Mental Health Helpline Phone: 1-877-303-2642	Mental Health Helpline Phone: 1-877-303-2642	Mental Health Helpline Phone: 1-877-303-2642	
	Kids Help Phone: Phone: 1-800-668-6868 Text: CONNECT to 686868	Alberta Government Community Resources Phone: 211	Homewood Health https://homewoodhealth.com/corporate	
	Family Resource Network	Family Resource Network	ASEBP https://www.asebp.ca/	
	Mobile Mental Health -Wellbeing Self Assessment https://maskwacis-mmh.com/well-being-assessment/	Mobile Mental Health -Wellbeing Self Assessment https://maskwacis-mmh.com/well-being-assessment/	Mobile Mental Health -Wellbeing Self Assessment https://maskwacis-mmh.com/well-being-assessment/	
	Anxiety Canada https://www.anxietycanada.com/	Anxiety Canada https://www.anxietycanada.com/	Anxiety Canada https://www.anxietycanada.com/	
	Trauma informed practices	Trauma informed Practices	Trauma informed practices <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adverse Life Experience Self Directed Training (online modules) 6 R's of Regulation workshop 	

	Students	Parents	Staff	
	Anxiety Canada https://www.anxietycanada.com/	Anxiety Canada https://www.anxietycanada.com/	Anxiety Canada https://www.anxietycanada.com/	
	Mental Health Helpline Phone: 1-877-303-2642	Mental Health Helpline Phone: 1-877-303-2642	Mental Health Helpline Phone: 1-877-303-2642	

	Kids Help Phone: Phone: 1-800-668-6868 Text: CONNECT to 686868		Homewood Health https://homewoodhealth.com/corporate	Stressed to Struggling
	Family Resource Network	Family Resource Network	Family Resource Network	
	Indigenous Support Workers	Indigenous Support Workers		
	Autism Intervenor support • TEACCH Autism Program			

	Students	Parents	Staff	
	Anxiety Canada https://www.anxietycanada.com/	Anxiety Canada https://www.anxietycanada.com/	Anxiety Canada https://www.anxietycanada.com/	Struggling to Crisis
	Mental Health Helpline Phone: 1-877-303-2642	Mental Health Helpline Phone: 1-877-303-2642	Mental Health Helpline Phone: 1-877-303-2642	
	Kids Help Phone: Phone: 1-800-668-6868 Text: CONNECT to 686868		Homewood Health https://homewoodhealth.com/corporate	
	Family School Liaison Worker/Guidance Counselor Support	Family School Liaison Worker/Guidance Counselor Support		
	Mobile Mental Health 780-362-2150	Mobile Mental Health 780-362-2150	Mobile Mental Health 780-362-2150	
	Alberta Health Services Community Addictions & Mental Health • Wetaskiwin: 780-361-1245 • Drayton Valley: 780-542-3140 • Rimbey: 403-843-2406 • Ponoka: 403-783-7903 • Camrose: 780-672-1181	Alberta Health Services Community Addictions & Mental Health • Wetaskiwin: 780-361-1245 • Drayton Valley: 780-542-3140 • Rimbey: 403-843-2406 • Ponoka: 403-783-7903 • Camrose: 780-672-1181	Alberta Health Services Community Addictions & Mental Health • Wetaskiwin: 780-361-1245 • Drayton Valley: 780-542-3140 • Rimbey: 403-843-2406 • Ponoka: 403-783-7903 • Camrose: 780-672-1181	
	Early Education Family Wellness Center • Family Wellness Worker • Speech Language Pathologist • Occupational Therapist	Early Education Family Wellness Center • Family Wellness Worker • Speech Language Pathologist • Occupational Therapist		
	Trauma informed interventions	Trauma informed interventions		