



Grande Yellowhead Public School Division

2021-2022 SCHOOL RE-ENTRY PLAN

Information for Staff, Parents & Guardians



Message from Superintendent Lewis

Dear Parents/Guardians and Staff;

On August 13, 2021, the Government of Alberta announced that students would return to in-person classes in September. In the 2021-22 School Year Plan, the Minister of Education indicated that “with the availability of vaccines, Alberta is entering the recovery phase...lifting the remaining health restrictions and getting back to normal... reflecting a corresponding shift from mandatory health measures to recommended health best practices.” **Mask use will continue to be a legal requirement for students and staff on school buses.**

The Chief Medical Officer of Health and the Minister of Education have removed the mandatory mask use for school staff and students in Grades 4-12 and strict cohorting but grant the authority and accountability to school divisions to put local measures in place as needed.

The Board of Trustees for Grande Yellowhead Public School Division (GYPSD) strongly encourage the use of masks when physical distancing cannot be maintained and supports individuals who wish to remain masked at all times. Regardless of individuals’ choices to mask or vaccinate, our Division expects everyone to be kind, respectful, and to adhere to Sections 31 (student responsibilities) and 32 (parent responsibilities) of *the Education Act* and to the Board’s COVID-19 Health and Safety mandates.

GYPSD remains committed to the health and safety of staff and students while providing high-quality teaching and learning environments. As the situation with COVID-19 remains highly fluid and constantly evolving, the Board will closely monitor the most current situation in our many communities to update and revise our use of masks and other safety requirements as needed. The Chief Medical Officer of Health’s scheduled update on September 27, 2021, will also continue to inform our planning.

Safety as a Primary Focus

- To minimize the spread of COVID-19, the Board for GYPSD **mandates** the following health and safety measures:
 - require staff and students to use the [Alberta Health Daily Checklist](#) before coming to school or getting on a school bus
 - require parents/guardians to pick up sick children from school immediately
 - enforce strict stay-at-home protocols for those who are feeling unwell
 - provide enhanced cleaning and disinfecting in high touch areas
 - encourage physical distancing where possible
 - maintain good ventilation
 - create cohorts of students for contact tracing
 - require hand-hygiene and cough etiquette for all students and staff
 - encourage eligible staff and students to get vaccinated
 - require visitors to make appointments to meet with school staff and use the [Alberta Health Daily Checklist](#) before coming to the school or Division building

Respectfully,

Carolyn Lewis

Carolyn Lewis, MAEd.
CEO and Superintendent of Schools

Sincerely,

Brenda Rosadiuk

Board Chair, and Trustee for the
Lobstick Zone



CAMPUS GYPSD

GYPSD continues to offer a range of flexible programming to support choice, preference, interests, and goals. Families in the **Learn-at-Home** option or **Home Education** Program can reach out to their local principals to discuss enrichment opportunities such as: extra-curricular clubs, sports' teams, specialized or option courses, Fine Arts, CTS courses, and/or Off-Campus Education (RAP, Work Experience or Green Certificate).

Respecting Family Choice

GYPSD recognizes that some families may wish to remain in the **Learn-at-Home** distance education option at this time. Please contact your school principal to discuss this option. Your child will continue to be attached to your local school. GYPSD teachers will use the Hāpara Learning Management System to provide instruction and assessment of Alberta curriculum with excellent online and/or print-based resources.

GYPSD is also an official **Home Education** provider. Please contact Managing Director of Learning Services, Carra Aschenmeier at carrasch@gypsd.ca for information on Home Education.

Please access the [Division's FAQ](#) for a comprehensive list of resources and links on COVID-19.

Mandatory Health and Safety Measures

Required for all staff, students, and visitors.

<p>Alberta Health Daily Checklist</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Before leaving home: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ staff, children/students, visitors, and volunteers who access the school for work or education, must self-screen for symptoms each day before they leave for school using the Alberta Health Daily Checklist. • If you answer YES to any of the symptoms on the checklist: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Stay home ○ Arrange a COVID test ○ Isolate for 10 days or receive a negative COVID-19
<p>Strict Stay at Home Mandate</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stay at home if you are sick. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Alberta Health Daily Checklist. • If you answer YES to any of the symptoms on the checklist: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Arrange a COVID test
<p>Sick at School or Work</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students who exhibit signs of illness will be moved to a designated private area within the school. Parents/guardians will be notified and advised to pick up their child immediately. • An immediate pickup assumes that the student will be picked <u>up within an hour</u>. School buses must be avoided. • Families must designate an emergency contact who will be able to immediately pick up the student if parents/guardians are unable to do so. Staff supervising symptomatic students will keep all students and staff out of the designated isolation area. • The student and attending staff will be required to wear a mask. • Once a sick individual has left the school, all surfaces, items, and areas with which they may have come into contact, will be cleaned and disinfected. • Schools will ensure the continuation of learning for students who are away from school due to illness. • Students with a chronic health issue that is medically diagnosed and unrelated to COVID-19 should monitor for new, different, or worsening symptoms. • Staff displaying symptoms at work must go home. • Visitors displaying symptoms will be directed to leave the facility immediately.
<p>Hand Hygiene and Cough Etiquette</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Everyone entering the school will perform hand hygiene. • Hand washing and/or use of hand sanitizer will occur throughout the day. • Cough etiquette will be promoted with frequent and ongoing reminders where needed: cough into your sleeve; cough into your shirt; cough into a tissue. Sanitize your hands immediately afterwards.

Strongly Encouraged For all staff, students, and visitors.	
Vaccination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eligible staff and students are strongly encouraged to get vaccinated. • AHS will be hosting vaccination clinics in junior and senior high schools. • Information and permission forms will come from your school principal.
Masking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where physical distancing is not possible or cannot be maintained, masking is recommended. • All staff and students will be supported in their decision to continue with masking.
School Operations and District Organizational Adjustments	
Maintaining Cohorts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schools will continue to cohort students as much as possible for the first month back to classes. • Cohorting limits exposure to others and aids in contact tracing. • Schools will strive to inform staff and families of positive COVID-19 cases in schools.
Abundant Signage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each school will have posters: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ reminding staff and student to complete the Alberta Health Daily Checklist ○ reminding individuals who are feeling sick they cannot not enter ○ promoting hand hygiene ○ promoting respiratory etiquette ○ encouraging physical distancing ○ encouraging mask use when physical distancing cannot be maintained
Enhanced Cleaning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frequent cleaning and disinfecting of high-touch areas in schools will continue.
Ventilation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilities will continue to ensure HVAC and ventilation systems are effective and providing thorough air-cleaning processes. • Teachers will continue to make use of outdoor learning spaces and opportunities for students to go outside.
School Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School sites will remain closed to the public. • Community use of school gyms is suspended until further notice. • Visitors are required to make an appointment if they wish to meet with school staff.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visitors into the school or Division buildings must complete the Alberta Health Daily Checklist. • Visitors into the school or Division buildings must comply with the Board’s mandatory health and safety requirements and all AHS public health measures.
<p>CAMPUS GYPSD Flexible, Personalized, Alternate Education Programming Options</p>	
<p>Learn-at-Home</p> <p>Distance Education for Students in Grades 1 through Grade 9:</p> <p>Distance Learning provides online and/or print resources for families who chose to have their children learn from home.</p> <p>CAMPUS GYPSD supports Distance Learning through the Hāpara Learning Management System.</p> <p>GYPSD teachers will support students in this Learn-at-Home option with Alberta curriculum and excellent resources.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Families register for Distance Learning through their school principal. • Parents play an important role in the support and supervision of their child’s learning in Distance Learning. • Parents need to determine if their child is suited to a self-paced, independent learning option. Students should be highly organized, self-motivated, good communicators and problem-solvers, and comfortable with technology. • Learning materials are virtual; however, a print version may be requested. • Students registered for the virtual option need to have a laptop/Chromebook with internet access as well as a working camera/microphone. • Teacher support is available during school hours online (email and Google Meet) or in person, through appointment, at the TLC location within each community.
<p>Learn-at-Home</p> <p>Distance Education for Students in Grades 10 through 12:</p> <p>Distance Learning provides online and/or print resources for families who chose to have their children learn from home.</p> <p>CAMPUS GYPSD supports Distance Learning through the Hāpara Learning Management System.</p> <p>GYPSD teachers will support students in this Learn-at-Home option with Alberta curriculum and excellent resources.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Families register for Distance Learning option through their school principal. • Parents need to determine if their child is suited to a self-paced, independent learning option. Students should be highly organized, self-motivated, good communicators and problem-solvers, and comfortable with technology. • Parents play a key role in the support and encouragement of their teen’s learning in collaboration with the teacher. • Learning materials are virtual; however, a print version may be requested. • High school students registered for virtual education must have a laptop/Chromebook with internet access as well as a working camera/microphone. • Teacher support is available during school hours online (email and Google Meet) or in person, through appointment only, at the TLC location within each community. • a Hybrid option (blend of online and in-school classes) can be arranged in collaboration with the high school principal.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High school principals are the administrators for the local Learning Connection (TLC) outreach sites operating within each of the five communities that make up GYPSPD.
Home Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parents are responsible for the design, teaching, and assessment of their children. Please contact Managing Director of Learning Services Carra Aschenmeier at carrasch@gypsd.ca for unique options. https://www.gypsd.ca/learning-home/home-education
Support for Students and Staff	
Providing Mental Health Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Share any concerns you have with your school principal. Staff have access to professional learning on supporting the mental health of students through the Division Psychologist, BEST Coaches and Family School Liaison Counselors (FSLC). Information on accessing mental health resources for students, families and staff is posted on the Grande Yellowhead Mental Health & Wellness site and the GYPSPD website.
Supporting Students with Special Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Share any concerns you have with your school principal. Returning to school can cause additional concern or anxiety for families of students with special needs. Families need to know we are taking steps to support them. Our Director of Inclusive Learning Erin Murphy and the team of professionals who make up the Inclusive Team collaborate with school staff and Alberta Health Services to inform complex medical interventions and supports some students require, to keep both students and staff as safe as possible.



Board of Trustees for GYPSPD
 From left: Ken Fate (Grande Cache), Ellen Aust (Hinton), Joan Zaporosky (Edson), Brenda Rosadiuk (Lobstick), Fiona Fowler (Edson), Shirley Caputo (Hinton), Dale Karpluk (Jasper).