Wolf Creek Public Schools

2021-22 School Year: Guide for Parents/Guardians

Updated March 2022

Background

Wolf Creek Public Schools continues to prioritize the health and safety of students, while providing a learning environment students are accustomed to and where they can succeed.

Through the COVID-19 pandemic our Division has followed the medical and health guidance of the Government of Alberta and the Chief Medical Officer of Health. For the 2021-22 school year that will continue to be the case, while ensuring we remain focused on the concerns of families and vigilant in maintaining schools that are safe and healthy for all.

Current Increased Health Measures:

Vaccinations

Vaccines are safe and effective, and have been shown to be highly protective against severe outcomes from COVID-19. All staff and students ages 5+ are eligible to get the COVID-19 vaccine. Learn more about vaccine eligibility at: www.alberta.ca/covid19-vaccine.aspx

General Safety Measures

Schools have additional safety measures for a healthy school environment, including ensuring air circulation and (HVAC) systems are working properly, reinforcing proper hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette, in addition to enhanced cleaning and sanitizing.

Screening

Before leaving home, staff (including substitute teachers), children/students, visitors, and volunteers who will access the school for work or education, are expected to continue to self-screen for symptoms each day that they enter the school using the applicable checklist for their age group (Child Alberta Health Daily Checklist or Adult Alberta Health Daily Checklist).

Masking

The Alberta Government ended its mandate for masks for all students, staff or adults in schools. Masks may still be required in certain circumstances, such as: such as students who become ill while at school and are awaiting to go home, fully vaccinated students or staff returning to school, recovering from COVID-19 (as part of 6-10 day mandatory masking period).

Learn more about masking requirements and appropriate masks to use at: alberta.ca/masks.

Cohorting

Although measures are being lifted, some operational planning such as recess times and class scheduling that were implemented as part of COVID-19 planning may continue for the time being for logistical reasons. If you have any questions about these processes, please contact your school for more information.

Strategies for reducing crowding

Schools can consider implementing strategies to reduce crowding between students and staff in areas inside and outside the classroom. This

could include, staggering start and end times for classes, seating, etc.

Expectations for Visitors

Visitors and volunteers are required to follow the school policies such as hand hygiene, staying home when ill. A visitor or volunteer may be asked to use the applicable Alberta Health Daily Checklist

Mental Health, Social and Specialized Supports

Diverse learners throughout Wolf Creek will continue to be supported as in previous school years. Our schools have multiple avenues of support available, that includes support for students who require mental health and social and emotional support.

Tutoring

Alberta Education is developing an e-Tutoring Hub that is being launched in late January to help students catch up on skills and learning they may have fallen behind on because of the pandemic. Initially, students in grades 4 to 9 will be able to access pre-recorded video tutoring sessions online anytime to build their literacy and numeracy skills. This is supplemental to a student's in-class learning, and not an online learning option. It will be available at the e-Tutoring Hub at New.LearnAlberta.

Student-based Activities:

Off-site activities

Off-site activities (i.e., field trips for group physical activity, performance activities and recreational activities that are part of the curriculum) will follow the school guidance, as well as any sector specific restrictions relevant to the location of the field trip. This would include physical distancing, use of masks, cohorting for students in Kindergarten through Grade 6, hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette and enhanced cleaning and disinfection.

Performance Activity

Students are able to participate in a group performance activity (i.e., singing, dancing, playing instruments, theatre) as part of their education program curriculum. Schools may consider strategies to reduce crowding and improve/increase ventilation in in-door settings.

Physical Activity

Students are permitted to participate in group physical activity as part of an education program curriculum (i.e, physical education class and sports academy classes may occur), Schools may consider strategies to reduce crowding and improve/increase ventilation in in-door settings.

Diploma Exams

The Alberta Government is temporarily changing the weighting of diploma exams to 10 per cent from 30 per cent for the 2021/22 school year. The weighting of diploma exams will return to 30 per cent effective September 1, 2022. More information is available ONLINE.

January 2022 Diploma exams have been canceled for all students in Alberta. January 2022 Provincial Achievement Tests have been delayed.

Response and Reporting:

Responding to Illness

If a student or staff member develops symptoms of illness at school or on the bus, the school will have a plan to isolate the symptomatic individual. Schools will contact parents if their children show symptoms of illness while at school, or arriving on the bus, and parents will be expected to pick up their child as soon as

possible. Parents should make sure the school has their most up-to-date contact information.

Parents/ Guardians are required to inform the school if your child will be absent from school. Anyone with symptoms should follow the latest isolation guidance. Updated isolation guidance for fully vaccinated and unvaccinated adults and youth are available at: www.alberta.ca/isolation.aspx

Shift to online learning

School divisions have the ability to shift individual classes or entire schools to remote learning if required operationally. Absenteeism will be the primary way to measure when and if this would be necessary.



Guiding Documents

Wolf Creek Public Schools' 2021-22 School Year: Guide for Parents/Guardians is supported by a number of documents and resources. We encourage you to use these resources for more information, for daily symptoms screening and to determine whether you require a test for COVID-19.

- Alberta Government: Guidance for Schools (K-12) and School Buses
- Alberta Health: Daily COVID-19 SYMPTOM Screening Checklist
- Alberta Health: **Do you require a COVID-19 test?** (COVID-19 Self-Assessment for Albertans)
- Alberta Government: COVID-19: Mask Requirements
- Alberta Government: COVID-19: Public Health Actions
- Alberta Government: Having a safe and healthy school year: At-home rapid testing (VIDEO)
- Alberta Government: Education At-Home Rapid Testing Program : information for parents, students and school staff