

# BLACK GOLD SCHOOL DIVISION



2021-2022

## Pandemic Response Plan

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## Overview

On February 9, 2022, the provincial government [announced](#) a three-step plan for the easing of COVID-19 public health measures based on a downward trend in hospitalization rates.

### Step 1 (effective Feb. 8 at 11:59 p.m.)

- Restriction Exemption Program (REP) ended

### Step 1, continued (effective Feb. 14 at 12:01 a.m.)

- Masks no longer required for all children and youth in schools
- Masks no longer required in any setting for children aged 12 and under

### Step 2 (Effective March 1, based on hospitalization rates continuing to trend downwards)

- Any remaining provincial school requirements (including cohorting) will be removed
- Screening prior to youth activities will no longer be required (community based)
- Capacity limits will be lifted for all venues
- Limits on social gatherings will be removed
- Provincial mask mandate will be removed
- Mandatory work from home removed

### Step 3 (Date to be determined, based on hospitalization rates continuing to trend downwards)

- COVID-specific measures in continuing care will be removed.
- Mandatory isolation becomes a recommendation only

Black Gold School Division (BGSD) will continue to update this plan as needed based upon updated information. Parents will be notified whenever this plan is updated.

## Mandatory Health Measures

- Stay home when sick
- Use good respiratory hygiene and wear a mask
- Use good hand hygiene

The majority of students in Black Gold are attending in person learning. To reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19 and other respiratory illnesses, schools will incorporate recommendations from the CMOH that support good health practices. *Parents/guardians play a role in the safety of students and staff as they support actions in the home, such as keeping children home when sick and practicing good hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette, that ultimately keep other children, students and staff safe.* The most important measures for students, staff, parents and visitors are to **complete the [Alberta Health Daily Checklist](#)** (be sure to use the correct checklist for students or adults) and to **stay home when sick.**

Best practices to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission and other respiratory illnesses are strongly encouraged, including promoting and facilitating hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette and staying home when sick.

## Stay Home When Sick and Monitor Your Symptoms

Before leaving home, staff (including substitutes), children/students, visitors, and volunteers who will access the school for work or education, are expected to self-screen for symptoms each day that they enter the school using the applicable checklist for their age group [Alberta Health Daily Checklist updated January 7, 2022](#) and to **stay home when sick**, seek health care advice as appropriate (e.g., call Health Link 811, or their primary health care practitioner), and fill out the [AHS Online Self-Assessment tool](#) to determine if they should access a PCR test. If a PCR test is not recommended they may conduct an at-home rapid test.

*Do not enter a BGSD building if you or your child(ren) have COVID-19 symptoms, even if symptoms resemble a mild cold.*

## Masks

Effective Monday, February 14, 2022, all masking requirements for students will be removed from the public health order for all K-12 students. This means that there is no requirement for students in Kindergarten to Grade 12 to wear a mask while attending school or riding the school bus. Masking during the school day remains a personal health choice for students and their parents/guardians. Our schools will continue to provide a supportive environment for students if they choose to wear a mask.

Students aged 13 and over must follow all masking regulations for non-school facilities (community venues, restaurants, stores, etc). Therefore, students 13 and over should have access to a mask. At this time, schools have a supply of masks and can provide one to students who are leaving school grounds if necessary.

All adults are still required to wear masks in BGSD buildings (with the exception of High school students 18 and over). This includes school and division staff, bus drivers and any adult visitors until step two of the provincial plan. The tentative date for step two, which includes the removal of all mask mandates, is set for March 1.

As indicated in a recent [letter](#) from the Minister of Education. According to the province, school boards will not have the authority to require students to be masked while attending school or riding a school bus.

## Cohorting

All elementary schools (Kindergarten to Grade 6) will continue cohorting of students for both indoor and outdoor activities. Schools will minimize the expansion of cohorts as much as possible. When practical, individual classes will be in cohorts and as necessary, cohorts may consist of more than one class. K - Grade 6 teachers may teach more than one cohort, and when practical, teachers will move between classrooms. When small group intensive support is needed for educational purposes, physical distancing will be encouraged.

Students, staff and visitors are encouraged to maintain physical distancing as much as possible both inside and outside of the classroom. Within the school this may include environmental controls to avoid crowding, and limiting occupancy to support physical distancing. Where physical distancing is not possible (on the bus, in classrooms and when participating in some sports), extra emphasis will be placed on hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette, and staying home.

There is no cohorting for Grades 7 to 12 students; however, physical distancing will be encouraged where possible.

## Hand Hygiene

Students, staff and visitors should wash their hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds where possible. Where soap and water are not available, such as in entrances, exits and near high touch surfaces, hand sanitizer will be available. Hand hygiene frequency should be based on activity (e.g., entering/leaving school or classroom, boarding/exiting the bus, changing activities, before and after using shared equipment, before and after eating, putting on/removing a mask, after using washrooms, etc.).



## Cleaning and Air Flow

Black Gold schools will continue with enhanced cleaning protocols with continued emphasis on high-touch areas.

All air handling units in Black Gold School Division schools meet or exceed provincial standards, and are maintained and monitored at regular intervals. Our HVAC systems are optimized and set to maximize outdoor air intake to increase air exchange rates in classrooms to help reduce airborne transmission.

## Physical Activity in Schools

There are no restrictions on outdoor activities and indoor sports/performance/recreation/special interests are permitted with two-metre physical distancing, where possible. .

## Extracurricular Activities

All elementary schools will implement cohorting for both indoor and outdoor activities. As a result, all elementary extracurricular activities, indoors and outdoors, are canceled for Kindergarten - Grade 6.

Effective January 20, 2022, Grade 10 - 12 sports, including interschool games and tournaments will resume. There will be no spectators at this time.

Effective February 14, 2022, Grades 7 - 9 extracurricular activities and sports, including interschool games and tournaments, will resume. There will be no spectators at this time.

Field Trips will resume; however, masking regulations of the host facility apply (13 and over must continue to mask during Step 1). Schools are still encouraged to prioritize outdoor field trips and maintain cohorts, where possible.

## Assemblies and Large Gatherings

Schools will continue to encourage physical distancing. Assemblies and large group gatherings of students and/or staff will not occur at this time in all schools and will only be done virtually.

## Volunteers/Visitors

All adult visitors, including parents, must wear a mask and follow hygiene protocols when entering a school. Only volunteers/visitors approved by the principal are permitted in schools. All volunteers and visitors must complete the Alberta Daily Health Checklist, stay home when sick and follow isolation requirements from AHS.

## Food in School

Any food prepared during a class that teaches food preparation should be served by a designated person. Students should follow physical distancing measures while eating and during food preparation, where possible.

Potluck events, and barbecues, are postponed at this time. Treats cannot be sent from home for birthdays or other special days. School hot lunch days must provide individually packaged food from a commercial vendor or restaurant only.

School vending machines may open; hand sanitizer and hand washing/sanitizing reminder signs must be visible nearby. All students must wash or sanitize their hands before using a vending machine.

Schools that offer school nutrition programs will continue to follow the processes put in place during the 2020-2021 school year.

All students must wash or sanitize their hands before eating and eat only their own food. At this time, microwaves will not be available to students. Food delivery services (such as pizza delivery or Skip the Dishes) are not permitted in the schools.



## Transportation

Children/students should not board the school bus if they have symptoms of COVID-19. Transportation of children and students must follow all public health measures and additional cleaning of school buses will take place.



Students and staff should only carpool with people from the same household. If absolutely necessary to include more than one household, limit the number of people in the vehicle to maintain as much physical distance as possible.

## Responding to Illness

*If students develops symptoms **at home**:*

- Students/children, staff and visitors must not enter the school if they have symptoms of COVID-19. Use the applicable checklist for their age group [Alberta Health Daily Checklist updated January 7, 2022](#) and **stay home when sick**.
- The student, staff or visitor must stay home, seek health care advice as appropriate (e.g. call Health Link 811, or their primary care practitioner or, if needed, 911 for emergency response) and fill out the [AHS Online Self-Assessment tool](#) to determine if they should access a PCR test. If a PCR test is not recommended they may conduct an at-home rapid test.

*If a student or staff member develops symptoms **at school**:*

- Students and staff who develop symptoms while at school should isolate immediately, go home and either complete a take home rapid test or the [AHS Online Self-Assessment tool](#) to book a PCR test if they meet the eligibility criteria.
- Students and staff with respiratory illness symptoms at school will be required to wear a medical-grade mask continuously while in school setting.
- They will be isolated in a separate room.
- The child/student's parent/guardian will be notified to pick up the student immediately.
- If the child/student requires close contact and care, staff can continue to care for the child/student until the parent is able to pick up the child/student. The child/student and staff are to wear masks. Interactions that may result in contact with the student's respiratory secretions should be avoided. If close contact is required, the staff member should also use a face shield or eye protection.
- Staff/students must perform hand hygiene before donning a mask, before and after removing the mask, and before and after touching any items used by the child/student.

## Isolation Requirements

Anyone with core symptoms that are not related to a pre-existing illness or health condition, or who has tested positive is legally required to isolate.

*Fully vaccinated students* have 2 doses of mRNA vaccine.

*Fully vaccinated staff* have received the complete vaccine series for COVID-19 and it has been 14 days after the second dose in a two dose series, or one dose in a one dose series (i.e. Janssen vaccine)

Symptoms	COVID-19 PCR or Rapid Test Results	Management of the Individual
Symptomatic (Person has symptom of COVID-19)	Positive PCR test or rapid take-home test	<p><b>Isolate</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Fully vaccinated staff or student :</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Isolate for a minimum of 5 days or until symptoms resolve, <b>whichever is longer</b>, starting the first day of symptoms or positive test.</li> <li>○ For up to five days following their isolation, if symptoms have resolved, fully vaccinated individuals may leave isolation as long as they wear masks whenever they are in a public place and/or in the company of another person (no exceptions permitted).</li> <li>○ The combination of time in isolation and constant mask wearing should be a total of 10 days.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● <b>Not fully vaccinated:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Isolate for 10 days from the start of symptoms or until they resolve, <b>whichever is longer</b>, if symptoms are not related to a pre-existing condition.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Symptomatic (Person has symptom of COVID-19)	Negative PCR test	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Fully vaccinated staff or student</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Stay home until symptoms resolve, before cautiously resuming normal activities.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● <b>Not fully vaccinated staff or student:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Stay home until symptoms resolve, if symptoms are not related to a pre-existing condition, before cautiously resuming normal activities.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Symptomatic (Person has symptom of COVID-19)	Negative rapid take-home test	<p><b>NOTE:</b> A negative test result does not rule out infection. Continue monitoring your symptoms and following public health guidelines.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Isolate immediately for 24 hours.</b></li> <li>● Take second rapid test in 24-48 hours: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>If negative</b>, continue isolating until symptoms resolve before cautiously resuming normal activities.</li> <li>○ <b>If positive</b>, continue isolation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ <b>Fully vaccinated staff or student:</b> 5 days or until symptoms resolve, <b>whichever is longer</b>, plus 5 days of wearing a mask at all times whenever they are in public place and/or in the company of another person (no exceptions permitted). The combination of time in isolation and constant mask wearing should be a total of 10 days.</li> <li>■ <b>Not fully vaccinated staff or student:</b> 10 days or until symptoms resolve, <b>whichever is longer</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Symptomatic (Person has symptom of COVID-19)	Not Tested	<p><b>Student:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● If symptoms include fever, cough, shortness of breath or loss of sense of taste/smell, follow instructions for symptomatic positive above.</li> <li>● If other symptoms (chills, sore throat/painful swallowing, runny nose/congestion, feeling unwell/fatigued, nausea/vomiting/diarrhea, unexplained loss of appetite, muscle/joint aches, headache or</li> </ul>



		<p>conjunctivitis):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ ONE symptom: stay home, monitor for 24h. If it improves, return when well enough to go (testing not necessary).</li> <li>○ TWO symptoms OR ONE symptom that persists or worsens: Stay home until symptom(s) resolve</li> </ul> <p><b>Adult:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● If symptoms include fever, cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, loss of taste/smell or runny nose, follow instructions for symptomatic positive above.</li> <li>● If other symptoms (chills, sore throat/painful swallowing, runny nose/congestion, feeling unwell/fatigued, nausea/vomiting/diarrhea, unexplained loss of appetite, muscle/joint aches, headache or conjunctivitis), stay home until symptoms resolve.</li> </ul>
Asymptomatic (does not have any symptoms of COVID-19)	Positive PCR or rapid take-home test result	<p><b>Isolate</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Fully vaccinated staff or student :</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Isolate for 5 days from the date when the PCR test or Rapid Test was completed.</li> <li>○ For up to five days following their isolation, all fully vaccinated individuals must wear masks whenever they are in a public place and/or in the company of another person (no exceptions permitted).</li> <li>○ The combination of time in isolation and constant mask wearing should be a total of 10 days.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● <b>Not fully vaccinated:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Isolate for 10 days from the date when the PCR test or Rapid Test was completed.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>NOTE**</b> If the Positive result was from a Rapid Test, individuals can conduct a second test in 24-48 hours, and if negative, and still no symptoms, they do not need to continue to isolate. If positive on repeat test, continue to isolate. If at any time, you develop symptoms, you need to follow isolation instructions for symptomatic individuals.</p>
Asymptomatic (does not have any symptoms of COVID-19)	Negative test result	<b>No Isolation required</b>

**IMPORTANT NOTE\*** Vaccination is not mandatory for students and *school authorities may not deny students access to learning based on vaccination status*. If a student is required to isolate, the length of isolation (5 days or 10 days) will be at the discretion of the parent based on their knowledge of the student’s vaccination status.

Proof of a negative COVID-19 test result **is not necessary** for a student, teacher or staff member to return to school.

For more information on isolation please visit <https://www.alberta.ca/isolation>.

## No Contact Tracing

At this time, AHS will not be able to support COVID-19 and respiratory illness outbreak management in schools. Alberta Health Services no longer has the capacity to inform parents and students of COVID-19 infections in classes and schools, and outside of unique circumstances, cases at schools will no longer be investigated. Therefore, we would greatly appreciate notification from parents if a child has had a positive test result so we can make informed decisions to keep students and staff safe.

It is strongly recommended that **household contacts** (of COVID-19 cases) who are **NOT fully vaccinated**, stay home for **10 days** from the date of last household exposure.

- In addition, they should monitor for symptoms for **10 days** from the last day of household exposure, and if they develop any symptoms, should isolate and complete the AHS Self-Assessment tool to determine if they need to be tested for COVID-19. For more information on isolation requirements for people with symptoms, please visit [alberta.ca/isolation](https://alberta.ca/isolation).

For **household contacts** (of COVID-19 cases) **who ARE fully vaccinated**, and for **all close contacts** (of COVID-19 cases) **outside of your household**, monitor for symptoms for **10 days** after the last exposure to the COVID-19 case and continue to do the [Alberta Health Daily Checklist updated January 7, 2022](#) and to **stay home when sick**, seek health care advice as appropriate (e.g., call Health Link 811, or their primary health care practitioner), and fill out the [AHS Online Self-Assessment tool](#) to determine if they should access a PCR test. If a PCR test is not recommended they may conduct an at-home rapid test.

Alberta Health Services will continue to support schools to manage COVID-19. A medical officer of health or designate has the authority under the Public Health Act to recommend additional public health measures.

## At-Home Rapid Testing Program

Rapid screening tests are another tool, along with health measures already in place at schools, to keep students and staff safe. AHS will provide rapid testing kits for Kindergarten to Grade 12 students and staff and they will only be distributed to those students whose parents want them.

**Participation in the rapid testing program is voluntary.** The Government of Alberta will complete the existing order/distribution for Rapid Antigen Test and medical grade masks. These will continue to be sent to parents who have requested them. A [how-to video for parents](#) and a [rapid test program fact sheet translated into multiple languages](#) offer tips on how to use the kits.

## Provincial Exams

Diploma exam weighting has been temporarily changed to 10% from 30% for the 2021-22 school year in response to feedback from students, parents and education partners about stress and anxiety around academic achievement. Alberta Education will make decisions about the March and June Diploma Exams at a later time.

Administration of Provincial Achievement Tests (PAT) will resume as per normal practice and be administered in all subjects: English Language Arts, French Language Arts, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies; including Knowledge and Employability courses.

## Mental Health and Wellness

Black Gold School Division recognizes that some responses to the COVID-19 pandemic, including the closure of schools to in-person learning and cancellation of extra-curricular events, led to a deterioration in mental health and wellbeing of children and youth. We know that student mental health and wellness are very important for academic and personal success. Families and schools both play a role in supporting positive mental health.

Black Gold's [Mental Health at Home](#) site has a number of strategies and resources to support positive mental health for our students. Parents/guardians and students who are concerned about the well-being of a student can contact their school or access a number of community resources.

- [211 Alberta](#): Phone 211
  - An initial call to 211 is a great first step in navigating which resource or helpline may be best for you.
  - This is a helpline and online database of Alberta's community and social services and is answered and updated by highly-trained specialists.
- [Distress Line \(CMHA\) Edmonton Region](#):
  - Toll free Northern Alberta: 1-800-232-7288
  - Crisis 24 hours Edmonton: 780-482-HELP (4357)
- [Mental Health Helpline](#): Phone: 1-877-303-2642
  - This toll-free helpline provides confidential and anonymous services, crisis intervention, information about mental health services and referrals to other agencies.
- Mental Health Help Line (français): Phone: 1-800-567-9699
  - Same services as above
- Kids Help Phone: 1-800-668-6868
  - [www.Kidshelphone.ca](http://www.Kidshelphone.ca)
  - Text CONNECT to 686868
- Kids Help line (français):
  - [www.jeunessejecoute.ca](http://www.jeunessejecoute.ca)
- Health Link: Phone: 811
- Alberta Health Services
  - [Help in Tough Times](#) offers mental health resources.
  - Healthy Together offers tips for staying healthy, active and safe.
- The federal First Nations and Inuit Hope for Wellness Help Line at 1-855-242-3310
  - 24-hour availability, 7 days a week, or chat online at Hope for Wellness
- [Crisis Text Line](#) Alberta (available 24/7)
  - text CONNECT to 741741
- [Crisis Services Canada Suicide Prevention Service](#): 1-833-456-4566
- [Child Advocacy Centres of Alberta](#)
  - Offers resources to help recognize signs of child abuse and support victims of abuse.

## Vaccines

The decision to be vaccinated is a personal choice. According to the *Personal Information Protection Act* and the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, staff must respect the health privacy of students, including their vaccination status. Currently, Albertans born in 2009 or before are eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine and by fall 2021 it is expected that the majority of individuals in this age group will have had the opportunity to be fully vaccinated with two doses of the COVID-19 vaccine.

To promote a safe school year, AHS and Alberta Education strongly encourage all eligible Albertans, including students, staff, parents/guardians, and caregivers to get vaccinated with both doses before the school year begins, or as soon as possible. More information about the COVID-19 vaccine program can be found [here](#).

## Mandatory Vaccines for Staff, On-Site Partners, Contractors, and Volunteers

Beginning **November 15, 2021**, all employees, contractors, on-site partners, and volunteers who enter Black Gold buildings and have direct contact with employees and/or Division students are required to be **fully immunized**, unless there is an exemption on the basis of a protected legal ground or the individual participates in regular rapid testing to verify that they are COVID-19 negative.

This vaccination requirement **DOES NOT APPLY TO STUDENTS**. Currently, children under 12 years are still not eligible for vaccination and there is no provincial legislation that requires K–12 students to have specific vaccinations. Every child in Alberta is entitled to have access to an education program as per the Education Act. We cannot inquire as to a student's vaccination status, nor will we discriminate against any who willingly declare whether or not they are fully vaccinated or those who choose not to declare.

This vaccine mandate **DOES NOT APPLY to parents and guardians who are picking up or dropping their children off in a Black Gold building**. Parents and guardians play an important role in their children's education and the partnership that staff have with parents are vital to the overall success of our students.

Beginning November 15, 2021, **all employees who are not fully vaccinated**, or will not disclose their vaccination status will be required to take a rapid test within 72 hours of every scheduled workday or shift, outside of work hours, to confirm they are COVID-19 negative. COVID-19 rapid tests must be administered by an approved AHS provider no more than 72 hours before attending work and there must be a minimum of 48 hours between tests.

As of November 15, 2021, **on-site partners, contractors and volunteers** in any Division building who have direct contact with employees and/or Division students (within two metres) for 15 minutes or more are required to provide proof that they are fully vaccinated or proof of a negative rapid test. The costs of all testing for non-employees shall be paid by the individual required to produce the test results.

If any individual receives a positive rapid test result, it is considered a preliminary or presumptive positive and the employee must comply with AHS requirements:

- Seek confirmation through an AHS approved lab-based PCR test within 48 hours; and
- Immediately isolate until the AHS approved lab-based test results are confirmed negative.
- Follow AHS guidelines if COVID-19 PCR is positive or provide proof of a negative COVID-19 PCR test, as soon as it is received, prior to attending at any Division property.

## Family Choice of Learning

Black Gold continues to offer Distance Learning in the 2021-2022 school year. **The classes in our Distance Learning program are all full, so *students can no longer move from in school classes to distance learning this year.*** If your child needs to stay home due to illness, quarantine, or isolation, if the student is able to work, the classroom teacher will provide work (i.e. Google Classroom or other method). The family will be responsible for guiding their child as they complete this work at home.

Students participating in our Distance Learning program remain enrolled at their community school. Distance learning students will be able to participate in school activities such as extracurricular activities, work experience, ceremonies and celebrations.

## Contingency Plans

Black Gold School Division continues to prioritize in-person learning and *our goal is to keep schools open*. We will continue to place the highest priority on student and staff safety, with enhanced cleaning and disinfection of common areas and high-touch surfaces, and promoting and facilitating masking, hand hygiene, physical distancing, and other health measures.

However, given that the Omicron variant is extremely contagious, we anticipate that there may be times when we will have to temporarily transition some classes, grades, or schools to at-home online learning for a period of time *due to staffing shortages, including substitute staff*. We thank you in advance for your patience and understanding. Any shifts to at-home online learning will be due to operational reasons, not due to positive cases.

## Individual Classes or Grades Temporarily Move to At-home Online Learning

If required, BGSD may need to temporarily move a portion of a school (individual class or grade) to at-home online learning due to operational reasons such as staffing issues and will take into account any health measures that are in place. In making this decision (including the length of at-home learning) the Division will weigh a number of factors including:

- Staff absenteeism and sub availability
- Significant student absenteeism
- Local community spread
- Other local contexts

In the event we must move a class or grade to temporary at-home online learning, parents will be immediately notified by the school regarding next steps.

## Individual Schools Temporarily Move to At-home Learning

If required for operational reasons, temporarily shifting one or more schools to at-home online learning requires Alberta Education approval and will be for up to 10 calendar days. This aligns with the maximum isolation period. In making this decision, Alberta Education will weigh a number of factors including:

- Significant student absenteeism
- Staff absenteeism and sub availability
- Information to put the staff shortages or other factors into context. This could include:
  - The number of classes/grades currently shifted (if applicable);
  - Local health data (if available); and
  - Any other relevant context, for example, there may be only two substitute teachers available in your area, or most students arrive at school by bus meaning impacts to transportation may be greater than in other areas, or all administrators and office staff at a school are away sick, leaving a school with no in-person leadership.

In the event we must move a school to temporary at-home online learning, parents will be immediately notified by the school regarding next steps.

## All BGSD Schools Temporarily Move to At-home Online Learning

If required for operational reasons, temporarily shifting all schools in BGSD to at-home online learning requires Alberta Education approval and will be for up to 10 calendar days. This aligns with the maximum isolation period. In making this decision, Alberta Education will weigh a number of factors including:

- All information required for a school shift, plus
- Context to put the request into perspective. This should include:
  - Number of schools currently shifted;
  - Local health data (if available); and
  - Any other relevant context or data.

In the event we must move all schools in BGSD to temporary at-home online learning, parents will be immediately notified by BGSD regarding next steps.

## Next Steps

Implementation of this Plan is subject to change with direction from the Chief Medical Officer of Health. Alberta Education will continue to engage with education partners as part of this process. The Division will continue to update this plan based upon the direction of Alberta Health Services and recommendations of the Chief Medical Officer of Health. Parents will be notified whenever this plan is updated.



**References:**

[COVID-19 information : guidance for schools \(K-12\) and school buses](#) - Government of Alberta

[Alberta Health Daily Checklist](#) - Alberta Health

[AHS Online Self-Assessment tool](#) - Alberta Health

[At-home Rapid Test Video](#) - Alberta Health

[Rapid Test Fact Sheet](#) - Alberta Health

[CMOH Order 01-2022](#) - Chief Medical Officer of Health

[Parents' Guide 2021-2022 School Year](#) - Government of Alberta

[AP 166 Appendix B- COVID-19 Vaccination](#) for Employees - Black Gold School Division