



**Sturgeon
Public Schools**
Dare to reimagine learning

2021-2022 School Year Plan

This document will continue to be updated based on orders from the Chief Medical Officer of Health and Alberta Education.

[GoA Preparing for a new School Year Website link](#)

Last Updated 20 September 2021

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Context - NEW

September 16, 2021, Alberta declared a state of public health emergency and implemented new measures to “protect the health care system, stop the spread of COVID-19, and increase vaccination rates”.

The *2021-2022 School Year Plan* has been updated to reflect these new mandatory health measures.

Due to the dynamic nature of COVID-19, the government has prepared two (2) contingency plans in the event that there is a resurgence of the COVID-19 pandemic that impacts Alberta and its education system:

- Contingency Scenario 1: in-school classes (near normal with enhanced health measures)
- Contingency Scenario 2: at-home learning (in-school classes are suspended/cancelled)

During the 2021-2022 school year, Sturgeon Public Schools may request short-term operational shifts to at-home/online learning due to operational reasons.

Implementation of the 2021-2022 School Year Plan is subject to change with the direction from the Alberta Chief Medical Officer of Health.

The Government of Alberta will continue monitoring and take whatever actions are needed to manage any high-risk outbreaks of communicable diseases in schools.

The Zone Medical Officer of Health (MOH) may recommend additional measures if a school experiences a respiratory illness outbreak including screening for symptoms, masking, and cohorting.

Zone Medical Officers of Health and their designates are available to support school authorities throughout the province.

Health Measures

Vaccinations

All staff and students born in 2009 or earlier (turning 12+) can get the COVID-19 vaccine.

COVID-19 vaccines help prevent infection and severe illness. All vaccines are safe, effective and save lives.

Immunizations will be available through temporary clinics in schools for students in Grades 7 to 12 (Grade 6 if born in 2009 or earlier), teachers, and staff September and October.

Students, teachers, and staff can receive whichever dose they are eligible for in school. However, if they receive their first dose at the in-school clinic, they will need

to book their second dose at a local pharmacy or Alberta Health Services (AHS) clinic when it is time to do so.

Students under 18 will **NOT** be vaccinated in schools without parent or guardian consent.

- Parental or guardian consent for students will be required through consent forms. Schools will email the AHS consent form to parents and guardians as soon as they are received from AHS and immunization dates are set.
- It is important that parents or guardians return completed consent forms for their children as quickly as possible.

Illness/Self-Screening Practices

To reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19 and other respiratory illnesses, parents or guardians **must assess their children daily**, before leaving home, for symptoms of common cold, influenza, COVID-19, or other infectious respiratory diseases and keep their child(ren) home if they are sick.

If a student or staff member has any of the following core COVID-19 symptoms (new or worsening and not related to other known causes), they are required to isolate for 10 days from onset of symptoms or until they receive a negative COVID-19 test result, as per provincial guidelines:

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Loss of sense of smell or taste
- Sore throat (adults only)
- Runny nose (adults only)

Students

Children under 18 years of age, including all students who attend Kindergarten through Grade 12 and high school students over 18 years of age, must complete the [Alberta Health Daily Checklist for Children under 18](#) before going to school, child care or other activities.

Adults

School staff and visitors must review the [Alberta Health Daily Checklist](#) to determine if they may enter a school.

Illness While at School

Students exhibiting signs of illness will be moved to the school's infirmary room. Parents/guardians will be notified and advised to pick-up their child. If the parent/guardian is unable to pick up their child, they must designate an emergency contact for student pickup. It is the expectation that students are picked up by the family or emergency contact.

- A staff member caring for an ill student **must** wear 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 will 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 the school until they are feeling well.

Confirmed Cases of COVID-19

AHS Zone Medical Officers of Health (MOH) may direct additional measures be considered or recommended if a school experiences a COVID-19 outbreak.

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; however, 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 will 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.

Reporting and responding to high rates of absenteeism

Schools will return to regular practice and report to AHS when there is a school-wide absence rate of 10% or greater due to illness OR there are an unusual number of individuals with similar symptoms.

- Where absenteeism of 10% or greater has been identified by AHS due to illness, AHS may declare an outbreak and recommend additional voluntary measures to reduce ongoing transmission for the duration of the outbreak, generally 14 days from when the outbreak was declared, unless absenteeism continues to increase.
 - Additional recommendations may include active health screening with questionnaires, increasing frequency of cleaning and disinfection, maintaining cohorts, mask recommendations, and/or limiting group/extra-curricular activities.
 - A Medical Officer of Health (MOH)/designate has the authority under the *Public Health Act* to recommend additional public health measures if they identify an unacceptable risk in a specific circumstance. Sturgeon Public Schools will follow all guidance and recommendations provided by the MOH/designate.

Isolation Requirements

Isolation helps prevent the spread of COVID-19 by reducing the number of people you could infect if you are sick. This means staying home and avoiding situations where the virus could spread.

Albertans are legally required to **isolate for 10 days** if you tested positive or have any core symptoms that are not related to a pre-existing illness or health condition.

If you have symptoms, [take the online assessment to arrange testing](#).

Physical Distancing - NEW

We will not always be able to maintain two metres physical separation between students, therefore, it is important for everyone to follow masking requirements and anyone showing symptoms to stay home and follow all AHS guidelines.

NEW - Students and staff at a school building are not required to maintain two metres physical distance if doing so inhibits the guidance or instruction being provided or where it is not possible to maintain two metres physical distance.

A school does not need to ensure that students, staff members and visitors are able to maintain a minimum of two metres distance from every other person when a student, staff member or visitor is seated at a desk or table:

1. within a classroom or place where the instruction, course or program of study is taking place, and
2. where the desks, tables and chairs are arranged in a manner
 - a. to prevent persons who are seated from facing each other, and
 - b. to allow the greatest possible distance between seated persons.

Masks - NEW

September 20, 2021 - **CMOH Order 42-2021** in effect until rescinded by the Chief Medical Officer of Health.

CMOH Order 42-2021 Masking Requirements in Schools:

All students enrolled in **Grades 4 through 12**, staff, and visitors **MUST** wear a face mask while attending at a school building.

Grades 4-12 students, staff and visitor exceptions to masking in schools:

Students, staff or visitors are **NOT** required to wear a face mask at all times while attending at a school building if the student, staff or visitor:

1. is unable to place, use or remove a face mask without assistance;
2. is unable to wear a face mask due to a health condition;
3. is consuming food or drink in a designated area;
4. is engaging in a physical activity;
5. is seated at a desk or table
 - a. within a classroom or place where the instruction, course or program of study is taking place, and
 - b. where the desks, tables and chairs are arranged in a manner
 - i. to prevent persons who are seated from facing each other, and
 - ii. to allow the greatest possible distance between seated persons;
6. is providing or receiving care or assistance where a non-medical face mask would hinder that caregiving or assistance.

STURGEON PUBLIC SCHOOLS – 2021-2022 School Year Plan

Schools will make best efforts to ensure that any student, staff member or visitor who is NOT required to wear a face mask:

1. is able to maintain a minimum of two metres distance from every other person in areas not within a classroom or place where the instruction, course or program of study is taking place.

The September 10, 2021 Board approved mask guidelines will remain in effect for students enrolled in Kindergarten to Grade 3:

Masks for K-3 **students** can be removed indoors while:

- Engaging in instruction in a classroom;
- Consuming food or drink;
- Participating in physical exercise, music, band, or arts performances; and
- Providing or receiving care, assistance, or instruction where a mask would hinder that care, assistance, or instruction.

Masks are not required for K-3 students who are unable to place, use, or remove a non-medical face mask (i.e. factors such as age, developmental or physical reasons).

NEW – In-School Mask Exemption Grades 4-12 students, staff and visitors:

All students enrolled in **Grades 4 through 12**, staff, and visitors **MUST** wear a face mask while attending at a school building. CMOH Order 42-2021 is applied throughout the Province of Alberta and remains in effect until rescinded by the Chief Medical Officer of Health. Information on COVID-19 mask requirements can be found on the Government of Alberta [Website](#).

Effective immediately - In-School Mask Exemption for Grades 4 – 12 requires a *Masking Medical Exception Letter*. In-School Mask Exemption for students enrolled in Grades 4 to 12 previously submitted and approved that did not include written confirmation by an authorizing health professional which verifies that the person has a health condition that prevents the person from wearing a face mask are **no longer valid**.

Anyone unable to wear a mask due to a medical condition requires a *Medical Exception Letter* from an authorized health professional.

The ***Medical Exception Letter*** template can be found on the Government of Alberta Website - [Mandatory Mask Requirements Page](#).
(It is also attached as an appendix).

School Buses:

- Masks are mandatory for students, teachers, staff members and visitors on **school buses** and publicly accessible transit, such as municipal buses, taxis, and ride-shares.
- Exceptions to the mask requirement on school buses are listed in CMOH Order 34-2021.

Environmental Measures

HVAC systems will be maintained in accordance with manufacturer operational guidelines.

Windows and doors will be opened where possible to increase air circulation and outdoor activities will be encouraged when weather permits.

School Operations

Student Arrival and Entry

To reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19 or other respiratory illnesses, parents and guardians are asked to remain outside the school when dropping off their child and asked to not enter the school unless approved by the Principal. The Principal will utilize as many entry doors as possible and assign all students an entry point. Students should move directly to their designated entry door and wait for permission to enter the building. Students will enter the building from their assigned meeting spot to minimize physical interactions. The Principal will create a schedule for student entry. Student entry may require staggered times, which do not necessarily align with established bell times.

All staff and students will have access to hand sanitizer upon entering the building.

Hand Hygiene

Hand sanitizer stations will be set up at all entrances. Schools will promote good hand hygiene (washing with soap and water or using hand sanitizer) before and after activities such as:

- entering/leaving the school or classroom.
- before and after using shared equipment.
- before and after eating.
- after using the washroom.

Respiratory Etiquette

Students, staff, and visitors are encouraged to use proper respiratory etiquette:

- sneezing into the elbow or tissue.
- discarding tissues immediately after use.
- performing hand hygiene.

Classroom Setup

Staff and students are encouraged to utilize their own personal items (e.g. electronic devices, writing instruments, school supplies) and minimize any shared items. Where possible, teachers will organize their curricular content to minimize the need for shared resources at the beginning of the school year.

Students will be asked to clean any shared resources after individual use (e.g. microscopes, electronic devices, manipulatives, etc.).

Student Groups/Cohorts

NEW - Elementary classes, Kindergarten to Grade 6, will be cohorted. A cohort is defined as a group of students and staff who remain together. The size of the cohort will depend on the physical space of the classroom or learning setting and the number of students assigned to that teacher. Staff will work to limit cohort/class interactions where possible. Activities that bring together multiple classes or grades are to be limited wherever possible in this scenario.

Cohorting for other grades may be recommended temporarily to prevent the spread of infection if there is a respiratory illness outbreak at school.

End of School Day

Parents and guardians are asked to remain outside the school while waiting for their children and to not enter the school unless approved by the Principal.

Schools will communicate their plan to address students exiting the school in an orderly manner with appropriate supervision, maximizing the number of exit doors as practical. This may mean that schools may require classes/learning spaces to have staggered dismissal times while ensuring bus schedules are maintained.

Students waiting for pick up are to wait outside in a supervised designated area. During inclement weather, the Principal will make alternate arrangements for the waiting area.

Water Fountains/Water Bottles

Students and staff are encouraged to bring their own filled water bottle each day. Water refilling stations may be used to refill personal water bottles.

Visitors/Parents/Guardians/Volunteers - **NEW**

Parents and guardians, delivery personnel, SPS staff, RCMP and AHS must use the posted self-screening tool and use their mobile phone to check-in with the QR code before entering the building. The QR code is posted on the entry doors of all schools and Division Office. All outside doors will remain locked and visitors **must** book an appointment before coming to the school.

NEW - All visitors, parents/guardians and volunteers must wear a mask when inside a Division school or site. If a school is on outbreak status, volunteers and guest presenters will not be permitted until the outbreak status has ended.

Eating Lunch

Students will be encouraged to not share utensils, dishes, water bottles or drink containers. Students will be asked to wash their hands or use hand sanitizer before and after eating. Students may be asked to help wipe down their own desks or tables used for eating.

Recess

Schools will develop a coordinated exit/entry schedule utilizing as many exit/entry doors as possible for grades to leave their class/learning space to go outside for recess and to return to class/learning space.

Extra-Curricular Activities - **NEW**

SPS extra-curricular athletics and fine arts performances will resume. Sturgeon Public Schools is working with Alberta Education, 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.

NEW - Spectator attendance for athletics:

High School Sports

- SCHS and Redwater High School will follow Alberta Schools' Athletic Association guidelines and their respective league guidelines.

Junior High School Sports

- For the month of September, all indoor sports games will be closed to spectators.
- Effective October 1st, 2021, the following guidelines will come into effect:
 - Indoor sports, fitness, recreation, and performance activities are permitted in schools, with requirements to maintain 2 metre physical distancing where possible;
 - Masks and distancing are not required by youth under 18 while engaged in physical activity;
 - Spectator attendance restricted to one or two fans per player;
 - No students are permitted to stay and watch games after school;
 - If a school is on outbreak status, no spectators are permitted;

Off Site Activities - **NEW**

Field Trips/Off Site Activities will resume as per Division Policy. If transportation is required during the school day for offsite activities, all students Kindergarten to Grade 6 must sit in their cohort.

School Councils

School Council members and the school Principal may choose to meet via an online environment, in a hybrid setting or face-to-face. If meetings are to occur face-to-face, they must be scheduled outside the regular school day and follow school and AHS guidelines and protocols.

Breakfast/Lunch/Snack Programs

Programs will resume and vending machines will be operational.

Before and After School Programs

Before and After School Programs operated in Sturgeon Public sites, will continue to operate under the Government of Alberta Daycare Guidelines.

Shared School Technology

Schools will work to limit multiple students accessing the same device in a day. Students are encouraged to bring their own device to school to minimize shared usage of devices. Families may purchase a device through SPS's Technology Store by placing an order through the PowerSchool portal. Schools are encouraged to divide devices into cohorts and/or grade levels and limit the number of people that contact the device.

Learning

Grade 12 Diploma Exams

The administration of diploma exams will resume and be mandatory for the 2021-2022 school year, as per normal practice.

Diploma exam results will continue to constitute 30% of a student's final diploma course mark.

Provincial Achievement Tests (PATs)

Grades 6 and 9 Provincial Achievement Tests (PATs) will resume as normal practice for the 2021-2022 school year.

Supporting At-Home Learning While Sick

Should a child need to stay home for a period due to illness, classroom teachers will provide key work for the student to be able to work on while at-home. Homework bundles or tasks will be provided to the student by the regular teacher.

Transportation

Masks on Buses

Students, teachers, staff, and visitors **must** follow provincial requirements for masks.

Masks are required on school buses for all staff, visitors, any individual who transports students and students Kindergarten to Grade 12:

- Masks remain mandatory for students Kindergarten to Grade 12, teachers, staff members and visitors on school buses and publicly accessible transit, such as municipal buses, taxis and ride-shares.
- Exceptions to the mask requirement on school buses are listed in CMOH Order 34-2021.

Transportation of Students

Regular transportation service levels will resume.

Students registered for service will be assigned a route and are expected to utilize their electronic bus pass each time they enter and exit a bus. Regular fees will apply for all riders. All fees must be paid in full for students to receive an electronic bus pass to board the bus. Families can withdraw their student from the bus at any time. Refunds will not be processed for a partial month of service.

Cleaning

Bus Contractors will continue to follow enhanced COVID-19 routine cleaning standards, including regular cleaning, and disinfecting of high touch surfaces.

Buildings

Cleaning

Schools will continue to follow enhanced COVID-19 routine cleaning requirements, including regular cleaning, and disinfecting of high touch surfaces. Anyone entering the building will need to use hand sanitizer. Should medical exemptions from using hand sanitizer be required, those individuals will need to wash their hands prior to moving about the school. Sanitizer stations will be available at the various entrances during school days and outside each room within the school.

Caretaking staff will maintain schools within SPS's pandemic cleaning protocol.

Community Use of SPS Spaces - NEW

Community and joint-use of indoor spaces in schools is suspended until further notice.

Government of Alberta CMOH Orders & Contingency Plans

Appendix: NEW - Medical Exception Letter Template

Appendix: NEW - CMOH Orders 42-2021 & 43-2021

Appendix: Contingency Plans

In the event of a resurgence of the COVID-19 pandemic that impacts Alberta and its education system, the government will consider two contingencies.

MEDICAL NOTE FOR MASK EXCEPTION

Patient Name:

Mask Exceptions for Health Conditions

A person who is unable to wear a face mask due to a qualifying health condition as determined by an authorizing health professional defined in CMOH Order 22-2021, is excepted from wearing a face mask while attending an indoor public place.

List of qualifying health conditions:

- Sensory processing disorders
- Developmental delay
- Cognitive impairment
- Mental illness including:
 - Anxiety disorders
 - Psychotic disorders
 - Dissociative identity disorders
 - Depressive disorders
- Facial trauma or recent oral maxillofacial surgery
- Contact dermatitis or allergic reactions to mask components
- Clinically significant acute respiratory distress

It is important to continue practicing good hand hygiene and maintain 2 metres of physical distance from others to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

It is strongly recommended that individuals who qualify for a masking exception avoid indoor public spaces and circumstances where physical distancing is not possible.

By signing below, I confirm that:

- I am one of the following authorized health professionals:
 - Nurse practitioner
 - Physician
 - Psychologist
- The individual named above has been assessed and confirmed to have one of the medical conditions listed above

Additional comments:

Healthcare Provider Name (printed):

Professional Registration Number:

Email Address (optional):

Phone Number:

Signature:

Date:

RECORD OF DECISION – CMOH Order 42-2021

Re: 2021 COVID-19 Response

Whereas I, Dr. Deena Hinshaw, Chief Medical Officer of Health (CMOH) have initiated an investigation into the existence of COVID-19 within the Province of Alberta.

Whereas the investigation has confirmed that COVID-19 is present in Alberta and constitutes a public health emergency as a novel or highly infectious agent that poses a significant risk to public health.

Whereas under section 29(2.1) of the *Public Health Act* (the Act), I have the authority by order to prohibit a person from attending a location for any period and subject to any conditions that I consider appropriate, where I have determined that the person engaging in that activity could transmit an infectious agent. I also have the authority to take whatever other steps that are, in my opinion, necessary in order to lessen the impact of the public health emergency.

Whereas a state of public health emergency for the province of Alberta was declared on September 15, 2021.

Whereas having determined that additional measures are necessary to protect Albertans from exposure to COVID-19 and to prevent the spread of COVID-19, I hereby make the following order:

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Part 1 – Application

- 1.1 This Order applies throughout the province of Alberta.
- 1.2 This Order comes into force on September 16, 2021 except where otherwise stated in this Order.
- 1.3 If a section of this Order is inconsistent or in conflict with a provision in Record of Decision – CMOH Order 37-2021 or 38-2021, the section in those Orders prevail to the extent of the inconsistency or conflict.
- 1.4 This Order rescinds Record of Decision – CMOH Order 40-2021.

Part 2 – Definitions

- 2.1 In this Order, the following terms have the following meanings:
 - (a) “adult” means a person who has attained the age of eighteen years.
 - (b) “authorizing health professional” means one of the following regulated members under the *Health Professions Act* who holds a practice permit:

- i. nurse practitioners;
- ii. physicians;
- iii. psychologists.

(c) “child care program” means any of the following:

- i. a facility-based program providing day care, out of school care or preschool care;
- ii. a family day home program;
- iii. a group family child care program;
- iv. an innovative child care program.

(d) “Class A, B or C liquor licence” has the same meaning given to it under the *Gaming, Liquor and Cannabis Regulation, AR 143/96*, under the *Gaming, Liquor and Cannabis Act*.

(e) “cohort”, as the context of this Order requires, means:

- i. for a person who resides on their own, one or two other persons with whom the person who resides on their own regularly interacts with during the period of this Order;
- ii. for a household, the persons who regularly reside at the home of that household;
- iii. for a household in which all eligible persons who regularly reside at the home are fully vaccinated, the members of that household and the members of a second household whose eligible members are fully vaccinated, up to a maximum of 10 fully vaccinated persons, excluding children eleven and younger who are not vaccinated;
- iv. for a fully vaccinated person who resides on their own, the person who resides on their own, and up to a maximum of nine fully vaccinated persons of a household, excluding children eleven and younger who are not vaccinated;
- v. for a person attending an overnight camp, the group of campers and staff members assigned to them who stay together throughout the day, day to day, and overnight;
- vi. for a school, the group of students and staff who primarily remain together for the purposes of instruction as a COVID-19 safety strategy.

(f) “commercial vehicle” means a vehicle operated on a highway by or on behalf of a person for the purpose of providing transportation, but does not include a private passenger vehicle.

(g) “day care” has the same meaning given to it in the *Early Learning and Child Care Regulation*.

(h) “drive-in activities” means outdoor activities that a person can participate in or observe while remaining in a motor vehicle including the following:

- i. a worship service;

- ii. a drive-in movie;
 - iii. a graduation ceremony;
 - iv. physical activity, performance activity or recreational activity;
 - v. any activity similar in nature to those listed in this definition.
- (i) “eligible person” means a person born in 2009, or before 2009, who is living, working or going to school in Alberta who is eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine.
- (j) “face mask” means a medical or non-medical mask or other face covering that covers a person’s nose, mouth and chin.
- (k) “facility-based program” has the same meaning given to it in the *Early Learning and Child Care Act*.
- (l) “Facility Licence” has the same meaning given to it under the *Gaming, Liquor and Cannabis Regulation*, AR 143/96, under the *Gaming, Liquor and Cannabis Act*.
- (m) “family day home program” has the same meaning given to it in the *Early Learning and Child Care Act*.
- (n) “farming or ranching operation” means the primary production of eggs, milk, grain, seeds, fruit, vegetables, honey, livestock, diversified livestock animals within the meaning of the *Livestock Industry Diversification Act*, poultry or bees, an operation that produces cultured fish within the meaning of the *Fisheries (Alberta) Act*, and any other primary agricultural operation specified in the regulations, but does not include the operation of a greenhouse, mushroom farm, nursery or sod farm.
- (o) “fitness activity” means a physical activity that occurs at a gym, fitness studio, dance studio, rink, pool, arena or recreation centre and includes dance classes, rowing, spin, yoga, boxing, boot camp, Pilates and other activities of a similar nature.
- (p) “food-serving business or entity” means a restaurant, café, bar, pub or similar business or entity.
- (q) “fully vaccinated” means a person who is eligible for vaccination who has:
- i. received two doses of a World Health Organization approved COVID-19 vaccine in a two dose vaccine series or one dose in a one dose vaccine series; and
 - ii. had fourteen days elapse since the date on which the person received the second dose of the World Health Organization approved COVID-19 vaccine of a two dose series or one dose of the vaccine in a one dose vaccine series.
- (r) “Gaming Licence” has the same meaning given to it under the *Gaming, Liquor and Cannabis Regulation*, AR 143/96, under the *Gaming, Liquor and Cannabis Act*.
- (s) “group family child care program” has the same meaning given to it in the former *Child Care Licensing Regulation*.

- (t) “health condition” means the following mental or physical limitations:
- i. sensory processing disorders;
 - ii. developmental delays;
 - iii. mental illnesses including: anxiety disorders; psychotic disorders; dissociative identity disorder; and depressive disorders;
 - iv. facial trauma or recent oral maxillofacial surgery;
 - v. contact dermatitis or allergic reactions to face mask components; or
 - vi. clinically significant acute respiratory distress.
- (u) “highway” means any thoroughfare, street, road, trail, avenue, parkway, driveway, viaduct, lane, alley, square, bridge, causeway, trestleway or other place or any part of any of them, whether publicly or privately owned, that the public is ordinarily entitled or permitted to use for the passage or parking of vehicles and includes:
- i. a sidewalk, including a boulevard adjacent to the sidewalk;
 - ii. if a ditch lies adjacent to and parallel with the roadway, the ditch; and
 - iii. if a highway right of way is contained between fences or between a fence and one side of the roadway, all the land between the fences, or all the land between the fence and the edge of the roadway, as the case may be,
- but does not include a place declared by regulation not to be a highway.
- (v) “innovative child care program” has the same meaning given to it in the former *Child Care Licensing Regulation*.
- (w) “masking directive or guidance” means, as the context of this Order requires, either:
- i. a directive or guidance document made by a regional health authority, or a contracted service provider of a regional health authority, which sets out directions or guidance respecting the use of face masks in facilities or settings operated by the regional health authority or the contracted service provider; or
 - ii. a directive or guidance document made by Alberta Health and posted on the Government of Alberta website which sets out directions or guidance respecting the use of face masks in the child care program setting.
- (x) “medical exception letter” means written confirmation provided to a person by an authorizing health professional which verifies that the person has a health condition that prevents the person from wearing a face mask while attending an indoor public place and
- i. clearly sets out the information required by section 3.6 of this Order; and
 - ii. is valid for a period of one year from the date on which it is made.
- (y) “outdoor food and beverage services” means services which an operator of a food-serving business or entity provides in an outdoor area to persons who remain at the food-serving business or entity while consuming food or beverages. For greater

certainly, outdoor food and beverage services are provided in an area that meet the following requirements:

- i. patios and dining areas with a roof must not have more than one enclosing wall;
 - ii. patios and dining areas without a roof may have one or more enclosing wall;
 - iii. for the purposes of this Order umbrellas and pergolas are not considered to be roofs;
 - iv. for the purposes of this Order, a fence or a half-wall is not an enclosing wall.
- (z) “out of school care” has the same meaning given to it in the Early Learning and Child Care Regulation.
- (aa) “performance activity” means singing, playing a musical instrument, dancing, acting or other activities of a similar nature and includes, but is not limited to, a rehearsal, concert, theatre, dance, choral, festival, musical and symphony events.
- (bb) “person who resides on their own” means a person living on their own or a person living on their own who has one or more youth living with them and under their care.
- (cc) “physical activity” means a fitness activity or sport activity.
- (dd) “preschool care”, has the same meaning given to it in the *Early Learning and Child Care Regulation*.
- (ee) “post-secondary institution” means a public or private post-secondary institution operating under the *Post-Secondary Learning Act* and includes the physical location or place where the post-secondary institution provides a structured learning environment through which a program of study is offered.
- (ff) “private place” means a private place as defined under the *Public Health Act*.
- (gg) “private social gathering” means any type of private social function or gathering at which a group of persons come together and move freely around to associate, mix or interact with each other for social purposes rather than remaining seated or stationary for the duration of the function or gathering, but does not include a cohort consisting of persons referred to in section 2.1(e) of this Order.
- (hh) “public place” has the same meaning given to it in the *Public Health Act*, and for greater certainty does not include a rental accommodation used solely for the purposes of a private residence.
- (ii) “recreational activity” means any structured or organized activity or program where the purpose of the activity or program is intended to develop a skill, including but not limited to, Girl Guides, Scouts, choir, arts and crafts, pottery or other substantially similar activities.
- (jj) “school” has the same meaning given to it in the *Education Act*.

- (kk) “school building” has the same meaning given to it in the *Education Act*.
- (ll) “Special Event Licence” has the same meaning given to it under *Gaming, Liquor and Cannabis Regulation*, AR 143/96, under the *Gaming, Liquor and Cannabis Act*.
- (mm) “sport activity” means sports training, practices, events, games, scrimmages, competitions, gameplay, league play, and other activities of a similar nature.
- (nn) “staff member” means any individual who is employed by, or provides services under a contract with, an operator of a school.
- (oo) “student” has the same meaning given to it in the *Education Act*.
- (pp) “visitor” means any individual who attends a school, but who is not a student or staff member.
- (qq) “youth” means a person under eighteen years of age.
- (rr) “youth activity” means any physical activity, performance activity or recreational activity youth are participating in.

Part 3 – Masking

A. Indoor masking requirements

- 3.1 Except as set out in this Order, a person must wear a face mask at all times while attending an indoor public place.
- 3.2 For greater certainty, indoor public places include, but are not limited to:
 - (a) a school building;
 - (b) commercial vehicles transporting the driver and one or more other persons who are not members of that persons household, or if the person is a person living alone, then the person’s close contact;
 - (c) the common areas of a day camp or overnight camp; and
 - (d) all indoor spaces under the control of a business or entity, including all areas where the public or employees of the business or entity may attend.
- 3.3 For greater certainty, except as otherwise set out in this Order:
 - (a) face masks must be worn at a wedding ceremony or funeral service that is held in an indoor public place; and
 - (b) a person must comply with all masking directives or guidance while attending at:
 - i. a facility operated by a regional health authority under the *Regional Health Authorities Act* or a facility operated by a contracted service provider of a regional health authority; or
 - ii. a childcare program.

B. General exceptions to indoor masking

- 3.4 Despite this Part of this Order, a person is not required to wear a face mask at all times while attending an indoor public place if the person is:
- (a) a youth under two years of age;
 - (b) a youth participating in an indoor performance activity in circumstances where it is not possible for the youth to wear a face mask while participating in the indoor performance activity;
 - (c) a youth participating in an indoor physical activity;
 - (d) an adult participating in an indoor physical activity or performance activity;
 - (e) unable to place, use or remove a face mask without assistance;
 - (f) seated at a table while consuming food or drink or, if standing at a standing table while consuming food or drink, as long as the person remains at the standing table at all times while consuming the food or drink;
 - (g) providing or receiving care or assistance where a face mask would hinder that caregiving or assistance;
 - (h) alone at a workstation and separated by at least two metres distance from all other persons;
 - (i) the subject of a workplace hazard assessment in which it is determined that the person's safety will be at risk if the person wears a face mask while working;
 - (j) separated from every other person by a physical barrier that prevents droplet transmission;
 - (k) a person who needs to temporarily remove their face mask while in the public place for the purposes of:
 - i. receiving a service that requires the temporary removal of their face mask;
 - ii. an emergency or medical purpose, or
 - iii. establishing their identity.

C. Exceptions for health conditions

- 3.5 Despite this Part of this Order, a person who is unable to wear a face mask due to a health condition as determined by an authorizing health professional is excepted from wearing a face mask while attending an indoor public place.
- 3.6 For the purposes of section 3.5, the health condition must be verified by a medical exception letter that includes the following:
- (a) the name of the person to whom the exception applies;
 - (b) the name, phone number, email address, professional registration number, and signature of the authorizing health professional; and
 - (c) the date on which the written confirmation was provided.

- 3.7 For greater certainty, although the medical exception letter must verify that a health condition applies, the medical exception letter must not include specific information about the health condition.

D. Exception for child care programs

- 3.8 Despite this Part of this Order, a youth attending at a child care program is not required to wear a face mask except in accordance with any masking directive or guidance issued by the child care program operator.

E. Exceptions for performance activities

- 3.9 Despite this Part of this Order, a person participating in a performance activity during a worship service is not required to wear a mask.

F. Exceptions for professional physical activities and performance activities

- 3.10 Despite this Part of this Order, a member of, or for, a professional or semi-professional sports team or as a professional or semi-professional athlete, is not required to wear a mask while participating in a physical activity related to their professional or semi-professional sports team or athletics.
- 3.11 Despite this Part of this Order, a member of, or for, a professional or semi-professional performance organization, is not required to wear a mask while participating in a performance activity related to their professional or semi-professional performance.

G. Exceptions for farming or ranching operations

- 3.12 Despite this Part of this Order, a person does not need to wear a face mask while working at a farming or ranching operation, unless the person is interacting with a member of the public.

Part 4 – Physical distancing

A. Two metres physical distance required

- 4.1 For all indoor and outdoor activities, a person must maintain a physical distance of two metres from any other person who is not part of the person's cohort as referred to in sections 2.1(e)(i) or 2.1(e)(ii) of this Order.
- 4.2 For greater certainty, a person must maintain a physical distance of two metres from any other person who is not a member of the person's cohort as referred to in sections 2.1(e)(i) or 2.1(e)(ii) of this Order, when the person:
- (a) is attending as a spectator at an indoor location of a business or entity for the purposes of observing indoor physical activity, performance activity or recreational activity;
 - (b) is attending as a spectator at a school building for the purposes of observing indoor youth activity;

- (c) is participating in an outdoor private social gathering including a wedding ceremony or reception and a funeral service or reception where the only indoor spaces are washroom facilities;
 - (d) is a youth or staff member attending at a day camp;
 - (e) is attending a place of worship.
- 4.3 For greater certainty, staff and students at post-secondary institution must maintain a physical distance of two metres from any other person who is not a member of their cohort as referred to in sections 2.1(e)(i) or 2.1(e)(ii) of this Order.
- 4.4 Despite section 4.1 of this Order, an adult or youth can participate in outdoor group physical activity, performance activity or recreational activity.

B. General exceptions to two metre physical distance requirement

- 4.5 Despite this Part, a person is not required to maintain a physical distance of two metres from any other person when the person is receiving a service from a business or entity that the person cannot receive while maintaining a physical distance of two metres.
- 4.6 Despite this Part, a coach, instructor or trainer is not required to maintain two metres physical distance from the person being coached, guided or instructed for physical activity, performance activity, or recreational activity if doing so inhibits the guidance or instruction being provided.
- 4.7 Despite this Part, a youth is not required to maintain two metres physical distance while participating in a physical activity or performance activity.
- 4.8 Despite this Part, an adult is not required to maintain two metres physical distance while participating in an outdoor physical activity or performance activity.

C. Three metres physical distance required

- 4.9 An adult must maintain a physical distance of three metres from any other person who is not a member of their cohort, referred to in sections 2.1(e)(i) or 2.1(e)(ii) of this Order, when the person is participating in indoor solo or 1:1 physical activity.
- 4.10 An operator of a business or entity providing a place for indoor solo or 1:1 physical activity must ensure that an adult who is participating in indoor solo or 1:1 physical activity maintains three metres distance from any other person who is not a member of their cohort, referred to in sections 2.1(e)(i) or 2.1(e)(ii) of this Order.

D. Exceptions to three metre physical distance requirement

- 4.11 Despite this Part, a coach, instructor or trainer is not required to maintain three metres physical distance from the person being coached, guided or instructed for physical activity, performance activity, or recreational activity if doing so inhibits the guidance or instruction being provided.

Part 5 – Work from one’s private residence

- 5.1 An employer must require a worker to work from the worker’s own private residence unless the employer determines that the worker’s physical presence is required at the workplace to effectively operate the workplace.

Part 6 – Private Residences

- 6.1 Subject to sections 6.3, 6.4 and 6.5 of this Order, a person who resides in a private residence must not permit a person who does not normally reside in that residence to enter or remain in the residence.
- 6.2 Section 6.1 of this Order does not prevent a person from entering the private residence of another person for any of the following purposes:
- (a) to provide health care, personal care or housekeeping services;
 - (b) for a visit between a child and a parent or guardian who does not normally reside with that child;
 - (c) to receive or provide child care;
 - (d) to provide tutoring or other educational instruction related to a program of study;
 - (e) to perform construction, renovations, repairs or maintenance;
 - (f) to deliver items;
 - (g) to provide real estate or moving services;
 - (h) to provide social or protective services;
 - (i) to respond to an emergency;
 - (j) to provide counselling services;
 - (k) for a visit between a person who is at the end of their life (last four to six weeks, as determined by that person’s primary health care provider) and a family member, friend, faith leader or other person as long as no more than three visitors enter the private residence of the dying person at one time;
 - (l) to provide or receive personal or wellness services;
 - (m) to provide physical activity or performance instruction; or
 - (n) to undertake a municipal property assessment.
- 6.3 A person who resides on their own may have their cohort described in section 2.1(e)(i) of this Order attend at their own private residence and may attend at the private residence of the one or two other persons described in section 2.1(e)(i) provided the following conditions are met:
- (a) each person whose residence the person is attending at lives alone at their private residence; or
 - (b) each of the two people at the residence the person is attending at live together.

- 6.4 A cohort for a household as defined at section 2.1(e)(iii) of this Order, can choose one other household to visit with at each other's private residences provided that the following conditions are met:
- (a) the two households, when meeting together, are limited to a maximum of ten eligible persons; and
 - (b) all eligible persons who are part of the household must be vaccinated.
- 6.5 A cohort for a fully vaccinated person who resides on their own, as defined at section 2.1(e)(iv) of this Order, can choose one other household to visit with at each other's private residences provided that the following conditions are met:
- (a) the two households, when meeting together, are limited to a maximum of ten eligible persons; and
 - (b) all eligible persons who are part of the household must be vaccinated.

Part 7 – Private social gatherings

- 7.1 Sections 7.4, 7.5 and 7.6 of this Part of this Order come into effect on September 20, 2021.
- 7.2 All persons are prohibited from attending a private social gathering at an outdoor private or public place except in accordance with this Part of the Order.
- 7.3 All persons are prohibited from attending a private social gathering at an indoor public place.
- 7.4 For greater certainty, an indoor wedding reception or a funeral reception is a prohibited private social gathering.
- 7.5 Despite Part 6 and section 7.3 of this Order, a private social gathering of fifty persons or fifty percent of the total operational occupant load, whichever is less, as determined in accordance with the Alberta Fire Code and the fire authority having jurisdiction may occur at an indoor public or private place for the purposes of a wedding ceremony or a funeral service.
- 7.6 A private social gathering of two hundred persons or less may occur at an outdoor public or private place including for the purposes of a wedding ceremony or reception or a funeral service or reception.

A. Private social gatherings for protests

- 7.7 Despite this Part of this Order, a person may attend at an outdoor public place to exercise their right to peacefully demonstrate for a protest or political purpose without limit to the number of persons in attendance if the person:
- (a) remains outdoors except where necessary to use the washroom;
 - (b) wears a face mask at all times;

- (c) maintains a minimum physical distance of two metres from any other person in attendance, including any other person who is a member of the person's household, unless:
 - i. either the person or the other person is, or both persons are, eleven years of age or younger; and
 - ii. both persons are members of the same household;in which case this subsection does not apply;
- (d) does not offer food or beverages to any other person in attendance, regardless of whether the food or beverage is provided for sale or not; and
- (e) immediately disperses in a coordinated fashion at the conclusion of the gathering, while at all times adhering to the requirements in this section.

7.8 For greater certainty, a protest or political purpose as described in section 7.7 means for the purpose of expressing a position on a matter of public interest.

Part 8 - Places of worship

- 8.1 A faith leader may conduct a worship service at a place of worship if the number of persons who attend the worship service at the place of worship is limited to thirty-three percent of the total operational occupant load as determined in accordance with the Alberta Fire Code and the fire authority having jurisdiction.
- 8.2 A person attending a worship service at a place of worship must remain in a cohort consisting of persons referred to in sections 2.1(e)(i) or 2.1(e)(ii) of this Order.

Part 9 – Businesses and entities

- 9.1 Sections 9.2 and 9.3 of this Part of this Order comes into force on September 20, 2021.
- 9.2 An operator of a business or entity must limit the number of members of the public that may attend the location where the business or entity is operating to the greater of:
 - (a) thirty-three percent of the total operational occupant load as determined in accordance with the Alberta Fire Code and the fire authority having jurisdiction; or
 - (b) five persons.
- 9.3 A person may only attend at a business or entity with a cohort consisting of the persons referred to in sections 2.1(e)(i) or 2.1(e)(ii) of this Order.
- 9.4 Despite this Part of this Order, a business or entity operating exclusively outdoors, excepting washrooms, is not subject to any capacity limits.
- 9.5 Despite this Part of this Order an unlimited number of persons may attend a drive-in activity if the persons who attend the drive-in activity:

- (a) remain within a motor vehicle that is designed to be closed to the elements while attending and observing or participating in the drive-in activity except where necessary to use the washroom or access other amenities; and
- (b) position their motor vehicle at least two metres away from other motor vehicles.

Part 10 – Restaurants, cafes, bars and pubs

- 10.1 Sections 10.2, 10.3, 10.4(a) of this Part of this Order come into effect on September 20, 2021.
- 10.2 An operator of a food-serving business or entity is prohibited from offering or providing indoor food and beverage services.
- 10.3 A person who attends a food-serving business or entity that offers or provides outdoor food and beverage services, may eat or drink alone or with a cohort where the cohorts participating are the persons referred to in sections 2.1(e)(i) or 2.1(e)(ii) of this Order.
- 10.4 An operator of a food-serving business or entity that offers or provides outdoor food and beverage services must:
 - (a) limit the number of persons seated at the same table to a maximum of six persons for persons who are members of same household and a maximum of three persons for persons who reside on their own; and
 - (b) require persons to remain seated while consuming food or beverages and must prohibit persons seated at a table or standing at a standing table from interacting with persons seated at a different table or standing at a different standing table.
- 10.5 An operator of a business or entity with a Class A or C liquor licence, including but not limited to restaurants, bars, lounges, pubs, cafes, legions or private clubs is prohibited from serving liquor after 10 p.m. and must ensure that liquor consumption at the business or entity ends at 11 p.m..
- 10.6 An operator of a business or entity with a Gaming Licence or Facility Licence or a Class B liquor licence, including but not limited to bowling alleys, casinos, bingo halls, pool halls and indoor recreation entertainment centers is prohibited from serving liquor after 10 p.m. and must ensure that liquor consumption at the business or entity ends at 11 p.m..
- 10.7 A person who holds a Special Event Licence is prohibited from serving liquor after 10 p.m. and must ensure that liquor consumption at the event ends at 11 p.m..
- 10.8 For greater certainty, an operator of a food-serving business or entity may, subject to applicable laws, provide food or beverages, including liquor, by take-out, delivery or drive-thru at any time, including after 10 p.m..

Part 11 – Adult physical activity, performance activity and recreational activity

- 11.1 This Part of this Order comes into force on September 20, 2021.
- 11.2 No adult may attend at an indoor location of a business or entity for the purposes of participating in a group physical activity, group performance activity, group recreational activity, or a competition or similar activity.
- 11.3 For greater certainty, despite anything in this Order, an adult is not prohibited from participating in 1:1 or solo indoor physical activities and a business or entity is not prohibited from offering or providing services to, or a location for, an adult to participate in 1:1 or solo indoor physical activities.
- 11.4 An operator of a business or entity is prohibited from offering or providing services to, or a location for, adults to hold a competition or similar activity or participate in group indoor physical activity, group performance activity or group recreational activity.
- 11.5 For greater certainty, this Part of this Order does not apply to indoor group physical activity, indoor performance activity, or indoor recreational activity when the adults in the cohorts participating are the persons referred to in sections 2.1(e)(i) or 2.1(e)(ii) of this Order.

A. Professional physical activities and performance activities

- 11.6 Part 11 of this Order does not apply to:
- (a) a person attending or an operator of a business or entity, providing or hosting a physical activity as member of or for a professional or semi-professional sports team or as a professional or semi-professional athlete;
 - (b) a person attending or an operator of a business or entity, providing or hosting a performance activity as a member of or for a professional or semi-professional performance team or as a professional or semi-professional performer.

Part 12 – Youth activities

- 12.1 A parent or guardian of a youth must screen a youth for symptoms of COVID-19 prior to the youth participating in indoor youth activities in accordance with the COVID-19, Alberta Health Daily Checklist (for children under the age of eighteen).

Part 13 – Schools

A. Physical distancing in schools

- 13.1 An operator of a school must assign each youth enrolled in kindergarten to grade six to a cohort as in accordance with the guidance on the Government of Alberta website.
- 13.2 Students, staff and visitors at a school building must maintain a physical distance of two metres from any other person who is not a member of their cohort as referenced in

sections 2.1(e)(i), 2.1(e)(ii) or 2.1(e)(vi) in accordance with the guidance on the Government of Alberta website.

- 13.3 Despite this Part and in accordance with the guidance on the Government of Alberta website, students and staff at a school building are not required to maintain two metres physical distance if doing so inhibits the guidance or instruction being provided or where it is not possible to maintain two metres physical distance.

B. Masking requirements in schools

- 13.4 All students enrolled in grades four through twelve, staff, and visitors must wear a face mask while attending at a school building.
- 13.5 An operator of a school must ensure that all students enrolled in grades four through twelve, staff, and visitors wear a face mask while attending at a school building.

C. Exceptions to masking in schools

- 13.6 Despite Part 3 and this Part of this Order, students, staff or visitors are not required to wear a face mask at all times while attending at a school building if the student, staff or visitor:
- (a) is unable to place, use or remove a face mask without assistance;
 - (b) is unable to wear a face mask due to a health condition;
 - (c) is consuming food or drink in a designated area;
 - (d) is engaging in a physical activity;
 - (e) is seated at a desk or table
 - (i) within a classroom or place where the instruction, course or program of study is taking place, and
 - (ii) where the desks, tables and chairs are arranged in a manner
 - (A) to prevent persons who are seated from facing each other, and
 - (B) to allow the greatest possible distance between seated persons;
 - (f) is providing or receiving care or assistance where a non-medical face mask would hinder that caregiving or assistance; or
 - (g) is separated from every other person by a physical barrier.
- 13.7 An operator of a school must use its best efforts to ensure that any student, staff member or visitor who is not required to wear a face mask:
- (a) as permitted by section 13.6(a) or (b) of this Order is able to maintain a minimum of two metres distance from every other person;
 - (b) as permitted by section 13.6(c) of this Order is able to maintain a minimum of two metres distance from every other person, if the designated area is not within a classroom or place where the instruction, course or program of study is taking place.

D. School buses

- 13.8 Subject to section 3.10 of this Order, an operator of a school must ensure that the following persons wear a face mask while being transported on a school bus:
- (a) all students attending grades K through grade 12;
 - (b) all staff members;
 - (c) all visitors.
- 13.9 For greater certainty, section 13.8(b) applies in respect of any individual who transports students attending grades kindergarten through 12 on a school bus to a school, regardless of whether that individual is a staff member.
- 13.10 All students attending grades kindergarten through 12, staff members and visitors must wear a face mask that covers their mouth and nose while being transported on a school bus, unless the student, staff member or visitor:
- (a) is unable to place, use or remove a face mask without assistance;
 - (b) is unable to wear a face mask due to a mental or physical concern or limitation;
 - (c) is providing or receiving care or assistance where a face mask would hinder that caregiving or assistance; or
 - (d) is separated from every other person by a physical barrier.

E. Exception to masking where physical distancing can be maintained

- 13.11 Subject to section 13.12 of this Order, sections 13.4 to 13.10 of this Order do not apply in respect of an operator of a school who is able to ensure that all students, staff members and visitors maintain a minimum of two metres distance from every other person while attending an indoor location within a school or while being transported on a school bus.
- 13.12 An operator of a school must:
- (a) create a written plan that sets out how physical distancing will be maintained;
 - (b) provide the plan upon request from the Chief Medical Officer of Health, Medical Officer of Health or Alberta Education; and
 - (c) receive an exemption from the Chief Medical Officer of Health.
- 13.13 Despite section 13.11 of this Order, an operator of a school does not need to ensure that students, staff members and visitors are able to maintain a minimum of two metres distance from every other person when a student, staff member or visitor is seated at desk or table:
- (a) within a classroom or place where the instruction, course or program of study is taking place, and
 - (b) where the desks, tables and chairs are arranged in a manner
 - (i) to prevent persons who are seated from facing each other, and

- (ii) to allow the greatest possible distance between seated persons.

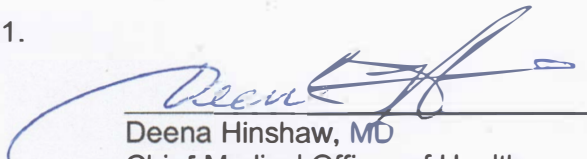
Part 14 – Exemptions under Alberta Government’s Restrictions Exemption Program

- 14.1 Notwithstanding anything in this Order, the Chief Medical Officer of Health may, pursuant the Alberta Government’s Restrictions Exemption Program, exempt a person or class of persons from the application of some, or all, parts of this Order.

Part 15 – General

- 15.1 Notwithstanding anything in this Order, the Chief Medical Officer of Health may exempt a person or a class of persons from the application of this Order.
- 15.2 This Order provides the minimum standards for public health measures in Alberta for those matters addressed by this Order.
- 15.3 For greater certainty, nothing in this Order relieves a person from complying with any provision of any federal, provincial or municipal law or regulation or any requirement of any lawful permit, order or licence covering those matters which are addressed in this Order.
- 15.4 This Order remains in effect until rescinded by the Chief Medical Officer of Health.

Signed on this 16th day of September, 2021.


Deena Hinshaw, MD
Chief Medical Officer of Health

RECORD OF DECISION – CMOH Order 43-2021

Re: 2021 COVID-19 Response – Alberta Government’s Restrictions Exemption Program

Whereas I, Dr. Deena Hinshaw, Chief Medical Officer of Health (CMOH) have initiated an investigation into the existence of COVID-19 within the Province of Alberta.

Whereas the investigation has confirmed that COVID-19 is present in Alberta and constitutes a public health emergency as a novel or highly infectious agent that poses a significant risk to public health.

Whereas under section 29(2.1) of the *Public Health Act*, I have the authority by order to prohibit a person from attending a location for any period and subject to any conditions that I consider appropriate, where I have determined that the person engaging in that activity could transmit an infectious agent. I also have the authority to take whatever other steps that are, in my opinion, necessary in order to lessen the impact of the public health emergency.

Whereas a state of public health emergency was declared in the province of Alberta on September 15, 2021.

Whereas I have determined it is possible to exempt eligible businesses, entities and events and patrons and attendees at their premises from certain restrictions found in Record of Decision CMOH Order 42-2021 provided that eligible participants screen patrons or attendees for proof of vaccination or a negative COVID-19 test result, I hereby make the following order:

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 - A. Screening of patrons or attendees
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- Part 6 – General

Part 1 – Application

- 1.1 This Order is effective September 17, 2021, and applies throughout the Province of Alberta.
- 1.2 Record of Decision CMOH Order 42-2021 is not in force in respect of eligible participants and patrons and attendees who are in compliance with this Order.
- 1.3 Record of Decision CMOH Order 43-2021 is not in force in respect of an employee of an eligible participant.

Part 2 – Definitions

- 2.1 In this Order and the Appendix A to this Order, the following terms have the following meanings:
 - (a) “authorizing health professional” means
 - i. for the purposes of a masking exception, one of the following regulated members under the *Health Professions Act* who holds a practice permit:
 - A. nurse practitioners;
 - B. physicians;
 - C. psychologists.
 - ii. for the purposes of the vaccine exception, one of the following regulated members under the *Health Professions Act* who holds a practice permit:
 - A. nurse practitioners;
 - B. physicians.
 - (b) “COVID-19 test” means a Health Canada approved rapid screening test or a lab based PCR test approved by Health Canada or the lab accreditation body of the jurisdiction in which the test is performed which:
 - i. a person has taken within the last 72 hours;
 - ii. clearly outlines the laboratory that completed the test if applicable the type of test, time of sample collection, and clear indication of a negative result; and
 - iii. is not sourced from the Alberta Health Services public COVID-19 testing system.
 - (c) “discretionary business, entity or event” means a business, entity or event described as “in scope” in Appendix A of this Order.
 - (d) “eligible participant” means an operator of a discretionary business, entity or event that chooses to implement the Restrictions Exemption Program under this Order.

- (e) “eligible person” means a person who is living, working or going to school in Alberta who is eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine.
- (f) “employee” means workers, contractors, repair workers, delivery workers, volunteers, students inspectors or others who are entering the eligible participant for work purposes and not as patrons or attendees.
- (g) “face mask” means a medical or non-medical mask or other face covering that covers a person’s nose, mouth and chin.
- (h) “fitness activity” means a physical activity that occurs at a gym, fitness studio, dance studio, rink, pool, arena or recreation centre and includes dance classes, rowing, spin, yoga, boxing, boot camp, Pilates and other activities of a similar nature.
- (i) “Guidelines” means the Requirements for the Restrictions Exemption Program published on the Government of Alberta website.
- (j) “health condition” means the following mental or physical limitations:
 - i. sensory processing disorders;
 - ii. developmental delays;
 - iii. mental illnesses including: anxiety disorders; psychotic disorders; dissociative identity disorder; and depressive disorders;
 - iv. facial trauma or recent oral maxillofacial surgery;
 - v. contact dermatitis or allergic reactions to face mask components; or
 - vi. clinically significant acute respiratory distress.
- (k) “masking medical exception letter” means written confirmation provided to a person by an authorizing health professional which verifies that the person has a health condition that prevents the person from wearing a face mask while attending an indoor public place and:
 - i. clearly sets out the information required by section 4.6 of this Order; and
 - ii. is valid for a period of one year from the date on which it is made.
- (l) “medical contraindication to vaccination” means a condition diagnosed by an authorizing health professional as determined by guidance provided by the College of Physicians and Surgeons or the College and Association of Registered Nurses.
- (m) “personal identification” means a valid:
 - i. birth certificate issued by a government of a province of Canada and including the photograph of the holder;
 - ii. citizenship card;
 - iii. driver’s licence issued by a government of a province of Canada and including the photograph of the holder;

- iv. government (Alberta or other) issued identification card, including health card;
 - v. certificate of Indian Status;
 - vi. Métis Nation of Alberta Association citizenship and identification card;
 - vii. Inuit Status card;
 - viii. passport attesting to citizenship or other national status, issued by a government of any jurisdiction and including a photograph of the holder;
 - ix. Permanent Resident Card.
- (n) “patron or attendee” means an eligible person attending at a business, entity or event participating in the Restrictions Exemption Program under this Order.
- (o) “PCR test” means the polymerase chain reaction test for COVID-19.
- (p) “performance activity” means singing, playing a musical instrument, dancing, acting or other activities of a similar nature and includes, but is not limited to, a rehearsal, concert, theatre, dance, choral, festival, musical and symphony events.
- (q) “physical activity” means a fitness activity or sport activity.
- (r) “premises” means the site or location where the eligible participant operates.
- (s) “rapid screening test” means a COVID-19 testing device that is listed in *Authorized medical devices for uses related to COVID-19: List of authorized testing devices by Health Canada* published on the Government of Canada website and is approved for point-of-care molecular or antigen COVID-19 testing, including but not limited to, Panbio COVID-19 AG Rapid Test Device (nasal), Bd Veritor System For Rapid Detection Of SARS-CoV-2, Id Now COVID-19 and the Spartan COVID-19 System Cube.
- (t) “recreational activity” means any structured or organized activity or program where the purpose of the activity or program is intended to develop a skill, including but not limited to, Girl Guides, Scouts, choir, arts and crafts, pottery or other substantially similar activities.
- (u) “sport activity” means sports training, practices, events, games, scrimmages, competitions, gameplay, league play, and other activities of a similar nature.
- (v) “vaccinated” means a person who is eligible for vaccination who has:
- i. during the period between September 17, 2021 and October 24, 2021:
 - A. proof of receiving at least one dose of a World Health Organization approved COVID-19 vaccine and has had fourteen or more days elapse since the date on which the person received the first dose of vaccine;
 - ii. on or after October 25, 2021:

- A. proof of receiving two doses of a World Health Organization approved COVID-19 vaccine in a two dose vaccine series and has had fourteen or more days elapse since the date on which the person received the first dose of vaccine;
- B. proof of receiving one dose in a one dose World Health Organization approved COVID-19 vaccine series and has had fourteen days or more elapse since the date on which the person received the one dose of vaccine.

(w) “vaccine medical exception letter” means written confirmation provided to a person by an authorizing health professional which verifies there is a medical contraindication to vaccination that prevents the person from being vaccinated and:

- i. clearly sets out the information required by section 5.6 of this Order; and
- ii. is valid for a period of one year from the date on which it is made.

Part 3 – Restrictions Exemption Program

- 3.1 A discretionary business, entity or event which chooses to implement the Restrictions Exemption Program must do so in accordance with this Order.
- 3.2 A business, entity or event described as “Out of Scope” in Appendix A is ineligible for participation in the Restrictions Exemption Program.

Part 4 – Masking requirements

A. Indoor masking requirements

- 4.1 Except as set out in this Order, a patron or attendee must wear a face mask at all times while attending at an eligible participant’s premises.
- 4.2 For greater certainty a patron or attendee must wear a face mask in
 - (a) all indoor spaces on the premises of an eligible participant that all patrons or attendees may attend; and
 - (b) at a wedding ceremony or reception or at a funeral service or reception that is held at the premises of an eligible participant.

B. General exceptions to indoor masking

- 4.3 Despite this Part of this Order, a patron or attendee is not required to wear a face mask at all times while attending an eligible participant’s premises if the patron or attendee is:
 - (a) a youth under two years of age;

- (b) participating in an indoor physical activity or performance activity (including a wedding ceremony);
- (c) unable to place, use or remove a face mask without assistance;
- (d) seated at a table while consuming food or drink or, if standing at a standing table while consuming food or drink, as long as the person remains at the standing table at all times while consuming the food or drink;
- (e) providing or receiving care or assistance where a face mask would hinder that caregiving or assistance;
- (f) a person who needs to temporarily remove their face mask while in an eligible participant's premises for the purposes of:
 - i. receiving a service that requires the temporary removal of their face mask;
 - ii. an emergency or medical purpose, or
 - iii. establishing their identity.

C. Masking exceptions for health conditions

- 4.4 Despite this Part of this Order, a patron or attendee who is unable to wear a face mask due to a health condition as determined by an authorizing health professional is excepted from wearing a face mask while attending the eligible participant's premises.
- 4.5 For the purposes of section 4.4, the health condition must be verified by a masking medical exception letter that includes the following:
 - (a) the name of the patron or attendee to whom the exception applies;
 - (b) the name, phone number, email address, professional registration number, and signature of the authorizing health professional; and
 - (c) the date on which the written confirmation was provided.
- 4.6 For greater certainty, although the masking medical exception letter must verify that a health condition applies, the medical exception letter must not include specific information about the health condition.

Part 5 – Obligations of eligible participants

A. Screening of patrons or attendees

- 5.1 An eligible participant must screen every patron and attendee for one of the following at the point of entry in accordance with the Guidelines:
 - (a) proof of vaccination as set out in section 5.3;
 - (b) proof of a negative COVID-19 test result from a sample that is taken within the prior 72 hours;

(c) original vaccine medical exception letter.

5.2 A patron or attendee must provide an eligible participant with personal identification and one of the following at the point of entry:

- (a) proof of vaccination as set out in section 5.3;
- (b) proof of a negative COVID-19 test result from a sample that is taken within the prior 72 hours;
- (c) original vaccine medical exception letter.

B. Forms of proof of vaccination

5.3 For Alberta residents, one of the following is acceptable as proof of vaccination:

- (a) a picture or paper record of a valid Alberta Health Services, MyHealth Records, pharmacy, First Nations, or physician immunization record prominently displaying the name, type of vaccine and date of administration;
- (b) valid Government of Alberta vaccination QR code;
- (c) an immunization record from another Canadian province or territory displaying the name, type of vaccine and date of administration;
- (d) Canadian armed forces immunization record, displaying the name, type of vaccine and date of administration.

5.4 For international travellers, an ArriveCan app and a valid international travel identity document is acceptable as proof of vaccination.

C. Exceptions for proof of vaccination

5.5 Despite this Part of this Order, a patron or attendee who is unable to be vaccinated due to a medical contraindication to vaccination is excepted from the requirement of showing proof of vaccination to attend at an eligible participant's premises.

5.6 For the purposes of section 5.5 the medical contraindication to vaccination must be verified by a vaccine medical exception letter that includes the following:

- (a) the name of the patron or attendee to whom the exception applies;
- (b) the name, phone number, contact information, professional registration number, and signature of the authorizing health professional;
- (c) the date on which the written confirmation was provided; and
- (d) the length of time the exemption is valid.

5.7 For greater certainty, although the vaccine medical exception letter must verify that a medical contraindication to vaccination applies, the vaccine medical exception letter must not include specific information about the nature of the medical contraindication to vaccination.

5.8 Despite section 5.2, the following persons are not required to provide proof of vaccination:

- (a) a person ineligible for immunization under the Alberta COVID-19 immunization program;
- (b) a person with a medical exemption letter for vaccination;
- (c) a person with a written or printed copy of a negative COVID-19 test.

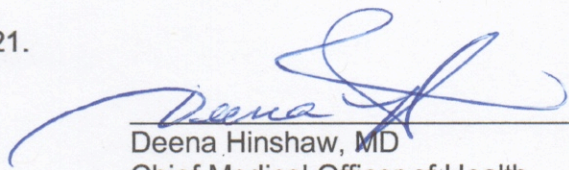
D. Positive Test Result

5.9 An eligible participant is prohibited from allowing a person presenting a positive COVID-19 test result from attending at the eligible participant's premises and must advise a person who presents a positive COVID-19 test result that the person must isolate in accordance with CMOH Order 06-2021.

Part 6 – General

- 6.1 This Order provides the minimum standards for public health measures in Alberta for those matters addressed by this Order.
- 6.2 For greater certainty, nothing in this Order relieves a person from complying with any provision of any federal, provincial or municipal law or regulation or any requirement of any lawful permit, order or licence covering those matters which are addressed in this Order.
- 6.3 This Order remains in effect until rescinded by the Chief Medical Officer of Health.

Signed on this 18th day of September, 2021.


Deena Hinshaw, MD
Chief Medical Officer of Health



Document: Appendix A to Record of Decision – CMOH Order 43-2021

Subject: CMOH Order 43-2021 Alberta Government's Restrictions Exemption Program

Scope of Application: As per Record of Decision – CMOH Order 43-2021

In Scope	Out of Scope
Restaurants	Events in Private Dwellings
Nightclubs	Retail & Shopping Malls
Casinos, Bingo Halls, VLT Lounges	Food Courts
Entertainment/Rec Centers, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bowling, racing entertainment, arcades, billiards halls, other similar entertainment Museums, art galleries 	Libraries
Movie theatres	Employees in/on a worksite for the purposes of their employment
Recreation facilities for physical activity, performance activity or recreational activity	Schools, K-12
Conferences / Meeting Spaces / Halls/ Rented space (excluding dwelling units)	School curriculum based activity
Weddings and Funerals held in public facilities where the facility maintains responsibility for adherence to these requirements	Accommodations (e.g., hotel)
Spectator at a professional sport activity	Places of Worship – for faith services
Spectator at a professional performance activity	Health Services
Private social events held in public facilities where the facility maintains responsibility for adherence to these requirements	Personal Services
Adult sport activity participants	Wellness Services

Classes for recreational activities	
Hotel and condo amenities such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• fitness rooms, pools• game rooms, movie rooms• other similar amenities	

APPENDIX: Contingency Plans

In the event that there is a resurgence of the COVID-19 pandemic that impacts the province of Alberta and its ECS to Grade 12 education system, the following two contingencies will be considered.

Short-term Operational Shifts to At-home/Online Learning

- If required, the decision to move a portion of a school, such as individual grade(s) or class(es) to at-home/online learning due to operational reasons (i.e., staffing issues), will continue to be at the discretion of the local school authority and will take into account any health measures that are in place.
- School authorities can submit a request to Field Services for a short-term shift of an entire school to at-home learning for operational reasons. The centralized approach for requesting and approving both a school's or school authority's short-term shift to at-home learning for operational reasons provides school authorities the opportunity to outline the situation that the school faces, including important local contextual considerations. It also provides for consistency and fairness across the province.



School Calendar for the 2021–2022 School Year



Contingency Scenario 1: in-school classes (near normal with enhanced health measures)

- Local school authorities can adjust their school calendars and/or the number and length of instructional days, while meeting required instructional hours (950 hours for Grades 1 to 9 and 1,000 hours for Grades 10 to 12) and within the parameters of all contractual agreements with school authority employees, to address subject area content.
- School authorities must implement routine measures to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19 and other respiratory illnesses including promoting and facilitating hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette, staying home when sick, maintaining ventilation, and ensuring regular cleaning and disinfection of high traffic/touch areas.
- Additional public health recommendations for child and student learning and extra-curricular activities for those unable to receive immunization (Kindergarten to Grade 6) such as cohorting.
- Outbreak management will continue to occur and follow similar interventions to influenza outbreak response.



Contingency Scenario 2: at-home learning (in-school classes are suspended/cancelled)

- School authorities offer at-home learning opportunities to children and students based on the provincial or regional context.
- Following are the expectations when operating within contingency scenario 2 for the 2021–2022 school year.
- School authorities continue to have flexibility and make decisions on their calendars.
- Hours of instruction will be determined by school authorities while meeting requirements for instructional hours that remain the same.
- School authorities will work with families to ensure that learning will continue, and that the needs of students are met.
- Should contingency scenario 2 be in place, the ability for the principal to award unallocated credits to students in grades 10, 11 and 12 may be activated. The total maximum number of unallocated credits any one student can use to graduate will be limited to 20 credits.
- Teachers continue to be responsible for assessing the progress of children and students.
- Students continue to be responsible to actively engage in learning and diligently pursue their education.
- School authorities, parents/guardians, children and students must continue to follow public health measures in place.

Supporting Growth in Student Learning

Under Contingency Scenario 2, school authorities can, as deemed appropriate at the local level, for Grades 1 to 9 reduce time spent teaching non-core subjects to allow for additional instruction time on core (English, Français, French language arts, Math, Social, and Science).

Administrators, teachers and parents can access the [Student Learning Hub](#) for information and resources.

- Support materials include FAQs and links to specific resources and materials.
- Digital and printable resources to support administrators, teachers, parents and students in a variety of learning settings (e.g. digital, non-digital).
- Resources that support diverse student learning needs (e.g. English language learners, Francisation).

Students	Learning Focus	Weekly Instructional Hours	Resources
Pre-K	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Will continue in school.• Learning expectations are as per usual practice.• Student assessment by teachers continues.	Can continue to access services in-school.	As per usual practice.
K-6	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Will shift to at-home/online.• Learning expectations: Language and mathematics learning outcomes that strengthen the development of literacy and numeracy Incorporate health curriculum outcomes (with a focus on mental health).• Student assessment by teachers continues.	At discretion of school authority.	Online, digital and/or paper-based as needed.
Grades 7-12	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Will shift to at-home/online.• Learning expectations are equivalent to current in school.• Student assessment by teachers continues.	Equivalent to current in-school hours.	Online, digital and/or paper-based as needed.
Students with Disabilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Can continue to access services in school.	Can continue to access services in-school.	As per unique needs.

Grade 12 Diploma Exams



Contingency Scenario 1: in-school classes (near normal with enhanced health measures)

- A return to in-school classes under contingency scenario 1 includes the administration of diploma exams for the 2021–22 school year, which will continue to be mandatory.
- Diploma exam results will continue to constitute 30 per cent of a student's final diploma course mark.
- Diploma exams will be offered in every subject in all five diploma exam sessions held in November, January, April, June and August. These diploma exam offerings will support students with some school boards shifting their high school programming to a quarter system as part of their COVID-2021–2022 school year plan.
- Diploma exam administrations throughout the year will permit students to access diploma exams to raise their marks and demonstrate provincial standards. Provincial level assessment results for diploma exams in four core subject areas (Language Arts, Mathematics, Social Studies and Science) and diploma exam participation rates will be reported in the ministry annual report and annual report update as supplementary measures. School and jurisdiction level breakdowns will not be made public.



Contingency Scenario 2: at-home learning (in-school classes are suspended/cancelled)

- Alberta Education will consider the administration of diploma exams, one session at a time if all schools are shifted to at-home learning under Contingency Scenario 2.
- Alberta Education will continue to provide diploma exams to students who choose to write them.
- Should circumstances in the 2021–2022 school year warrant, some adjustments in reporting results from provincial achievement tests and diploma exams may be warranted. In 2021–2022, Alberta Education will continue to report results from diploma exams at the school, school authority and provincial levels similar to previous years, where results are available.
- Depending on the impacts of COVID-19 on the 2021–2022 school year, results may not be used to evaluate the system or inform curriculum development. Given the anomaly the COVID-19 year represents, results for schools and school authorities may not be publicized. Provincial level diploma exam measures not included as core performance measures in the ministry business plan will continue to be reported as supplementary measures in the ministry annual report and annual report updates.

Grade 6 and 9 Provincial Achievement Tests (PATs)



Contingency Scenario 1: in-school classes (near normal with enhanced health measures)

PATs continue to be administered. The PAT schedule provides flexibility for school authorities to administer them within a fixed period of time.

- Participation is mandatory.
- The administration of PATs is limited to foundational subjects—English Language Arts, Mathematics, and French Language Arts/Français.
- School authorities can decide to excuse some or all students from PATs if their learning has fallen behind.



Contingency Scenario 2: at-home learning (in-school classes are suspended/cancelled)

- Alberta Education will cancel the January administration of 2021–22 PATs, and decide on the administration of May/June PATs based on the duration of the cancellation of in-school classes. The same principles from scenario 1 would apply.
- Should circumstances in the 2021–2022 school year warrant it, some adjustments in reporting results from PATs may be needed. In 2021–22, Alberta Education will continue to report results from provincial achievement tests at the school, school authority and provincial levels similar to previous years, where results are available.
- Depending on the impacts of COVID-19 on the 2021–2022 school year, results from schools and school authorities may not be publicized. Targets for provincial level assessment results in Language Arts and Mathematics for 2021–2022 have been set in the 2021–24 Business Plan and results will be reported in the 2021–2022 Education Annual Report. Results for other subjects (Social Studies, Science) will be reported as supplementary measure results in the annual report alongside results for First Nations, Métis, and Inuit students. Note that reporting is done for provincial level assessment results only. School and school authority results will not be publicized.

Children and Students Who Require Specialized Supports and Services

Individualized and/or specialized supports and services are available to students who require additional support whether they are learning at home or in school.

School authorities must consider and enable participation and inclusion of students with disabilities and other individualized learning needs. In circumstances in which students who require individualized and/or specialized supports and services are not able to follow guidelines that may be in place and require support and adaptation to public health measures, plans must be developed to ensure their inclusion. School administrations are responsible to create these plans to best meet the needs of their students.



Contingency Scenario 1: in-school classes (near normal with enhanced health measures)

- School authorities should determine which children and students require individualized and/or specialized supports and services (i.e. behavioural, intellectual, learning, communication or physical characteristics, or a combination of any of them) based on individual support plans from the 2020/21 school year.
- Mental health supports for children, students and staff should be in place, as per the section on mental health.



Contingency Scenario 2: at-home learning (in-school classes are suspended/cancelled)

- School authorities continue to offer at-home learning for all their children in an Early Childhood Services (including Kindergarten) program and students in Grades 1 through 12, including those who require individualized and/or specialized supports and services.
- Teachers will be responsible to ensure that individual support plans/individual program plans (ISPs/IPPs) are implemented, monitored and evaluated for children and students who may be in need of specialized supports and services, as per the Standards for an Inclusive Education System.
- Teachers will consult with parents through their chosen communication methods, such as email, phone and/or other digital modes, to develop ISP/IPPs for the 2021–22 school year.
- ISPs will be reviewed regularly by teachers with parents and when appropriate, with the student, to update information, review effectiveness of identified supports, strategies and services and revise plans and/or identify new supports and/or strategies and/or services that will be provided.
- Teachers are responsible for assessing and reporting on a child's/student's progress. Each school authority will have to determine what will work best for their children and students. This will likely vary among the school authorities, and may even vary from school to school.
- School authorities have the flexibility to identify if an educational assistant is needed to virtually deliver specific ISP strategies, under the direction of a teacher, working alongside the caregiver and student. The teacher is primarily responsible for the educational programming of the student.
- A continuum of mental health supports and services for children, students and staff are in place, as per the section on mental health in this document.
- Students with disabilities who require supports and services whose needs cannot be met through at-home learning can continue to receive supports and services in-person at school. All students and staff who continue to attend in-person learning are to follow the public health measures.