

UPDATES TO SCENARIO 1 (October 23 summary)

EDUCATIONAL FIELD TRIPS (OFF-SITE ACTIVITIES)

Educational off-site activities will be permitted starting November 2, 2020, based on the following criteria: Individual classroom cohorts must be maintained during transportation to and from any external field trip site, as well as at the location of the field trip site.

- MHPSD expects that the organizations providing the off-site activity will comply with the general relaunch guidance and sector specific guidance and will implement the same measures in the school guidance.
- An organization or facility should only host one classroom cohort at a time or should take clear steps to separate multiple groups to ensure they do not use shared areas (e.g., washrooms, lunch rooms, etc.).
- Staff at the off-site activity must maintain physical distancing of at least 2 metres from the students and staff in the classroom cohort.
- Limited facility access: The facility where the off-site activity occurs must ensure that only one class cohort uses that space at a time.
- Hold activities outdoors as much as possible.
- Organizations providing off-site activities must develop procedures to address staff that become symptomatic during the field trip.
- Schools must develop procedures to address students or staff developing symptoms during the field trip; plans should include a designated area to isolate the ill individual, what extra supplies may be needed (e.g., mask for the child, mask/face shield for the individual attending to the child, etc.), how to notify a parent/guardian and how the ill child will be transported home from the off-site activity.
- Off-site activities are permitted for educational activities that advance programming in a significant way and that aim to achieve an outcome that wouldn't be made possible in a classroom setting.

Off-site activities must follow the school guidance, as well as any sector-specific guidance relevant to the location of the field trip, including physical distancing, use of non-medical face masks, cohorting, hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette and enhanced cleaning and disinfection. All off-site activities will be for educational purposes and at the discretion of the school principal.

A pandemic specific form will be added to the MHPSD [forms site](#) on November 2, 2020.

COHORTS

Staff are NOT cohorted. Staff are only in a cohort with each other, when it is required for operational purposes (i.e., a teacher and a teacher's assistant who work exclusively with the same classroom cohort). If one teacher/staff tests positive for COVID-19 and is in a cohort with other teachers/staff, every teacher/staff in that cohort will be required to quarantine, which may have a significant negative impact on the ability for the school to remain operational for in-person learning. Masks should be worn

in all indoor settings except for personal spaces (such as private offices), where a physical barrier is in place, or where staff can maintain distance between other staff and students.

- Schools should consider limiting the total potential number of cohort groups that a student may be permitted to be part of in the school setting (e.g., limit school-based extracurricular activities and clubs). Cohorts only need to be formed if 2 metres of distancing cannot be maintained. For example, a cross country running group that could always keep 2 metres apart while training would not be considered a cohort.

ALBERTA HEALTH SERVICES UPDATED – STUDENT ILLNESS GUIDANCE

- [Government of Alberta – Student Illness](#)
- [How long to stay home from school – AHS](#)
- [Guidance for Parents of Children Attending School and/or Childcare](#)
- [Alberta Health Daily Checklist](#)

PAPER HANDLING

- Items that cannot be cleaned or disinfected can be stored in a sealed container for 24 hours.
- If handling paper tests and assignments, ensure good hand hygiene before and after touching the paper and avoid touching the face prior to performing hand hygiene. Out of an abundance of caution, paper tests and assignments can be stored for 24 hours prior to handling.
- Hard covers of books can be cleaned and disinfected between uses if it does not ruin the books

VOLUNTEERS IN SCHOOLS

Adult volunteers are permitted, at the discretion of the school principal, during school hours, to support instruction. In addition, educational guest presenters may also be considered at the discretion of the principal.

A record of all visitors should be kept.

- The school is required to screen volunteers using the [Alberta Health Daily Checklist](#) before they enter the school.
- If a volunteer answers YES to any of the questions, the individual must not be admitted into the school.
- All visitor movement in the school will be limited to only necessary areas.

SINGING

All singers are required to wear masks when singing, whether indoors or outdoors. Children in ELP-Grade 3 will be permitted to sing if they are wearing a mask (whether indoor or outdoor). If your child's teacher wishes to engage in classroom singing, your school may request that you provide a mask for your child. Masks should follow the masking guidelines as identified in scenario 1. Although certain children may have exemptions from masking during regular school activities, everyone participating in singing indoors or outdoors shall wear a mask, including children in ELP-3.

- As singing is a high-risk activity, children who have an exception to masking can be provided with another musical part (e.g., percussion) or if the child will be singing, they should be alone in a dedicated space or room (e.g., a constructed acrylic plastic room)
- Please see the [Guidance for singing & vocal performance](#) for additional information.

BAND

[Guidance for Live Instrumental Music:](#) In a space where band students could be physically distanced (2 meters) on all sides (e.g., gymnasium, outside), band classes may occur, at the discretion of the principal. Chairs and music stands should be cleaned and disinfected between uses.

NON-MEDICAL FACE COVERING ALTERNATIVE

- Alternatives to non-medical face coverings (e.g., neck gaiters, buffs or bandanas) offer lesser protection than other non-medical face masks, and as such are not recommended in these settings. Although some alternatives may provide similar levels of protection, it will be difficult to assess on a case-by-case basis and therefore are not recommended.
- Neck gaiters may pose the risk of improper storage and contamination by pulling on and off over the head.

SHARED USE CLOTHING ITEMS

Clothing items can only be assigned to one student at a time (safety vest, apron, lab coat, pinny, play clothes, costumes, etc.). Clothing will be laundered or stored for 24 hours between users.

- MHPSD Re-entry Plan - Scenario 1 (full document)
- mhpsd.ca