



New Horizons School 2021/22 Health and Safety Measures

The Government of Alberta will move to Step 2 of easing health and safety measure requirements effective March 1, 2022. This will shift some of our required NHS health and safety measures. Please review the information below for NHS required and recommended health and safety measures.

Plan Purpose

The purpose of this plan is to provide students, parents, and staff with information about health and safety measures that are being utilized at New Horizons School while the Government of Alberta directs or recommends health and safety measures to mitigate risk of COVID-19 transmission.

Plan Actions

School Health and Safety Plan:	
1	<p>To reduce COVID-19 transmission:</p> <p>Pre-Screen before going to school</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">Parents and staff will use the AHS COVID-19 Screening tool to screen their children daily before bringing them to school. Parents are asked to inform the principal or their child's teacher if their child tests positive for COVID-19 <u>as AHS will not inform the school</u>. If a child tests positive for COVID-19, they must quarantine for 10 days.Students, staff and visitors must maintain a strict stay-at-home policy for anyone exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 or other illness.

Masking, Barriers and Physical Distancing

1. Mask wearing by students and staff at the school and in classrooms is optional as outlined in the Government of Alberta's requirements in Step 2 though mask wearing remains strongly encouraged.
2. Desk shields and plexi-glass barriers used to support respiratory etiquette will no longer be required, however, they will remain available for use by staff and students at their individual preference.
3. Physical distancing (2m) for staff and students is always recommended, wherever possible.

Procedure for Positive COVID-19 Testing

1. Students testing positive for COVID-19 must isolate for ten days and be symptom free prior to returning to school. (See AHS requirements)
2. Staff testing positive for COVID-19 must isolate for five days and if symptom free may return to school. For the following five days they must always wear a mask when in the presence of others. If this is not possible, the staff member must isolate for ten days.
3. Classrooms with a positive COVID-19 case will no longer be moved to at-home learning for 14 days (AHS measures have changed for close contact). The school will inform the parents of children in the affected classroom (via email) of the positive COVID-19 case. Parents may choose to keep their children home. As always, parents are asked to conduct the daily AHS checklist for symptoms. Where there is a COVID-19 case in the home, partially vaccinated or non-vaccinated students are required to stay home for 14 days as recommended by AHS.
(<https://www.alberta.ca/isolation.aspx>)

Students Becoming Ill at School

1. Parents will pick up their child if they develop symptoms of illness at school during the day. If a child develops symptoms while at school, parents will be called to pick up the child immediately and the child will be brought to an isolated space with care to await pick up.

International Travel

1. Please review Government of Canada requirements as these may change. Students and staff returning from international travel must follow the Government of Canada testing and quarantining and testing requirements. For fully vaccinated students and staff the Government of Canada does not mandate quarantining for 14 days and

as such a negative COVID-19 test from a pharmacy is required (or a note from your child's doctor). For partially vaccinated or non-vaccinated students completing the required quarantine of 14 days and testing requirements, NHS requires an at-home administered rapid antigen test (pharmacy or doctor's test is also acceptable) prior to return to school following completion of the quarantine period.

Mandated Proof of Vaccination or Testing

1. Mandated proof of vaccination or up-to-date COVID-19 test as defined in Administrative Procedure 201 WORKPLACE HEALTH AND SAFETY: COVID-19 HAZARD CONTROL VACCINATION STATUS PROCEDURE. At-home rapid antigen testing is permitted providing that an email is sent to the principal showing the negative test along with time and date of rapid antigen test. This requirement remains in effect until further information is received from the Government of Alberta.

Isolation Requirements

1. Alberta Health Services requirements for isolating must be followed.
2. Where there is a COVID-19 case in the home, partially vaccinated or non-vaccinated students are required to stay home for 10 days as recommended by AHS. (<https://www.alberta.ca/isolation.aspx>)

Cohort Requirements (Removed when Government Step 2 is initiated)

1. Kindergarten to grade 9 students are no longer required to remain in their cohorts (cohort is defined as the students in one classroom) during recess and while inside the school. Note that as in pre-COVID-19 years, the school may have established schedules for playground equipment and specific areas of the playground for grade levels or multiple grade levels.

Other Health and Safety Practices

1. Parents and non-essential persons are permitted in the school providing they have completed the AHS pre-screen for adults, are symptom free and are fully vaccinated or show a time and date stamped negative COVID-19 test.
2. Plans for school events that involve gatherings may be altered at the discretion of the school principal.

	<ol style="list-style-type: none">3. Communal sharing of resources, food and spaces will be limited. Parents will provide and maintain individual student school supplies, water bottle and other resources. If communal sharing of resources is required, students will wash or sanitize their hands before and after using the resources. Water bottle filling stations will remain open while drinking fountains will be closed. When sharing of equipment is required, the equipment shall be cleaned between uses.4. Hand hygiene is expected And hand hygiene procedures will be followed when entering and exiting the school and classrooms and before and after eating. Sanitizer will be available throughout the classrooms, school and at entrances/exits.5. Respiratory etiquette will be taught and reinforced. This includes avoiding touching the face, prompt disposal of used tissues and covering coughs and sneezes with the elbow or tissue.6. Guided foot traffic flow through entrances and hallways using markers on the floor or pylons/barriers. Students and staff should follow directional flow and observe physical distancing whenever possible while moving throughout the school.7. Signage. Signage will be posted on all outside doors reminding individuals with COVID-19 symptoms not to enter the school. Signage will be placed throughout the school including washrooms reminding students and staff to wash or sanitize their hands, and to maintain physical distancing.
2	<p>School Cleaning</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Enhanced School cleaning and disinfecting. Enhanced environmental cleaning and disinfecting, including daily cleaning for all areas of the school, washrooms and high-touch surfaces. These areas will be cleaned several times a day and a regularly scheduled deep cleaning when students are not present will occur. <p>Handwashing.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Students and staff should wash their hands for at least 20 seconds:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• When entering the school and before they go home• Before and after transitions within the school such as recess• Before eating and drinking• After using the bathroom• After playing outside• After coughing or sneezing into their hand

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• When hands are dirty <p>Staff should also wash hands for at least 20 seconds:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Before handling food or assisting students with their food• Before and after giving or applying medication or ointment to a child or self• After contact with body fluids such as runny nose, saliva, etc• After cleaning tasks• After removing gloves• After any clean-up including putting article in garbage receptacles
--	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Plan Monitoring

Daily	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ensure effective application of board required health and safety measures• Supervisor and teacher / Educational Assistant notes on successes and challenges of implementing health and safety measures (using google forms)• Student, staff and parent verbal and written feedback (including classroom discussions, parents phone calls, emails and letters, staff communication to the principal)• Staff reports on classroom implementation of the re-entry plan• Review of identified gaps in the plan's implementation
Mid-month	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Administrator Meeting to discuss plan effectiveness and any required changes to the implementation of health and safety measures• Review of OH&S Risk Assessment Forms submitted by staff• Review communication process with students, parents, and staff regarding how the implementation is working and any changes that are required

Effective March 1, 2022

Monthly	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Staff meeting discussion about plan's effectiveness and discuss potential changes to improve plan effectiveness• Review of AHS data
---------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

****Note:** The Board and Administration may make changes through the ongoing review of the need for health and safety measures due to COVID-19 risks and transmission rates. If transmission rates are low, along with accompanying risks, all or some health and safety measures may be eliminated.