

# 2021-2022 **SCHOOL YEAR PLAN**

**FEBRUARY 3, 2022** 



Every student, every day.

Irsd.ca

## Livingstone Range School Division 2021-2022 **SCHOOL YEAR PLAN**

Livingstone Range School Division is committed to ensuring the health and safety of all students and staff during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. We remain focused on the concerns of families, the physical and mental wellbeing of our students and staff, and maintaining schools that are safe and healthy for all. Our 2021-2022 School Year Plan and COVID-19 strategy is subject to change pending provincial guideline updates.

The following points expand upon or provide clarification about the implementation of the <u>Alberta COVID-19 Guidance for Schools (K-12) and School Buses</u> (updated January 2022), <u>Staying Safe and Healthy This School Year</u>, and <u>Resource Guide for Managing COVID-19 Cases in School (K-12)</u> in Livingstone Range School Division.

#### TRANSMISSION REDUCTION MEASURES

Routine best practices to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19 and other respiratory illnesses will continue to include:

- Promoting and facilitating hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette.
- Enhanced cleaning and disinfection of common areas and high-touch surfaces.
- Staying home when sick. Students, visitors and staff will be expected to use the <u>Alberta Health Daily Checklist</u> to determine if they should attend or stay home.
- Maintaining and monitoring HVAC systems in accordance with manufacturer guidelines and encouraging teachers to open windows and take learning outside when possible.
- Plexiglass barriers in place when required.
- Physical distancing when possible, including separate entrances and staggered class start and end times.
- Large gatherings, such as assemblies, are minimized.

#### **MASKS**

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

- Grade 4-12 students and all staff members, are required to mask while in indoor shared areas of the school, outside the classroom.
- Masks are recommended for K-Grade 3 students.
- Although now strongly recommended, masks are not required while students are seated in the classroom during instruction if students are working quietly and desks are arranged so

students are not facing each other. School staff are in the best position to determine when and where masks are required given their school context.

- All visitors to the school must wear masks.
- Medical-grade masks (such as those provided by the provincial government to staff and students) can be worn to provide additional protection.

As per <u>CMOH Order #34-2021</u>, masks are required to be worn on school buses by all passengers and the driver.

#### **SCREENING FOR ILLNESS**

Students, visitors, and staff will be expected to use the <u>Alberta Health Daily Checklist</u> to determine if they should attend or stay home.

Those experiencing symptoms (see chart below) must not come to school. For those experiencing core symptoms, isolation is required. See Isolation Requirements below and see <u>Alberta Isolation</u> and <u>Quarantine Requirements</u>.

Adults 18 Years and Older	Children Under 18 & High School Students Over 18
Fever (core symptom)	Fever (core symptom)
Cough (core symptom)	Cough (core symptom)
Shortness of Breath (core symptom)	Shortness of Breath (core symptom)
Runny nose (core symptom)	Loss of sense of taste or smell (core symptom)
Sore throat (core symptom)	
Loss of sense of taste or smell (core symptom)	
Chills	Chills
Painful swallowing	Sore throat/painful swallowing
Nasal congestion	Runny nose/congestion
Feeling unwell/fatigued	Feeling unwell/fatigued
Nausea/vomiting/diarrhea	Nausea/vomiting/diarrhea
Unexplained loss of appetite	Unexplained loss of appetite
Muscle/joint aches	Muscle/joint aches

Headache	Headache
Conjunctivitis (pink eye)	Conjunctivitis (pink eye)

Use an at-home rapid test if available or the AHS Online Assessment Tool or call Health Link 811 to arrange for testing.

### **ISOLATION REQUIREMENTS**

Adults 18 Years and Older	Children Under 18 & High School Students Over 18
Experiencing Core Symptoms:	Experiencing Core Symptoms:
Fully immunized adults (a person who has received the complete vaccine series for COVID-19 and it has been 14 days after the final dose) are required to isolate from 5 days from onset of symptoms or until they resolve, whichever is longer. You must wear a mask for up to 5 days after your isolation period when outside your home or in the company of persons out of your household.	Fully immunized children (a person who has received the complete vaccine series for COVID-19 and it has been 14 days after the final dose) are required to isolate from 5 days from onset of symptoms or until they resolve, whichever is longer. You must wear a mask for up to 5 days after your isolation period when outside your home or in the company of persons out of your household.
Not fully immunized adults (a person who has received no vaccine, an incomplete vaccine series, or it has not yet been 14 days since the final vaccine dose) are required to isolate for 10 days from the onset of symptoms or until they resolve, whichever is longer, OR until symptoms resolve if you receive a negative PCR COVID-19 test, OR until symptoms resolve if you receive two negative rapid antigen tests with at least 24 hours between tests.	Not fully immunized children (a person who has received no vaccine, an incomplete vaccine series, or it has not yet been 14 days since the final vaccine dose) are required to isolate for 10 days from the onset of symptoms or until they resolve, whichever is longer, OR until symptoms resolve if you receive a negative PCR COVID-19 test, OR until symptoms resolve if you receive two negative rapid antigen tests with at least 24 hours between tests.
Experiencing 1 or More Non-Core Symptom:	Experiencing 1 Non-Core Symptom:
Stay home. Use an at-home rapid test or use the AHS Online Assessment Tool or call Health Link 811 to determine if testing is recommended.	Keep child home and monitor for 24 hours and consider giving child an at-home rapid test.
	Experiencing 2 or more Non-Core Symptoms:

Keep your child home. Use an at-home rapid test or use the AHS Online Assessment Tool or call Health Link 811 to determine if testing is recommended.

For adults and children who have a positive at-home rapid test, regardless of symptoms, follow the above isolation requirements.

It is highly recommended that household contacts who are NOT fully vaccinated stay home for 14 days from the date of the last household exposure.

#### AT-HOME RAPID TESTS

The Government of Alberta has provided rapid test kits to each staff and student for voluntary, at-home testing. Families who do not wish to receive their allotted kits can contact their school.

As the at-home rapid antigen tests are less sensitive than lab PCR tests, a negative rapid test result does not rule out infection.

Visit Alberta Rapid Testing at Home for information.

#### **COHORTING**

Kindergarten-Grade 6 classes must cohort as much as reasonably possible in order to minimize COVID-19 transmission.

Schools will seek to limit the number of cohorts that K-Grade 6 students are in, as well as limiting the number of classroom cohorts that teachers belong to.

#### **RESPONDING TO ILLNESS**

Any student who becomes symptomatic while at school will be taken to a separate area, their parent/guardian will be contacted to pick the child up, and a mask will be provided if the student does not have one. Symptomatic staff members will leave the school and go home.

#### **CONFIRMED CASES OF COVID-19 & NOTIFICATION**

Alberta Health Services (AHS) will no longer notify Livingstone Range School Division of confirmed cases or COVID-19, nor will they provide contact tracing for close contacts of COVID-19 cases.

#### **TRANSPORTATION**

As per <u>CMOH Order #34-2021</u>, masks are required to be worn on school buses by all passengers and the driver.

Student bus attendance is taken twice daily. Students may be assigned seats. Enhanced cleaning and sanitizing procedures on school buses will continue.

#### **EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

Extracurricular activities such as athletics may continue in LRSD at this time. Spectators will be allowed and will vary depending on the size of our school facilities. Games will be live-streamed when possible to allow family members to watch games online as well. All in-person spectators must wear a mask and physically distance from those not in their household. Inter-school play will be permitted but with minimized games and tournaments.

Where extra-curricular activities require bus transportation, as per <u>CMOH Order #34-2021</u>, masks are required to be worn on school buses by all passengers and the driver.

Participants will be expected to use the <u>Alberta Health Daily Checklist</u> to determine if they should attend or stay home.

#### **FIELD TRIPS**

Field trips are permitted and should follow all provincial health guidelines during transportation and on-site visits.

#### **PERFORMANCE ACTIVITIES**

Students and staff must follow these guidelines while students participate in group performance activities such as singing, dancing, playing instruments, and theatre:

- Maintain 2 metres physical distance between participating students, where possible
- While singing indoors, all singers K-Grade 12 are strongly encouraged to wear masks

Spectators will be allowed and will vary depending on the size of our school facilities. Spectators must wear a mask and physically distance from those not in their household.

#### **FOOD SERVICES**

Classes that teach food preparation may occur as long as students follow general precautions, such as ensuring hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette, wearing non-medical face masks, maintaining 2 metres physical distancing (where possible) and avoiding handling common or shared serving utensils or cookware.

For classroom meals/snacks and in cafeterias, avoid sharing food items, utensils, and buffet-style service.

#### INTERNATIONAL STUDENT TRAVEL

Livingstone Range School Division students will not travel internationally on school-sponsored trips for the 2021-2022 school year.

Students and staff who travel out of Canada will be required to follow applicable <u>federal quarantine</u> <u>regulations</u> upon return.

#### **PROVINCIAL EXAMS**

January 2022 Diploma exams are cancelled. A decision will be made by the province later in 2022 regarding April, June and August diploma exams.

Grade 9 Provincial Achievement Tests (including Part A English Language Arts, Français/French Language Arts and K&E English Language Arts), will be delayed to the week of January 20, 2022.

#### SPECIALIZED SUPPORTS

Individualized and/or specialized supports and services are available to students who require additional support. The Division will consider and enable participation and inclusion of students with disabilities and other individualized learning needs.

#### **MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORTS**

Schools play an important role in promoting healthy development and recognizing early signs of mental health challenges. LRSD is committed to meeting the mental health needs of students and staff, and to ongoing professional development for school staff to identify and support students in crisis.

School administration will work closely with the Division counselling team to ensure appropriate supports are available to students.

<u>Wellness resources for students, staff, and families</u> are available on the Division website. The Government of Alberta's 2021-2022 School Year Plan also includes <u>mental health supports for students and staff.</u> In addition, visit the <u>Alberta COVID-19 Youth Mental Health Resource Hub.</u>

#### **ONLINE LEARNING**

Online learning is an option for Grade 8-12 students through LRSD Pursuits Virtual School.

#### **VACCINES AND IMMUNIZATIONS**

LRSD will continue to work closely with Alberta Health Services (AHS) Public Health on routine in-school immunization programs, as we have for many years.

We encourage all staff, students, and families to stay current on routine immunizations and get vaccinated against COVID-19.

#### **GUIDING DOCUMENTS**

- COVID-19 Guidance for Schools (K-12) and School Buses (updated January 2022)
- Resource Guide for Managing COVID-19 Cases in School (K-12)
- Alberta Health Daily Checklist (updated January 2022)

#### **OTHER RESOURCES**

- LRSD COVID-19 Dashboard
- Alberta Health Services: School During COVID-19
- Staving safe and healthy this school year
- The Alberta COVID-19 Youth Mental Health Resource Hub

