



Grande Prairie
Public School
Division

Avondale School

Newsletter and Re-entry Plan August 2020



Message from the Office

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We have been waiting so long to finally write this: Welcome back to school! For those of you who are new to our Avondale family, we cannot wait to meet you in person. We recognize that you likely have many questions about the return to in-person schooling, and it is our hope that this newsletter helps to answer your questions. After reading, if you continue to have questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school using the information below.

More so than ever, our maintenance, custodial, and instructional staff have been working hard this summer to get our school fully ready to welcome you back. Thank you to our team for their amazing efforts!

Please stay tuned for a video from your child’s teacher, coming out on Monday. This video will introduce you to the teacher, the classroom, and first day procedures (such as which entrance to use and where to go once you enter the school).

We cannot wait to see you soon!

Kristina Black
Principal

Jae LeClerc
Vice Principal

Contact Information

Phone: 780-532-3230

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All instructional staff can be reached by using the email format firstname.lastname@gppsd.ab.ca.

Important Dates for September

Sept. 1st – First Day of School
Sept. 7th – Labour Day – No School
Sept. 11th – Picture Day
Sept. 18th – Professional Learning Day – No School
Sept. 25th – School Spirit Day: Crazy Sock Day
Sept. 30th – Orange Shirt Day

Overview and Purpose

Implementation of this School Re-Entry Plan is subject to change as needed and upon direction from the Chief Medical Officer of Health and Alberta Education. It is based on the best available information and conditions related to the COVID-19 pandemic. This plan will be adjusted as new information becomes available.

School Re-Entry- Scenario 1: Near Normal Operations

Near normal operations means that a student's experience at school will remain relatively the same as it has been in the past. Some things that may be different include physical distancing, use of masks, increased hand hygiene, and entry and exit procedures that are more structured. The school year and school day will remain relatively the same.

Guiding Principles

- The well-being of student and staff is our priority
- Students will experience optimal learning
- The Division will follow all health measures and guidelines established by Alberta Health Services and Alberta Education
- Parents are the primary decision-makers for their child's health and well being
- Staff will engage in professional collaborative learning

At any point during the school year, the Province could decide whether schools across Alberta, schools in a region, or individual schools and classrooms need to move from one scenario to another. This decision will always be made by a medical officer of health in collaboration with education officials.

Supporting Safety and Wellness

Supporting Mental Health and Wellbeing

The experience of living through COVID-19 has created stress, but also resilience. As a Division, maintaining school communities that are welcoming, caring, respectful and safe, where students and staff have a strong sense of belonging, is a priority. In the coming year, supporting the emotional well-being and mental health of students is supported through the implementation of the PATHS (Promoting Alternative Thinking Strategies) program. PATHS is a emotional learning resource for teachers to teach skills such as resiliency, problem solving, and managing emotions, among other things. Staff will also prioritize building relationships and making students feel safe and welcome at school.

COVID-19 Screening

Before leaving home each day, staff, students, visitors, and volunteers who will access the school for work or education, must self-screen for symptoms prior to entering the school using the screening tool (Appendix A below). In some cases, where identified by school or program administrators, active health checks may be necessary.

Anyone who reports symptoms will be directed to stay home, seek health care advice as appropriate (e.g., call Health Link 811, or their primary health care practitioner, or 911 for emergency response), and fill out the [COVID-19 Self-Assessment for Albertans](#) to determine if they should be tested.

Anyone with a pre-existing medical condition (e.g. allergies) who has symptoms that could be caused by COVID-19 should be tested for COVID-19 at least once to confirm that COVID-19 is not the source of their symptoms before entering or returning to school. Please inform the school of any pre-existing conditions.

Responding to Illness

All students and staff will be required to isolate if they develop symptoms during the school day.

Students: If a student develops symptoms while at the school:

- The student will be asked to wear a non-medical mask if they are able to and will be isolated in the designated isolation area or at least 2 meters away from other students.
- The parent/guardian will be notified to pick up the student immediately
- The student’s belongings will be brought to the isolation area.
- Visit <https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/topics/page16944.aspx> for information on self-isolation and testing protocols.

Cohorts

In the provincial re-entry plan, a cohort is defined as a group of students and staff who remain together. While remaining in cohorts all the time is not achievable, we have taken measures to keep the same groups of students together whenever possible. At Avondale, each cohort will consist of one class section. For recess, no more than two cohorts will be combined. For example, Grade 3 and 4 may be together on one area of the playground or field together. When possible, students will remain in their classrooms and teachers will come to them (rather than students moving classrooms). The size of the cohorts may change as students move into our area or return from Learning from Home.

What School Will Look Like

Physical Distancing

Parent Pick-up and Drop-off	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When dropping off students or picking them up, please remain in your vehicle when possible and avoid gathering with others. Parents and visitors are not permitted in the building at this time. • Please pre-arrange a pick-up or drop-off spot that is not near the front entrance of the school. Some possible areas are along 110th Avenue, 108th Avenue, or in the alleyway to the east of the school. • If you need to pick up a child during the day, due to illness or appointment, please call the office at 780-532-3230. A staff member will then meet you at the door to sign your child out to you.
Entering the School in the AM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students in Grades 3-6 and all staff must put on a mask before entering the building. • Students with last names starting with A-L will enter the school at 8:20 (locations indicated on the map below, Appendix B). • Students with last names starting with M-Z will enter the school at 8:25 (locations indicated on the map below, Appendix B). • Any students who arrive at the school after 8:25 will enter through the main entrance and proceed directly to the office to sign in. Students will

	line up (spaced 2m apart) and will wait for a member of the office staff to visually sign them in before heading to class.
Recesses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cohorts will be dismissed from and brought back into the school at staggered times to avoid congestion in the boot rooms and hallways.
Exiting the School in the PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students with last names starting with A-L will exit the school at 3:05. • Students with last names starting with M-Z will exit the school at 3:10. • Students must head directly home if walking, or to their parent/guardian vehicle. There will be no congregating or playing on the playground. Students who are riding the bus will head directly to the busing area.
Physical Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will attend PE classes outside whenever possible, as distances of 2 meters can be more easily maintained in an outdoor environment. • When PE takes place in the gym, students will not share equipment unless it has been disinfected in between users.
Hallway Movement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will move through the hallway by staying on the right-hand side. Floor decals and posters will help to indicate traffic flow patterns.
Bathrooms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bathroom usage will be limited to a maximum of three students at a time.

Masks

Grades 4 through Grade 12 students and staff members must wear a non-medical face mask that covers their mouth and nose while attending an indoor location within the school unless the student or staff member:

- is seated at a desk or table within a classroom where the desks, tables and chairs are arranged in a manner to prevent persons who are seated from facing each other and to allow the greatest possible distance between seated persons (may be less than 2m);
- is consuming food or drink in a designated area
- is engaged in physical exercise
- is separated from every other person by a physical barrier
- is unable to wear a non-medical face mas due to a medical concern or limitation and has worked with school administration for an exemption

Kindergarten through Grade 3 students while at school do not have to wear a non-medical face mask, however we are asking those who are able to wear a mask, to do so. **Please note:** Grade 3 students at Avondale must wear a mask, as they are a part of a combined Grade 3/4 class.

All students, regardless of age, are required to wear a mask when they ride a school bus.

Staff members in a designated area at the front of the class with at least two meters of space between them and the nearest person can remove their mask.

Visitors in our Division are always required to wear a mask.

Everyone must sanitize hands when they enter or leave the school or classroom and when they put on or remove a face mask.

All students will be provided with two reusable masks from the Province.

Students should carry a backup mask and a Ziploc bag for the safe storage of unused masks during the school day. Reusable masks that are not damp or dirty that will be re-worn prior to washing should be stored in a clean, breathable bag or container.

Visitors and Volunteers Entering the school

Non-essential school personnel, including parents and volunteers, will not be permitted in the school at this time.

Visitors, including parents, will only be permitted in the school by appointment. All visitors must self-screen using the attached screening tool (Appendix A below) before they enter the school.

- If the individual answers 'YES' to any of the questions, they will not be admitted into the school.

Supplies

- The Province is providing two masks for each student. Please send at least one extra mask in the student's backpack, stored in a Ziplock bag.
- Please send a small, breathable (not plastic) bag or container for masks to be stored in when they are not being used (e.g. when students are eating or when they go for recess).
- Go [here](#) to see the list of school supplies for your child(ren), organized by grade.
- All student supplies will be kept separate from the supplies of other students. Please label large items such as pencil boxes. Each individual item (e.g. crayons, erasers) do not need to be labelled.

Use of Cubbies and Hooks (if needed)

- At the beginning of the year, students will be keeping their backpack, lunch, and coat at their desk. When needed, such as when students begin to wear winter gear, the coat hooks and cubbies may be used.

Food Services

- Individuals are not permitted to share food.
- Food provided by the family should be stored with the student's belongings.
- All students must sanitize their hands before and after eating.
- Microwaves will not be available to students at this time.
- If students require a lunch from the Nutrition Program, one will be brought to them from the office.

Music Programming

Band, Choir, and Musical Theatre courses will not be offered at this time. In addition, singing will not be permitted at school. Avondale Music classes will include lessons focused on:

- Music appreciation and music theory
- Percussion instruments

Physical Education

- When possible, physical education will be done outside instead of inside.
- Masks will not be worn during physical activity.

School Council Meetings

The Avondale School Council will first meet on Wednesday, September 9th at 6:30 p.m., and on the first Wednesday of every month after that. Meetings will take place virtually, at least initially. Stay tuned for more information on how to join the meeting. We would love to have you join our School Council!

Appendix A: COVID-19 Screening Questionnaire

COVID-19 INFORMATION

Screening Questionnaire

COVID-19 ALBERTA HEALTH DAILY CHECKLIST

PARENTS/GUARDIANS/STUDENTS MUST USE THIS QUESTIONNAIRE DAILY TO DECIDE IF THE STUDENT SHOULD ATTEND SCHOOL

The tool is meant to be used to assist with assessing attendees who may be symptomatic, or who may have been exposed to someone who is ill or has confirmed COVID-19.

Attendees should fill out this checklist prior entering school daily. If an individual answers YES to any of the questions, they must not be allowed to attend school. Children and youth will need a parent to assist them to complete this screening tool.

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to evolve, this screening tool will be updated as required.

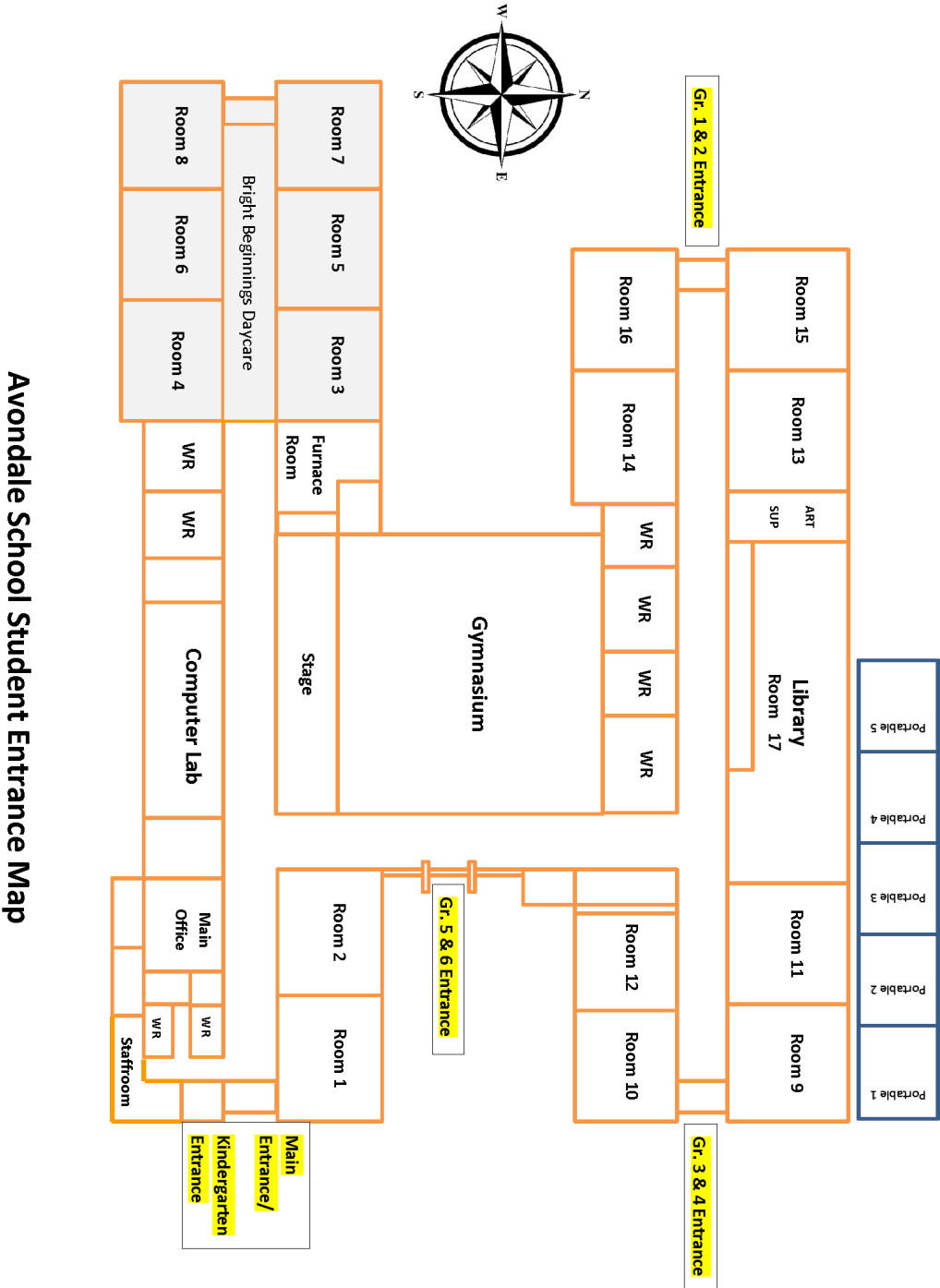
Screening Questions

1.	Does the attendee have any new onset (or worsening) of any of the following	CIRCLE ONE	
		YES	NO
	• Fever	YES	NO
	• Cough	YES	NO
	• Shortness of Breath / Difficulty Breathing	YES	NO
	• Sore throat	YES	NO
	• Chills	YES	NO
	• Painful swallowing	YES	NO
	• Runny Nose / Nasal Congestion	YES	NO
	• Feeling unwell / Fatigued	YES	NO
	• Nausea / Vomiting / Diarrhea	YES	NO
	• Unexplained loss of appetite	YES	NO
	• Loss of sense of taste or smell	YES	NO
	• Muscle/ Joint aches	YES	NO
	• Headache	YES	NO
	• Conjunctivitis (Pink Eye)	YES	NO
2.	Has the attendee travelled outside of Canada in the last 14 days?	YES	NO
3.	Has the attendee had close contact* with a confirmed case of COVID-19 in the last 14 days?	YES	NO
4.	Has the attendee had close contact with a symptomatic** close contact of a confirmed case of COVID-19 in the last 14 days?	YES	NO

* Face-to-face contact within 2 metres. A health care worker in a occupational setting wearing the recommended personal protective equipment is not considered to be a close contact.

** 'Ill/symptomatic' means someone with COVID-19 symptoms on the list above

Appendix B: Avondale School Entrance Map



Avondale School Student Entrance Map