



Parent Guide to Re-Entry for Early Childhood Services – Preschool and Kindergarten

We look forward to welcoming your child to CBE schools that offer Early Childhood Services (ECS), or preschool and kindergarten programs. The information in this document should be considered with the [CBE Scenario 1 re-entry](#) plan previously published and available to the public on the CBE website.

Before School Starts

Many schools will be offering staggered entry days before children are expected to attend entire classes together. Your school will be in contact with you if they are offering a staggered entry.

Keeping Everyone Safe

Keeping children safe at school is a shared responsibility between parents and school staff.

- Parents must assess their children daily for symptoms of COVID-19 using the [Self-Screening questionnaire](#). The link will allow you to download the most current Alberta Health Daily Checklist.
- Kindergarten children will be wearing masks while at school. We will be providing guidelines on how students and staff are able to take breaks from wearing masks over the course of the day. These guidelines will be updated as it becomes available on the CBE [site](#).
- Children will be frequently reminded to follow proper hand hygiene and respiratory protocols (wash hands frequently, sneeze/cough into elbow) before they leave home, as well as when they enter and exit the school.
- Physical distancing may not be possible in all our classrooms. In preschool and kindergarten, staff often assist children with specific tasks and provide support for emotional and physical well-being. While physical distancing may not always be possible, staff will wear face masks.
- ECS classrooms will operate in cohorts which include staff and children. A cohort is defined as a group of children and staff members assigned to stay together throughout the day. Cohort size depends on the classroom size and the number of children assigned to the teacher.
- Snack time is a common and important aspect of the preschool and kindergarten day. Children will continue to bring their snacks with them from home and all food will remain stored in the child's backpack until consumed. Children will be required to wash their hands before and after eating.
- Parents are asked to leave non-essential personal items at home. Essential items may include clearly labeled backpacks, indoor shoes, coats and water bottles.

Classroom Set Up

To keep everyone as safe as possible, there have been changes to our classrooms.

- Classrooms will have most non-essential items removed to allow for open space and clear pathways.
- Schools that have extra classroom space will arrange to have AM/PM classes in different rooms and using cohort-specific materials.
 - Shared equipment will be cleaned and disinfected between each cohort use.
 - Shared spaces, structures and toys that cannot be cleaned and disinfected between cohorts will not be used.
 - Each child will have an individually labeled container or bag for personal school supplies.
 - Children will have assigned hooks or spots to place their coats and backpacks.
 - Drop off and pick up routines will be school specific. These routines will adhere to the physical distancing guidelines.

Playgrounds

- Outdoor learning and playing is encouraged. When using the school playground, school will adhere to the [COVID-19 Guidance for Playgrounds](#).
- All equipment and resources used outdoors will be cohort specific or cleaned and sanitized between each use.

Diapering

- Classrooms that have children who require diapering will follow the [AHS diapering procedures](#).

Visiting the School

- All parents/guardians entering the school/classroom should be minimized. This is in keeping with direction provided by AHS and Alberta Education regarding measures implemented to ensure health and safety of our schools. When entry to the school or classroom must take place, visitors must follow CBE protocols.
- Parents and guardians of ECS children should follow school specific protocols for picking up and dropping off their children. Each school will have designated entry and exit doors assigned for specific classrooms and parents/guardians are asked to adhere to these protocols.