



Frequently Asked Questions

The AH Safe Return to Campus Plan Junior School (K-5) Information

This document is an abbreviated summary of the larger [Aberdeen Hall Safe Return to Campus Plan](#). We encourage all community members to read through the larger document for a detailed look at the protocols and procedures in place for September.

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The guidelines and procedures outlined in this document are for the transition from Stage 3 of the “Education Stages of K-12 Students” to Stage 2.

STAGE 1	STAGE 2	STAGE 3	STAGE 4	STAGE 5
Learning Group Size <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elementary: N/A Middle: N/A Secondary: N/A 	Learning Group Size <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elementary: 60 Middle: 60 Secondary: 120 	Learning Group Size <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elementary: 30 Middle: 30 Secondary: 60 	Learning Group Size <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elementary: 30 Middle: 30 Secondary: 30 	Learning Group Size <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elementary: 0 Middle: 0 Secondary: 0
DENSITY TARGETS: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not applicable 	DENSITY TARGETS: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not applicable 	DENSITY TARGETS: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 50% for all schools 	DENSITY TARGETS: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 25% for all schools 	DENSITY TARGETS: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 0% for all schools
IN-CLASS INSTRUCTION: Full-time all students, all grades	IN-CLASS INSTRUCTION: Full-time instruction for all students for the maximum instructional time possible within cohort limits. Self-directed learning supplements in-class instruction, if required.	IN-CLASS INSTRUCTION: Full-time instruction for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> children of essential service workers students with disabilities/diverse abilities students who require additional supports In-class instruction for all other students for the maximum time possible within cohort limits. Self-directed and remote learning supplements in-class instruction.	IN-CLASS INSTRUCTION: Full-time instruction for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> children of essential service workers students with disabilities/diverse abilities students who require additional supports Remote learning for all other students	IN-CLASS INSTRUCTION: Suspend in-class for all students

Why is Aberdeen Hall opening up on-campus schooling?

On September 8, Aberdeen Hall is opening up in accordance with BC’s Education Restart Plan, **Stage 2**. We are stringently following all mandates from the Provincial Government. The school will remain in this stage unless further designations are made in BC.

In-class instruction provides students with peer engagement, supports social and emotional development and decreases feelings of isolation.

School also provides many students access to programs and services they can't get at home and is integral to their overall health.

Is attendance in-class optional?

Like every year, students who are registered in "bricks and mortar" schools are expected to attend school in-person, unless they are sick.

At Aberdeen Hall, we are fortunate to have class sizes that correspond well to the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Health’s learning group sizes. This means that all students can attend school in-person and that online learning is not required in this stage.

Please note that, according to the Provincial Health Officer and the BC Centre for Disease Control, most children who are immunocompromised can return to in-class instruction when safety measures are in place. Protective self isolation is only recommended for children who are severely

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immunocompromised, as determined on a case-by-case basis. Parents/caregivers seeking an alternative to in-class instruction will be required to obtain a doctor's note indicating the need for accommodations due to health-related risks.

What will learning look like if my child is sick or unable to attend class?

Although we are not permitted to run online courses during Stage 2, our regular programming will be available to support learners who are absent due to illness.

What is a Learning Group?

A learning group is a group of students and staff who remain together throughout the year and who primarily interact with each other. Learning groups were recommended by the Provincial Health Officer to help reduce the transmission of COVID-19.

Learning groups are smallest in elementary and middle schools (60 students) because it is more challenging for younger students to maintain physical distance.

At Aberdeen Hall, our learning groups correspond to student grades. The homeroom teachers for each grade are included in the learning group, as well as specific specialist teachers and/or learning support teachers. There are some instances where students will be taught by (and will interact with) an adult outside of their learning group (such as other specialist teachers or teachers-on-call), in which case employees will follow the protocols outlined in the [Provincial COVID-19 Health & Safety Guidelines for K-12 Settings](#)

Junior School Learning Group Name
Kindergarten
Grade 1
Grade 2
Grade 3
Grade 4
Grade 5

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What do I need to do before I bring my child to school to ensure we safeguard the school community?

You are REQUIRED to assess your child's health *daily* for symptoms of common cold, influenza, COVID-19, or other infectious respiratory disease. Additionally, PRIOR to the first day of school, you will be asked to complete a permission form indicating that you understand the daily requirements to assess your child's health according to the "Daily Health Check Example" that will be attached to the permission form.

Please find the [Daily Health Check](#) here.

All students and employees who:

- have symptoms of common cold, influenza, COVID-19 or other infectious respiratory diseases, OR
- have travelled outside Canada in the last 14 days, OR
- were identified as a close contact of a confirmed case or outbreak

must stay home, seek assessment from a healthcare provider and self-isolate as they await results of any testing.

Once results and guidance from a health care provider are received (indicating it is safe to return to school), and symptoms have resolved for 24 hours, the student may return to school.

Students who experience seasonal allergies or COVID-19 -like symptoms, which are related to an existing condition, can continue to attend school when they are experiencing these symptoms as normal. If they experience any change in symptoms, they should seek assessment by a health care provider.

Students may attend school if a member of their household has cold, influenza or COVID-19 like symptoms, provided the student is asymptomatic. It is expected that the symptomatic household member seeks assessment by a health care provider.

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If a student is confirmed to have COVID-19, public health will do an investigation to confirm if any students or employees have been in close contact with that person, and need to self isolate. Public health will inform the school and Head of School if there are close contacts of a confirmed case within a learning group or school.

Additionally, schools will provide learning support to students required to self-isolate. Together, schools and public health officials will determine if suspending in-class learning is necessary.

For detailed information on Aberdeen Hall's health and safety protocols, including information on cleaning schedules and dealing with illness onset during the day, please see our [Aberdeen Hall Safe Return to Campus](#)

Will transportation be available?

Bussing will be available.

The following guidelines have been implemented for student transportation on Aberdeen Hall buses:

- Buses used for transporting students will be cleaned and disinfected according to the guidance provided by BCCDC's Guidelines on Cleaning and Disinfectants. Additional guidance is available from Transport Canada.
- Bus drivers will clean their hands often, including before and after completing trips. They are encouraged to regularly use alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol during trips.
- Bus drivers will assess themselves daily for symptoms of common cold, influenza, or COVID-19 prior to entering the school or worksite.
- Bus drivers are required to wear a non-medical mask, a face covering or a face shield (in which case a non-medical mask should be worn in addition to the face shield) when they cannot maintain physical distance or be behind a physical barrier in the course of their duties. Schools will have non-medical masks.
- Parents and caregivers must assess their child daily for symptoms of common cold, influenza, COVID-19, or other infectious respiratory disease before sending them to school. If a child has any symptoms, they must not take the bus or go to school.
- Guest passengers on the bus will not be permitted, only those assigned to the route may ride.

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- Students may not consume food or beverages while riding the bus, with the exception of a personal water bottle. Lunch and snacks must remain in the students backpack or lunch kit.
- Students should clean their hands before they leave home to take the bus, when they leave school prior to taking the bus, and when they get home.
- Where possible, bus line up areas should be set up to prevent crowding, and allow for physical distancing of 2m. Schools will attempt to provide support for students who are not able to physically distance.
- Non-medical masks are not recommended for elementary school students due to the increased likelihood they will touch their face and eyes, as well as require assistance to properly put on and take off their mask (requiring increased close personal contact from school staff).
- Liquid Sanitization pumps will be available for use on all school buses.
- Assigned seating will be arranged and implemented. Aberden Hall will keep up-to-date passenger and seating arrangement lists to share with public health should contact tracing need to occur. The seating arrangement can be altered whenever necessary to support student health and safety (e.g. accommodating children with a physical disability, responding to behavioural issues, etc.)
- Students will have their own bench (unless sharing with a member of their household) and sit separated side to side and front to back.

Private vehicle use and active transportation (e.g. biking, walking, etc.) are encouraged where possible to decrease transportation density.

How will student mental health and well-being be attended to during this time?

Students will continue to have access to their homeroom teachers as a first level of support. School administration, resource teachers, and our school counsellor will also be available to support students in need. Students will be instructed on and reminded of these support systems upon their return to school, along with how to access them.

How will Healthy Habits be reinforced in the Junior School?

Students will be educated on and reminded of physical distancing practices, hand health, and respiratory etiquette. They will also be asked to show their gratitude towards peers through words, instead of hugs or high fives.

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How will Junior School move around the building?

Movement of groups of students around and between buildings and other campus locations will be minimized and managed by a teacher. Directional indicators managing flow of people will be placed on entrances and exits, and floors and walls around each building.

What will access to campus look like?

Only Aberdeen Hall employees, students, and approved visitors will be allowed in the school. Visitors will be prioritized to those supporting activities that benefit student learning and well-being. Visitors will be made aware of health and safety protocols and requirements prior to entering the school and their contact information will be taken, including the requirement that visitors wear masks when entering any building.

This means that in Stage 2 schooling, parents may not enter schools unless they have made an appointment. Supplies drop offs (lunches, instruments, etc.) during the day should be arranged by calling Reception.

What are the Drop-off /Pick-up Times, Locations and Procedures?

Parents will park in the parking lot and walk up the sidewalk following the same pattern that traffic would in the roundabout. Walking towards the Junior School, passing the Early Learning Centre on the right, leaving by continuing to walk around the roundabout, with the recycling bins on the right hand side. Directional arrows will help guide this process.

All students will be greeted by a teacher or member of administration to guide them into the building (**no parents or caregivers may enter the building**). If a child has difficulty separating, staff can reassure them verbally; however, we will not be able to physically comfort them in keeping with safety protocols. **Please move swiftly and quickly through the roundabout during drop-off and pick-up, avoiding social conversations. Thank you.**

For the FIRST WEEK, the Junior School will follow a staggered drop off in the morning by family name. Please note the times below:

8:00-8:15 (R-Z)

8:15-8:30 (J-Q) (*any families with Preschool students may drop off at this time as well, regardless of last name*)

8:30-8:45 (A-I)

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For the remainder of the year, we will follow the schedule below:

Drop-off & Pick-up Times	Cohort	Location
Drop-off: 8:00am - 8:15am Departure: 3:30pm	All bus students	Junior School Roundabout
Drop-off: 8:00am - 8:20am	Kindergarten	Junior School Roundabout to the ELC Bottom Entrance (down the fire lane, across from the playground)
	Kindergarten C	Junior School Roundabout to the Junior School Upper Back Door
	Grade 1, 2 & 5	Junior School Roundabout to Junior School Main Entrance
	Grades 3 & 4	Junior School Roundabout to Junior School Side Entrance (near the Senior School)
Pick-up: 3:15pm - 3:30pm	Kindergarten (A,B,C)*	Firelane, next to the ELC
	Grades 1 & 2	Wood Chips by the Junior School Main Entrance
	Grade 3	Junior School Sports Court
	Grades 4 & 5	Field

*Please note that Kindergarten is Gradual Entry for the first two weeks Sept 8-18th); pick up is at 12:00pm.

After School Care (previously known as Earls Homework Club) will continue; please [click here](#) to register. Co-curricular clubs will also be offered in a way that aligns with Stage 2 requirements. Sign up will be provided to families via the Tuesday Reminders and Friday Courier at the end of September, 2020.

If a child has a medical appointment that is scheduled during school hours please contact JS Front Reception and email their homeroom teacher.

What personal hygiene measures will be in place for JS students and employees?

Hand washing or sanitizing will take place for both students and employees:

- after entering and before departing the school buildings
- before and after snacks and meals
- before and after outdoor play
- after using the washroom
- after using a tissue
- after coughing or sneezing
- when hands are visibly dirty
- at least once per two hours, managed by teachers

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Additionally, teachers will wash or sanitize their hands:

- before and after applying any First Aid to students or self
- after contact with bodily fluids (runny noses, spit, vomit, blood)
- after cleaning tasks
- after handling garbage
- after removing gloves

What can my child bring to school?

Personal belongings required:

- Backpack
- Jacket
- Outdoor running shoes
- Black indoor uniform shoes
- Water bottle
- Lunch kit
- PE uniform (Grades 2-5; no PE uniform required in grades K-1)
- Required school supplies (Grades 4 & 5 only; individual supplies are provided in grades K-3)

On Mondays, students will wear their number 1 uniform; on Tuesday - Friday, students can choose to wear their number 1 or number 2 uniform.

Please do not send anything else to school with your child unless it is specifically requested by their homeroom teacher.

How will snacks, lunch and daily breaks be handled in the Junior School?

There will be no food service provided at the school. Parents must provide students with all food required for the day. All snacks and lunches will be eaten in the classrooms. No sharing of food is permitted. There will be no microwaves available for warming-up food.

Students will be brought outdoors during designated day breaks and will be supervised by a teacher. No sporting equipment can be brought from home. Students can use equipment provided by the school to their Learning Group.

What about Personal Protective Equipment in the Junior School?

Wearing a non-medical mask or face covering within elementary schools is a personal choice for students. Non-medical masks or face coverings may be useful when physical distance cannot be consistently maintained and the person is interacting with people outside of their cohort for extended periods of time. Students that do not wear non-medical masks, must still seek to maintain physical distance from students outside of their learning group. **It is important to treat students wearing masks with respect.**

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How will the campus, including the classrooms, look different?

The sidewalks and building hallways have been signed with directional indicators to aid in the movement of teachers and students. All external doors have signage to indicate the grades using each entry and exit point. Handwashing sinks and portable sanitizing stations have been increased around the campus to assist in overall hygiene.

What will the Learning Format and Scheduling look like?

Our daily schedule will be similar to last year. Classes will be approximately 50 minutes long, and students will have 6 blocks a day, with lunch and three recesses. Students' courses will generally be year-long (linear).

APPENDIX A: DAILY HEALTH SCREENING

Daily Health Check			
1. Symptoms of Illness*	Does your child have any of the following symptoms?	CIRCLE ONE	
	Fever	YES	NO
	Chills	YES	NO
	Cough or worsening of chronic cough	YES	NO
	Shortness of breath	YES	NO
	Sore throat	YES	NO
	Runny nose / stuffy nose	YES	NO
	Loss of sense of smell or taste	YES	NO
	Headache	YES	NO
	Fatigue	YES	NO
	Diarrhea	YES	NO
	Loss of appetite	YES	NO
	Nausea and vomiting	YES	NO
	Muscle aches	YES	NO
	Conjunctivitis (pink eye)	YES	NO
	Dizziness, confusion	YES	NO
	Abdominal pain	YES	NO
Skin rashes or discoloration of fingers or toes	YES	NO	
2. International Travel	Have you or anyone in your household returned from travel outside Canada in the last 14 days?	YES	NO
3. Confirmed Contact	Are you or is anyone in your household a confirmed contact of a person confirmed to have COVID-19?	YES	NO

*Check BCCDC's [Symptoms of COVID-19](#) regularly to ensure the list is up to date.

If you answered "YES" to any of the questions and the symptoms are not related to a pre-existing condition (e.g. allergies) your child should **NOT** come to school.

If they are experiencing any symptoms of illness, contact a health-care provider for further assessment. This includes 8-1-1, or a primary care provider like a physician or nurse practitioner.

If you answered "YES" to questions 2 or 3, use the [COVID-19 Self-Assessment Tool](#) to determine if you should be tested for COVID-19.

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