



Frequently Asked Questions

The AH Safe Return to Campus Plan

Senior School (Gr 6-12) 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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Background

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 school 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.

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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 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 and who primarily interact with each other. Learning Groups in Grades 6-8 are limited to 60, while High School groups will not exceed 120 members. In the Senior School, the Learning Groups have been designated as follows:

- Grade 6
- Grade 7
- Grade 8
- Grades 9 and 10
- Grades 11 and 12

When interacting with peers outside of their learning group, students should maintain physical distance (2m), and are to wear masks if possible. Desks and tables will be configured to promote physical distancing guidelines of 2 metres between persons if students are not in the same learning group.

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When employees, including specialist, TOC and learning support teachers, are interacting with a learning group they are not a part of, they will follow the protocols outlined in the [Provincial COVID-19 Health & Safety Guidelines for K-12 Settings](#).

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.

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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.

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 Plan](#).

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

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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.
- 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.
- **Middle and secondary students are required to wear non-medical masks when they are on the bus. Exceptions will be made for students who cannot wear masks for medical reasons.**
- 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 advisors and 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.

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What is the safest way to drop off my child?

Parents will either drop off their child in the Senior School roundabout or will park in the Senior School lot and their child will walk into the school through their designated entrance. Students are required to practice physical distancing and to wear masks whenever possible while entering and exiting the school.

Middle School Entrance/Exit is the top floor of the Hanlon Senior School and the High School Entrance/Exit is the second floor of the Holzhey Hall. Faculty members will assist students in following traffic flow. Hallways and stairways will have clearly marked directional arrows. When travelling in shared spaces they will be instructed to practice physical distancing and wear masks when possible.

Parents are asked not to congregate in the parking areas so that physical distancing requirements are maintained.

Please note: On the first day of school, September 8, we will be running a staggered arrival based on last names. We ask that parents who are dropping off their children in the Senior School roundabout do so during the allotted time. If you have students in Junior School and in Senior School, please adhere to the staggered schedule for the first week.

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)

For the remainder of the school year, regular drop-off and pick-up times will resume.

How should parents access campus?

Only Aberdeen Hall employees, students, and approved visitors will be allowed in the school. This means that in **Stage 2** schooling, parents may not enter schools unless they have made an appointment. Visitors will be made aware of health and safety protocols and requirements prior to entering the school and their contact

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information will be taken, including the requirement that visitors wear masks when entering any building.

Supplies drop offs (lunches, instruments, etc.) during the day should be arranged by calling Reception.

How will students learn the new protocols?

Prior to the school year, students will be asked to watch an orientation video, which will explain the protocols. Students will also receive education and guidance on school safety procedures during the first week of school.

What can my child bring to school?

Necessary items only such as a backpack, jacket, school supplies, educational tech, headphones, water bottle, lunch kit and PE kit are to be brought to school. Students should not share personal items including electronic devices and pens/pencils.

Students can continue to use their lockers as they will be in the same learning group with the students around them and it is better for personal items to be stored in a locker than to be stored in classrooms or carried throughout the school.

Students will wear their #1 uniform on Mondays and their #2 uniforms Tuesday-Friday.

How will snacks, lunch and daily breaks be handled?

At this time, there will be no food service provided at the school. At drop-off, parents must provide students with all food required for the day. In the Middle School, lunches will be eaten in the classrooms. In the High School, lunches will be eaten in designated common areas. No sharing of food is permitted.

There will be no microwaves available for students.

What about Personal Protective Equipment?

As mandated by BC, non-medical masks are required to be used in situations where a person cannot maintain physical distance and is in close proximity to a person outside of their learning group or household. Students are required to have a mask of their choice, that fits properly and can be worn during the school day. Families are asked to purchase masks that fit their children comfortably and safely. In addition, the school will provide one reusable mask for every student.

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Students in Middle and High School and all employees who work in the Middle and High School building (Hanlon Senior School) are required to wear a non-medical mask in high traffic areas such as buses and in common areas such as hallways, or anytime outside of their learning group whenever physical distancing cannot be maintained. Students are expected to wear a mask as they enter and exit the building at the beginning and end of the day.

Exceptions will be made for students who cannot wear masks for medical reasons. No student needs to wear a non-medical mask if they do not tolerate it.

Information about COVID related mask use can be found on the [BCCDC website](#) and the [Government of Canada website](#).

Learning Formats and Scheduling

Middle School:

Our daily schedule will be similar to last year. Classes will be approximately 60 minutes long, and students will take 5 blocks a day, with lunch and two recesses. Students' courses will generally be year-long (linear) with the exception of some specialty programming such as Art/Drama/ADST.

High School:

Our daily schedule will be similar to last year. Classes will be approximately 65 minutes long, and students will take 5 blocks a day. Grade 10-12 students will have one double block per day.

Please see the detailed [newsletter here](#) that explains the changes made to courses, scheduling and on-campus learning in the High School. Some of the changes include, but are not limited to:

- Reducing the number of full-year courses taught in Grade 9
- Changing to a sixmester timetable and course system in Grades 10-12

For both Middle & High School:

Although on-campus learning will appear much like it has in previous years to provide normalcy and programming excellence, a number of protocols have been developed to ease the transition should a change to other stages of schooling be necessary. An example of one of these changes is:

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- the use of MySchool and Google Classroom by teachers, students and parents from the outset of school. Teachers will upload lesson plans for each day's class that include links to any materials that can/should be accessed online.
- although this process is not a full online program, it will support learners who are absent due to illness, and will help ease the transition to other stages (if necessary) as students, parents and teachers will be familiar with the process.
- this process has been simplified for ease of use of students, teachers and parents.

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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