



**L A C O M B E
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL**

2021-2022

LIFTING RESTRICTIONS PLAN

Information for Parents & Guardians

Released: August 23, 2021

Where We Are

We want to thank Lacombe Christian School staff, students, parents and guardians who all worked very hard over the last 16 months to keep students and staff safe while minimizing the spread of COVID-19. Now, with the availability of vaccines, Alberta Education has developed a plan to ease or remove public health measures in schools and we are eager to welcome students back to school.

From Mandatory Health Measures to Health Best Practices

All students, staff, teachers and visitors are required to follow health measures mandated by the Chief Medical Officer of Health and/or measures implemented by an Alberta Health Services (AHS) Zone Medical Officer of Health. Parents/guardians play an essential role in the safety of students and staff as they support actions in the home, such as keeping children/students home when sick and encouraging hand washing that ultimately keep other children, students and staff safe.

The decision to be vaccinated is a personal choice. According to the Personal Information Protection Act and the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, staff must respect the health privacy of students, including their vaccination status. Currently, Albertans born in 2009 or before are eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine and by Fall 2021 it is expected that the majority of individuals in this age group will have had the opportunity to be fully vaccinated with two doses of the COVID-19 vaccine.

Recommendations for routine, outbreak and/or enhanced measures will be reviewed and updated in August 2021 by the Alberta government.

Returning to Normal

The Alberta government anticipates that in-school learning will return to normal in the Fall and in August they will confirm health practices and measures that will be in place, and share how learning will resume in September. LCS staff are excited to welcome students back to normal, or close to normal, conditions. This plan is focused on a normal return to school, with in-school learning for the majority of students in the fall of 2021.

Easing Restrictions

Anyone sick with symptoms of COVID-19 or any respiratory virus needs to stay home until they are well. COVID-19 testing availability for those with symptoms has been extended by the Alberta Government for six weeks to provide an additional monitoring period during the start of school. During this time, it will remain a legal requirement for those with COVID-19 to stay home for 10 days.

AHS is no longer identifying or following up with individual close contacts and quarantine for close contacts is no longer legally mandatory. All Albertans, including those who may be told that they are a close contact, are asked to monitor for symptoms and stay home and get tested if they are feeling unwell.

To monitor your children daily for COVID-19 symptoms, continue to refer to the daily health

assessment at: [Alberta Health Daily Checklist](#)

Routine measures to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19 and other respiratory illnesses will continue. That includes promoting and facilitating hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette, staying home when sick, maintaining ventilation and ensuring regular cleaning and disinfecting of high traffic/touch areas. More information on Alberta Health guidance can be found at:

[Guidance for Respiratory Illness and Management in Schools.](#)

AHS will continue to manage outbreaks of respiratory illness in school settings, similar to the management of influenza or influenza-like illness.

Additional measures may be considered or recommended if a school experiences a COVID-19 outbreak.

Provincial Achievement Tests (PATs) will resume as per normal practice in the 2021-2022 school year.

School authorities can continue to offer extra-curricular activities, and must follow public health measures that may be in place.

In the event of a resurgence of the COVID-19 pandemic that impacts the province of Alberta and its ECS to Grade 12 education system, two contingencies will be considered:

- Scenario 1: In-school classes (near-normal with enhanced health measures)
- Scenario 2: At-home learning (in-school classes are suspended)

What this means for Lacombe Christian School is that school operations, student learning and activities will return to normal, but we remain focused on the concerns of families and vigilant in maintaining schools that are safe and healthy for all.

To that end, I can provide more information regarding our efforts in the following:

Additional health measures

Enhanced cleaning and sanitizing of both campuses, especially high touch areas will continue. We will continue to promote frequent hand hygiene and good respiratory etiquette. This is an important part of ensuring a healthy school environment.

This past year, face masks were mandated for all students in grades 4 to 9, and were optional for students in K-3. Although face masks are not mandated in schools this year, students and staff are encouraged to wear a mask if they desire to do so.

To begin the school year, masks will be mandatory for ALL K-9 STUDENTS AND STAFF while riding the school bus, until further notice.

Cohorting will not be required, but may be recommended by Alberta Health for a short period if a school experiences a respiratory illness outbreak.

Expectation for sick students or staff

As you are aware, there is a shift in the monitoring and testing of COVID-19 in Alberta. Regardless of this shift, the practice we all must follow is that anyone sick with symptoms of COVID-19 or any respiratory virus stay home until they are well. Please ensure that you continue to monitor your

child each day using the [Alberta Health Daily Checklist](#). Students who have to miss class due to illness will be supported by their teacher. Please make sure you are in contact with your child's teacher if your child misses class due to illness, or for any other reason.

Notification of a confirmed case in school

This past year, schools were directly involved with Alberta Health in contact tracing. As provincial testing for COVID-19 is shifting, schools will not be directly involved in notification in regards to a confirmed case of COVID-19. As with any health risk or illness in a school, we will continue to communicate with families around health and safety measures and provide detailed information as needed, such as in the event of an outbreak. More information on these measures can be found in the [Guidance for Respiratory Illness and Management in Schools](#) document.

Transportation

Masks will be required on the bus for all students and staff until further notice. Additionally, Wolf Creek and Prairie Bus Lines will continue to implement enhanced cleaning and sanitizing procedures on school buses. This will continue to involve disinfecting school buses, including seats, after each run. Bus drivers will have seating plans for their buses, and will have the ability to change those plans throughout the year as needed.

School activities

As of the start of the school year, school activities, such as performances, field trips, sport competitions and celebratory events such as graduation and class farewells are permitted, but may require enhanced health and safety measures. As the school year continues, these events will be subject to change pending any changes to provincial health orders and requirements.

Next Steps

Implementation of this Plan is subject to change with direction from the Chief Medical Officer of Health. Alberta Education will continue to engage with education partners as part of this process. All public health recommendations will be reviewed and updated in August 2021 by the Alberta government. LCS will continue to update this plan based upon the direction of Alberta Health Services and recommendations of the Chief Medical Officer of Health. Parents will be notified whenever this plan is updated.

"I'm pleased that students can expect a return to a normal school year in September. With the continuation of Alberta's Open for Summer plan, Alberta's government expects the extensive health measures currently in place in schools will be eased or lifted. We have a detailed plan for next school year that includes contingency scenarios for continuing student learning in case there is a significant change in the COVID-19 situation. Alberta Education together with Alberta Health will provide more details about the upcoming school year in the summer."

Adriana LaGrange, Minister of Education