

August 2021

Menno Simons Christian School School Re-Entry Plan



Table of Contents

Table of Contents	2
Thoughts from Administration	4
General	5
Follow Expert Advice	5
Keep the Virus Out	5
Prevent the Spread	5
Working with Families	5
Staff or Students Who Become Symptomatic at School	5
Close Contact with Positive Cases	6
The “New” Typical Day at Menno	7
Arriving at School	7
Masking/Cohorts	7
In the Classroom	7
Recess Times	7
Students Lunches	8
Self Contained Lunches	8
Healthy Hunger	8
Music Classes	8
Physical Education	8
Library	8
Student Departure	9
Additional Information	9
Washrooms	9
Movement within the school	9
Additional Comments	9
Late Arrival/Early Exit	9
Late Arrival	9

Early Exit	9
Teacher Contact	10
Visitors, Volunteers and Parents	10
School Cleaning Protocols	10
General Cleaning	10
Facility Cleaning Schedule	10

Thoughts from Administration

Welcome back! We are just weeks away from school start up and excitement is in the air. We can't wait for the laughter and energy of our students to return to the building. As we enter into a new year, we are making plans to create a safe learning environment for our staff and students. We continue to hold the safety and well being of your children as our top priority. As such, you will find that our safety protocols are above what is required by provincial mandates while still taking into account the impact each protocol can have on our community. Thank you for participating in the survey sent out in August. The feedback of you, as members and stakeholders in our community, is so valuable as we move forward. Please know that we read and considered each thought and concern that was shared with us.

In this document, you will find our school re-entry plan for the 2021/22 school year. This plan was created in consultation with other schools in our area, parent and teacher feedback, and the recommendations of Palliser Regional Schools and AHS. Please note that this is a live document, meaning that we will continue to reassess what is happening in our community, our city, and our province and we will make changes accordingly. As you read, you will notice that some protocols remain the same while others have been modified to fit our current situation.

There are still many unknowns as we enter into this new year. We are fully committed to seeing your children in school and working with you for the duration of the 2021/22 school year, but should the need arise, we are also prepared to move into a full or partial remote learning model.

Thank you for your patience and support as we all take the necessary steps to protect each other and keep our community healthy. We look forward to seeing what this year has in store for us!

Blessings,

Dayle Vienneau and the Administrative Team

General

This document is intended to provide you with an overview of key practices and strategies that the school will use as we start the new school year. This is a working document and adjustments will be made as the school year progresses.

Follow Expert Advice

- It is an expectation that we all become knowledgeable about the protocols, guidelines and directives for school re-entry from Alberta Education and Alberta Health Services
- Please review the [K to 12 school re-entry plan released by the Alberta Government](#)
- Palliser School Division also released a [School Guidance Re-Entry Plan](#) for our school division which can be reviewed by parents.

Keep the Virus Out

- The first and most important action we can take is to prevent anyone that is ill, has COVID symptoms or is at a higher risk for getting the virus from entering schools, division owned facilities or getting on our division busses.
- Before leaving your home do a self assessment by using the [AB Health COVID-19 Self-Assessment](#).

Prevent the Spread

- We continue to encourage families to keep mindful of ways that they can help prevent the spread. [Please review the AB Health: Help Prevent the Spread guidelines](#).

Working with Families

- **Safety protocol:** The school will regularly communicate with parents and the school community about changes to safety protocol and processes. Parents need to know that the school is taking safety seriously and that we are providing a safe environment for students in our building.
- **Full disclosure of any concerns:** All incidents that affect students will be immediately communicated to families.
- **Parents need to support the school by:**
 - Keeping students home when sick
 - Picking up students without delay if they become sick at school
 - Following protocols and safety measures if parents need to come into the school building

Staff or Students Who Become Symptomatic at School

Any time there is a suspected, probable, or confirmed case of COVID-19 the school will adhere to the guidelines set out by Palliser Regional School. Please review the [Palliser School Division COVID-19 School Guidance Re-Entry Plan](#) for full disclosure of these procedures.

Close Contact with Positive Cases

If you have had any inclination that you or your children have had any close contact with a positive case of Covid-19 OR if you have been contacted by AHS and informed that you have been in close contact, we recommend that you do not send your child(ren) to school.

If you are waiting for Covid-19 test we recommend keeping your child(ren) at home and monitoring for symptoms until you receive the results from your test.

The “New” Typical Day at Menno

Arriving at School

- Doors to the school will open at 8:15am
- Students will be required to wear a mask upon entering the building. They may remove it when they are in their classroom.
- Students will be required to sanitize their hands upon entering the building.
- Students will go straight to their classroom/coat hook/locker upon arrival.

Masking/Cohorts

- Students and staff will not be required to wear masks within their classrooms, but are encouraged to wear them if they choose.
- Students will be asked to wear a mask when moving through the hallways and in common areas.
- Students will remain within their class cohort for most of the day - the exception being when they are outside for recess and lunch recess. Recess cohorts will consist of the following:
 - Kindergarten
 - Division 1 (Grades 1-3)
 - Division 2 (Grades 4-6)
 - Division 3 (Grades 7-9)
- Large gatherings (ie: whole school chapel) will be postponed for the start of the school year and reassessed as the year progresses.

In the Classroom

- Each classroom is equipped with a sink, soap, and paper towels as well as a hand sanitizer dispenser.
- The teachers will have a standardized routine for entry and exit into the classroom.
- Students will be asked to wash or sanitize their hands at every point of entry into the classroom environment.
- Students are encouraged to bring personal disinfecting wipes and hand sanitizer that they can use at their desks.
- All personal belongings will be kept in student desks and in individual lockers. No bins required.
- Where possible, desks have been laid out in rows to maximize physical distance and in the same direction to ensure that students don't face each other.
- Classrooms will be free from clutter and do not have items with soft surfaces that may trap the virus.
- Doors will remain open in most spaces to ensure minimal contact with surfaces.

Recess Times

- Students will practice hand hygiene protocols before and after each recess time.
- Recess times will be staggered by division.
- Teachers will also have the autonomy to have additional recess or break times for students either in the classroom or outside in the afternoon.

- The school will strive to minimize opportunities for physical contact while maximizing the opportunity for social interactions.
- Students will not be required to wear masks while outside for recess.

Students Lunches

Students will eat their lunches with their classmates at their desks in their classrooms under teacher supervision.

Self Contained Lunches

- Students will be expected to bring self-contained lunches, with water bottles and all condiments and utensils needed for their lunch.
- Microwaves will be removed from classrooms so please ensure that lunches can be eaten cold.
- Water fountains will be open for students to fill their water bottles only.
- Parents of younger children are encouraged to teach their children, and have them practice opening lunch containers, drink boxes, snack items, etc. so that they can develop independence during lunch and reduce the need for teachers to touch the students' lunch supplies.

Healthy Hunger

- As we are permitted to bring individually wrapped lunches we will continue to have Healthy Hunger deliver fun lunches to the school.
- These lunches will be handled and distributed by one individual per class to minimize contact.

Music Classes

- Music classes will take place in the Music Room as students will be able to spread out.
- Students will use hand sanitizer/wash their hands when they enter and exit the Music Room.
- In-person singing and playing wind instruments are allowed at this time within a controlled manner and students will be distanced as much as possible.
- Playing, moving, listening, reading, writing, and creating will continue to be taught in Music but modified to follow AHS protocol.
- Music equipment will be disinfected between classes.

Physical Education

- Physical Education will continue at the school with a mix of no contact and low contact activities.
- Many activities will take place outdoors weather permitting.
- Students will hand sanitizer/wash their hands before and after PE classes.
- PE equipment will be disinfected between classes.

Library

- Library times will continue to take place at the school. Students will be able to visit the library.
- Requests and recommendations for books will be made with the school librarian.
- When books are returned they will be quarantined for 24 hours before going back into circulation.

Student Departure

Students will be dismissed at 3:20 pm and asked to depart the building in a timely manner to avoid large groupings of individuals within the school. Masks will be worn in the hallways as students exit the building.

Additional Information

Washrooms

- Only two students are allowed in each washroom at one time. Students must wait outside the washroom for someone to exit before entering.
- Specific procedures and washroom occupancy markers will be communicated by the teachers to the students.

Movement within the school

- Students will now be able to move throughout the building for their classes. Masks will be worn when students are transitioning from one place to another within the building. Masks are not required when moving around the classroom.
- While students are able to work in common areas and hallways now, teachers will be monitoring spaces to ensure that proper distancing is able to be maintained.

Additional Comments

- Field trips, sports teams, and overnight trips are permitted for this school year with extra safety and sanitation plans in place.
- Any organized school event that takes place outside of school property will be preceded by full disclosure of the activity, to parents for approval.
- Students will have access to in-class work if they are required to isolate at home due to illness. Teachers will utilize Google Classroom to ensure that students will be able to participate in learning from home should they be required to self-isolate.

Late Arrival/Early Exit

Late Arrival

If your child is late or returning from an appointment they will enter through the main entrance. The student can check in at the front office and then proceed to class.

Early Exit

If your child needs to leave prior to the scheduled pick-up time:

- Call the office when you arrive at the school to confirm that you are picking up your child or to confirm that they will be leaving early.
- The student will sign out at the front office and then meet you in the parking lot.

Teacher Contact

At this time teacher contact will have to be done through email or by phone call when possible. Teachers are more than willing to meet with parents virtually as well if you prefer a face to face meeting.

Visitors, Volunteers and Parents

- Parents who need to drop off items for students will need to ring the doorbell upon arrival and wait for someone from the office to meet them at the door to take the item.
- There will be restricted access to the school by parents, caregivers and others unless prearranged and for a specific purpose:
 - Before leaving your home do a self assessment by using the [AB Health COVID-19 Self-Assessment](#).
 - You will be asked to sanitize your hands and complete a Health Questionnaire at the front desk when you come into the school building.
 - You will be asked to move directly to your meeting place and then leave promptly.

School Cleaning Protocols

General Cleaning

There will be cleaning staff on site during a portion of school hours. Their primary responsibility will be to ensure that:

- Cleaning supplies are regularly restocked and readily available.
- Bathrooms are cleaned on a regular basis throughout the day.
- Hard surfaces, such as: handrails, doorknobs, light switches, counter surfaces are disinfected regularly throughout the day.
- High touch areas are cleaned throughout the day.

Facility Cleaning Schedule

- Daily thorough cleaning of classes, hallways, bathrooms, and common areas will occur at the end of each day.
- The “Wipe Twice” model will be implemented (i.e. desks wiped and then disinfected).
- The school building will be fogged with a ‘green’ cleaner, each and every Sunday evening. Every corner of the school will be disinfected.