

Frequently Asked Questions

Below is a listing of Frequently Asked Questions about the upcoming school year. Parent/Guardian engagement is important to us. If you have any other questions that you would like answered on this page, please email information@lcsd.ca

1. What do I need to do before sending my child to school?

Before coming to schools each day parents/guardians must assess their child daily for symptoms of the common cold, influenza, COVID-19 or other respiratory diseases to determine whether they can attend school or stay home. If any symptoms are present students must stay home, please use:

[Saskatchewan Screening Tool](#)

[Alberta Screening Tool](#)

2. When will my child start school?

We will ensure that all of us can be familiar with how schools will operate this fall by starting with a staggered entry. The staggered entry approach in the first week of school as this would allow students to experience the changes in their school with less people and more time to ask questions.

On August 19th, 2020 Lloydminster Catholic School Division sent an email explaining that we will have a staggered entry for our students. This was done to ensure that we would have smaller groups in order for teachers and administration to go over new procedures and protocols due to COVID-19. The following is the schedule for entry:

- **Last name: A-L on Tuesday, September 8th, 2020.**
- **Last name: M-Z on Wednesday, September 9th, 2020.**
- **Last name: A-L on Thursday, September 10th, 2020.**
- **Last name: M-Z on Friday, September 11th, 2020.**
- **Regular classes begin on September 14th, 2020.**

If you have two last names, please go by the first letter of your first last name.

Kindergarten students will follow the gradual entry dates that were sent in July.

Pre-Kindergarten gradual entry dates will be set from September 14, 2020 on.

3. What do I need to do if I need to come into the school?

Any individual, not a student or staff, wishing to access the school will need to complete the declaration form at each school prior to entry. People with symptoms of COVID-19 or experiencing illness will not be allowed in the school. All division facilities will have posters indicating not to enter without first booking an appointment with the school.

4. What has the school division done in schools to address COVID-19 safety?

The Division is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for all students and staff. A combination of measures will be used to minimize exposure to COVID-19 and respond to provincial and local contexts. For a full listing of measures, please see the [LCSD Re-Opening Schools Plan](#). We have Prevention with a Purpose in place for teaching of these measures to students. We have signage for visitors and traffic flow within the schools. We also have ensured that there will be a caretaker on site all day each school day to enhance the cleaning done at the school.

5. What if I am uncomfortable with sending my child to school?

The safety of our students and staff is paramount. We have implemented many enhanced health and safety measures to minimize exposure to COVID-19. For a listing of our enhanced health and safety measures, please see the [LCSD Re-Opening Schools Plan](#) on School Re-Entry.

Due to health concerns and parental choice related to the pandemic, families may choose not to have their child attend their designated school. We encourage parents to talk with their school administrator on the best plan for school return for their child. There are options to the in-school plan that could support health related concerns as well as an opportunity to sign up for at-home learning. Parents will need to understand the outline to the program and their commitments to the choices they make for their child.

LCSD At-Home Learning

If a family chooses at-home learning the Saskatchewan Curriculum will be covered and assessment will occur. At-home students will remain enrolled at the school where they are registered for 2020-2021. Students who learn at-home will be part

of an online learning group with an assigned teacher. However, the teacher may not be a staff member at their designated school. This learning format will include live online teacher instruction (at specific pre-set times) as well as activities and assignments that students will complete independently. Once a family has joined at-home learning, students will be part of that cohort until the end of the term (Kindergarten, Grade 1-7) or the November 2020 break (Grade 8-12). Want to talk to someone? Please contact LearningDelivery@lcsd.ca with your name and a number to reach you at.

6. What if someone in my child's class tests positive for COVID-19?

If there are cases of COVID-19 Identified within school settings, the zone medical officer of health will work quickly with the jurisdiction and school administration.

Saskatchewan Health Authority will take the following steps:

- Identify cases
- Identify close contacts
- Create isolation measures when needed
- Provide follow-up recommendations

A COVID-19 case will not automatically lead to school closure. It could be that only the group of students and staff who came in close contact will be required to stay home for 14 days. The decision to send a cohort/class home or to close a school will be made by the Area Medical Officer of Health - North. The school will support students and staff to learn or work-at-home if they are required to self-isolate. Parents will be notified if a case of COVID-19 is confirmed at school and public health officials will contact those who were in close contact with the person. The Director of Education will provide direction on whether at-home learning will occur during this time for the impacted class or school.

7. What is the drop off protocol for my child?

Parent/guardians and visitors must not enter the schools unless approved by the Principal. Adults bringing students to school are asked to stay in their vehicle or outside the school and maintain a safe physical distance between themselves and others. Drop Off Zones will be clearly marked and have a staff member that guides the student to enter the school.

All visitors to the school need to book an appointment. Visitors without an appointment will not be able to enter the school. Though this is a change, this step is a requirement from the Medical Officer of Health and is important for all schools to maintain.

Authorized parents/guardians of children with complex needs requiring support to enter the building should contact their school office after August 19. Staff will work with them to develop a plan that is safe for both students and staff.

8. How will my child enter the school?

The principal will utilize as many entry doors as possible and assign all students an entry point. Students should move directly to their designated entry door and wait for permission to enter the building. Students should wear their masks in the hallways and go to their classroom to start the day. The school will develop a schedule that ensures supervision for each entry door and throughout the building. The first week of school, staff will be outside greeting and directing students. Students will enter the building from their assigned meeting spot to minimize congregating. Student entry may require staggered times, which do not necessarily align with established bell times. Schools will communicate the arrival and entry process to students and families.

9. How do I pick up my child from school?

Parent/guardians and visitors must not enter the schools unless they have made an appointment. We ask that you stay in your vehicle or outside the school to maintain a safe physical distance between themselves and others.

Schools will communicate their plan for students exiting school in an orderly manner with appropriate supervision, maximizing the number of exit doors as practical while adhering to physical distancing guidelines. This may mean that schools may require classes to have staggered dismissal times while ensuring bus schedules are maintained. Students waiting for pick up are to wait outside in a supervised designated area while following physical distancing guidelines. During inclement weather, the principal will make alternate arrangements for the waiting area.

10. What will riding the school bus look like?

Before Travelling in a School Bus

The safety of your child/ren and staff comes first and foremost. Please do not send your child/ren to the bus if they're displaying the symptoms outlined in the screening questionnaire. This questionnaire is the daily self-assessment tool for parents and our staff. Use your Safety Zones and physical distance while waiting for your bus.

Students must be registered to ride the school bus. Please contact Charmaine at the Central Office if you have any questions on registration 780 808 8585.

While Travelling in a School Bus

There is no physical distancing on the bus so we will take a number of steps:

- Your school bus operator will be wearing a mask during loading and unloading.
- We will seat family members together regardless of age.
- We will be taking ridership attendance twice daily.
- We require students to wear a mask on the school bus.
- There will also be no eating on the bus to lessen the opportunity of transmission when sharing occurs.

After Travelling in a School Bus

Once your child returns to the house, we encourage them to wash their hands thoroughly. The school bus will be cleaned after every run and sprayed with a disinfectant that has been approved for use on the COVID-19 virus.

11. Will there be Before and After School Programs?

Lloydminster Catholic School Division is continuing with Before and After School Programs that are operating in our schools. They will follow Saskatchewan Health standards as well as the safety protocols and expectations outlined in the provincial guidance for [LCSD Re-Opening Schools Plan](#) including reduced sizes. Parents must register their children for these programs.

12. What is a cohort?

A cohort is defined as a group of students and staff who remain together. The size of the cohort will depend on the physical space of the classroom or learning setting and the number of students assigned to that teacher.

Cohorting decreases the number of close contacts staff and students will have in the school and will assist public health officials in their efforts to trace contacts and contain a COVID-19 outbreak.

Activities that bring together multiple classes or grades are not permitted at this time.

13. How will a classroom be different this fall?

Classroom and learning environments will be set up to maximize physical distances between students and staff. Spacing will be supported by:

- Table or desks are arranged so students are not facing each other. (e.g., front facing instruction, alternating desks, alternating rows, clear separation barriers maybe used in some close spaces, and the prevention of students sitting too close).
- Where possible, organize students into smaller groups/cohorts that stay together throughout the day.
- Strive to minimize the number of different teacher(s) and educational assistant(s) that interact with groups of students throughout the day.
- Desk/tabletops and countertops will be decluttered of all non-essential items to allow for cleaning.
- Soft furnishing that cannot be easily cleaned and/or disinfected will be removed.
- Minimize shared items. Staff and students will have their own personal resources.
- Where possible, teachers will organize what is taught to minimize the need for sharing resources.
- Students will be asked to wipe down or clean shared resources (e.g., electronic devices, manipulatives, etc.) when they are done.
- Students will wash or sanitize their hands both before and after using shared items.

- Each classroom will have its own supply of cloths and/or paper towel, disinfectant, hand sanitizer and/or soap, and access to a supply of non-medical face masks.
- Teachers will use Prevention with a Purpose to promote hand washing. Mask use and storage procedures will be part of in-class teaching.

14. What physical distancing measures are you taking to deal with the busy hallways?

Schools will manage the flow of people using a variety of visual cues (Prevention with a Purpose, posters, floor markers, one-way hallways/stairways, etc.)

In our schools we are enhancing processes to include:

- Guided entry of students into the building.
- Guided transition times for recess/snack and lunches.
- Guided class transition times to reduce the number of people in our hallways and provide a greater amount of space for everyone.

15. What will lunch hour look like?

It is important for students who stay at school for lunch to remember to bring their lunch each day. Schools will not be able to accommodate family members who want to drop off lunches. If a student forgets their lunch, families should phone the school to work out a solution.

Schools will not be able to support any food being brought into the school through a food delivery service (such as pizza delivery or Skip the Dishes). Students will need to store lunches with their other personal belongings.

All students must wash their hands before eating and only eat their own food. Students are not to share food under Provincial health guidelines. At this time, microwaves will not be available. Vending machines at Holy Rosary will be in operation.

Elementary students will remain in their cohort or class to eat lunch. Multiple cohorts will not gather to eat. High school students who stay at school will be

assigned to an area of the school for lunch. Any staff or student leaving the school during the school day will need to follow entrance procedures before entering the school.

When HRHS begins using a common lunch area, cohorts of students will be assigned areas to eat in staggered shifts and the space will be cleaned and disinfected between each cohort.

School cafeterias must follow COVID-19 health guidelines as outlined in [LCSD Re-Opening Schools Plan](#).

16. What about sports and extracurricular activities?

Schools will evaluate whether they can offer extracurricular activities that follow COVID-19 protocols, and let families know which activities are available.

Saskatchewan Education is working with Saskatchewan Health and Education partners, including the Alberta and Saskatchewan School Athletic Association, to explore possibilities for athletic activities and events within the context of current health measures. Teachers will refer to the [LCSD Re-Opening Schools Plan](#) when planning activities.

17. What supplies should my child bring to school?

We ask that you send your children with minimal school supplies during the first few weeks of school. We will have minimal places to store supplies while the students are keeping everything in their backpack. School supplies will not be shared this year, all students will require their own pencil case.

Hallway lockers are not to be utilized or will be every second locker where possible. Students will need to hang their jacket and backpack on the back of their chair or designated area within the classroom.

For more information, please visit our [LCSD Re-Opening Schools Plan](#).