

Canadian Students Return to Classrooms September 2020

August 5, 2020

<p>British Columbia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • July 30, 2020: Most students in grades K-12 will return to school on Sept. 8, 2020, with full-time in-class learning as the province moves to Stage 2 of B.C.’s Education Restart Plan. <p>https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020EDUC0040-001415</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “learning groups” or social bubbles within schools will set caps on the number of students able to socialize with one another outside of their own classrooms. • For elementary school students, the learning groups have a maximum of 60 students, while the number is 120 for high school students. • Staff and students (or their parents/guardians) must also assess themselves daily for symptoms of COVID-19. If any student or staff member has even mild symptoms, arrangements will be made for that person to return home • increased cleaning of high-contact surfaces, increased number of hand-hygiene stations and the availability of masks upon request, among other safety measures <p>Masks will not be mandatory in B.C. classrooms, but will be recommended where social distancing isn’t possible. The province will be making masks available in schools.</p>
<p>Alberta</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • July 22, 2020: The Government of Alberta announced that students will return to learning in classrooms for the 2020-21 school year <p>https://www.alberta.ca/k-to-12-school-re-entry-2020-21-school-year.aspx</p>	<p>The province’s back-to-school plan emphasizes cleaning of surfaces, and spreading messages to students and parents about physical distancing and hand sanitizing.</p> <p>The plan allows for the possibility of staggering break times so that fewer students socialize together at the same time.</p> <p>Masks for Grade 4-12 students and all staff will be mandatory.</p>
<p>Saskatchewan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • August 4, 2020: Minister of Education releases updates on reopening school plan <p>https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/news-and-media/2020/august/04/safe-school-plan</p>	<p>All school division plans have incorporated eight safe components that include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safe Attendance – self screening measures; • Safe Transportation – assigned seating and record of seating plan; • Safe Access – dedicated entrance and exit, staggered recess, lunch, controlled flow of students and staff • Safe Facilities – Increased sanitation of school facilities, hand sanitizer • Safe Classrooms – limiting physical contact, use outdoor space, classroom configuration

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safe Supports – school divisions will work with medical health officer to address unique needs of students • Safe Activities – reduced use of shared materials, virtual assemblies • Safe Alternatives – alternate scenarios on the advice of medical health officials. <p>Masks will not be mandatory</p>
<p>Manitoba</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • July 30, 2020: Classroom learning will resume on September 8 for all students in kindergarten through Grade 12 at schools across Manitoba. <p>https://news.gov.mb.ca/news/index.html?item=48837&posted=2020-07-30</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kindergarten to Grade 8 students will return for five days of in-class instruction (full instructional day) per week. • Students in Grades 9 to 12 will return for up to five days per week of in-class instruction if high schools can effectively implement physical distancing and the use of cohorts to reduce the risk of transmission and to ensure documentation for contact tracing. • Students with special needs in all grades will return for five days of in-class instruction (full instructional day) per week. • Classrooms will be configured to support physical distancing with the use of alternate space as needed, such as multi-purpose rooms. Two metres of physical distancing is required to the greatest extent possible. • Where physical distancing is not possible, students must remain within cohorts to reduce exposure to others. Cohorts will distance themselves from other groups to limit exposure. In these instances, there must be at least one metre between students as they sit at their desks in classrooms. • • Entry and exits to schools will be managed to avoid congestion. • Lunch and recess breaks will be staggered. • Protocols will be in place to safely move students through schools to reduce congestion in hallways and common areas. Teachers will move across classrooms instead of students. • Students and staff are required to self-screen and stay home when they are exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19. <p>Masks will not be required.</p>

<p>Ontario</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • July 30, 2020: The Government of Ontario released a plan for the safe reopening of schools for in-class instruction in September https://news.ontario.ca/opo/en/2020/07/ontario-releases-plan-for-safe-reopening-of-schools-in-september.html. 	<p>Most of Ontario’s students will return to traditional classrooms full-time in September.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elementary school children (K-8) will attend school 5 days per week in cohorts, • Secondary students (9-12) at two dozen boards that are higher risk will only attend class half the time in an effort to curb the spread of COVID-19. • Those high schoolers will have a maximum class size of 15 and receive “curriculum-linked independent work” when they are not in school. Some of it will have to be live video conferencing or other so-called “synchronous” learning. • For both elementary and secondary students, in-person school attendance will be optional. Pre-registration may be required. <p>Students in grades 4 through 12 will be required to wear masks in class, while younger kids are encouraged to do so.</p>
<p>Quebec</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • July 3, 2020: All students in preschool, elementary school and Secondary I, II and III will attend class full time, in compliance with the standard ratios. https://cdn-contenu.quebec.ca/cdn-contenu/education/Feuille-entree-scolaire-2020-an.pdf?1593786297 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100% of students returning to class • Standard number of students per group no more than 6. • All subjects taught (including physical education health and arts education) • Closed groups of students who stay in their respective classrooms, teachers will move between classrooms. • Increased hygiene measures and clear guidelines • Social distancing • Modifying traffic patterns in hallways and common areas • Allowing close interventions with appropriate protective equipment <p>Quebec will not be requiring students and staff to wear masks.</p>

New Brunswick

- **June 12, 2020:** New Brunswick announced a return-to-school plan with significant physical distancing measures and staggered start times

<https://www2.gnb.ca/content/dam/gnb/Departments/ed/pdf/ReturnSchoolExecutiveSummary.pdf>

Grade 5 and below – reduced group size of 15
Children within groups may interact but must distance from other groups.

Grades 6 to 8 – full time with regular class size.
Children within groups may interact but must distance from other groups.

Grades 9 to 12 – Attend school on a rotational basis (minimum every other day) while learning remotely when not at school.

Reduced number of students per class
Physical distance of students and school personnel within the classroom. Students will not be grouped due to schedules and course options.

All available spaces conducive to learning will be utilized.

The future of physical education classes and school sports will depend on individual schools and their operational plans. In elementary schools, some gymnasiums may need to be converted for classroom space.

The province quickly reversed a decision to make masks mandatory in public buildings last month, and they will not be required.

Nova Scotia

- **July 22, 2020:** Public school students across Nova Scotia will return to class in September 2020

<https://novascotia.ca/news/release/?id=20200722003>

- Regional Centres for Education and the Conseil scolaire acadien provincial will have plans to support enhanced cleaning, physical distancing and situations specific to schools in their area
- classrooms to be reorganized to increase spacing
- treating a class as a bubble, to minimize contact with other students
- enhanced cleaning on school buses. All school bus riders and drivers will need to wear a mask
- all staff and students in high school will be required to wear a mask in school spaces where social distancing is not possible, for example hallways and common areas.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • students and staff do not have to wear a mask in class, unless they want to, or if they are working with a student whose individual program plan requires a mask be worn • regular handwashing or hand sanitizing by students and staff before entering school for classes and throughout the day • in-school assemblies and other large gatherings will not be permitted • cafeterias and school food programs will deliver food to students. Students will eat lunch at their desks • students will have the opportunity to engage in all subject areas, although some subject areas may look different. <p>Face masks required in spaces where social distancing is not possible.</p>
<p>Prince Edward Island</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • August 5, 2020: Public school students will return to the classroom beginning September 8, 2020. https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/information/education-and-lifelong-learning/welcome-back-school-plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will work in cohorts, or groups of the same students, as much as possible. Cohorts will distance themselves from other groups to limit exposure to other students. • Classrooms will be configured to support physical distancing. Schools will work to reduce class sizes and when necessary, alternate space such as multi-purpose rooms will be used as classrooms. • Lunch and recess breaks will be staggered, as well as drop-off and pick-up times. • Protocols will be in place to safely move students through the school and reduce congestion in hallways and common areas. • Students and staff will be required to stay home when they are unwell and there will be screening protocols for all people entering a school. • Students will be educated on the importance of physical distancing and hand washing. • Enhanced cleaning protocols will be followed in the school and on the school bus. • School buses and routes will be added and parents will be asked to transport their children to and from school whenever possible. <p>Students and staff may be asked to wear masks in common areas.</p>

<p>Newfoundland and Labrador</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> August 4, 2020: The reopening date for K-12 schools for principals, teachers and staff has been changed to Wednesday, September 2 from September 8 to allow for orientation and preparation time related to COVID-19 protocols for the new school year. Schools will reopen to students on Wednesday, September 9 as previously scheduled. https://www.gov.nl.ca/releases/2020/eecd/0706n01/ 	<p>The province released three scenarios at the beginning of July: a full return with extra physical distancing, a partial return or the cancellation of classes. The province has not yet officially announced which scenario it will use come the fall.</p> <p>Newfoundland and Labrador does not recommend masks for kids, but says students and staff may choose to wear one.</p>
<p>Yukon</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> August 4, 2020 – Whitehorse students return to school on August 20, 2020 https://yukon.ca/en/health-and-wellness/covid-19-information/education-and-school-supports-covid-19/planning-2020-21#returning-students-to-classes-for-the-2020-21-school-year 	<p>School operational plans are being finalized and will be released by August 12 based on the health and safety guidelines set by Yukon’s Chief Medical Officer of Health.</p> <p>School bus services and routes are being adapted to meet the health and safety guidelines and bus routes will be shared by August 12.</p>