



Returning to in-person learning

What to Expect: Parents

January 2022

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Welcome back,

As you are aware, on January 5, the Minister of Education confirmed that students are returning to in-class learning Monday, January 10.

We have been busy preparing our schools and with the newly announced measures, coupled with protocols previously in place, we want to ensure you that our staff and students will have a safe return to in-person learning.

To maintain a safe learning environment for students and staff, we kindly ask that you familiarize yourself with these protocols. Additional information can be found at lrcssd.ca/covid-19.

Thank you for your continued understanding and cooperation.

Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions regarding these measures.

God Bless,

Pamela Guilbault
Superintendent

*Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and establish the work of our hands upon us;
yes, establish the work of our hands!*

Psalms 90:17

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Lakeland Catholic has been working hard to ensure a safe return to school on January 10.

Current Health and Safety Protocols



Since the beginning of the school year, our division has been practicing:

- Enhanced sanitation and disinfecting measures
- Class cohorting
- Physical distancing
- Masking for students in Grades 4 to 12
- Hand hygiene
- Frequent cleaning of high traffic areas
- Use of the [daily health checklist](#)

As of January 10, we are enhancing our protocols to include the provision of Alberta Health approved medical-grade masks for all staff and students, as well as rapid test kits for home use.

These measures, coupled with our air filtration system, ensure we are well prepared for a safe return to in-person learning.

Rapid Test Kits

Rapid test kits are being made available to all staff and students at Lakeland Catholic Schools. These kits are for at-home use and will be ready for distribution in the coming days.

For more information on how to administer rapid test kits at home, click [here](#).

To watch an instructional video on rapid test kits, click [here](#).

Masking

Medical-grade masks will be provided to all staff and students within the first few days of returning to school.

Students in Grades 4 to 12 are required to wear a mask while in school. Masks are strongly recommended for Kindergarten to Grade 3 students. Due to transmissibility of Omicron, it is recommended that students and teachers wear masks at all times, including when seated or facing forward. Masking along with physical distancing will help reduce transmission.

For more information on general guidance on masks, click [here](#). Alberta Health has stated that while medical-grade masks provide the best protection against spreading respiratory disease including COVID-19 and Omicron, cloth masks are also acceptable. It is important that the mask fits well to be protective.

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Generally:

- Store your mask in a clean paper or cloth bag if you plan to wear it again
- Change your mask when it's dirty, damp or damaged, and keep it out of reach of others
- Store soiled reusable non-medical masks in a waterproof bag or container until they can be cleaned
- Wash reusable non-medical masks (in a washing machine or by hand) with hot, soapy water, and dry completely before wearing again
- Dispose of dirty, damp or damaged disposable masks and used filters in the garbage or use a mask recycling program if one is available
- Medical masks and respirators are generally single use and disposable. However, some may be reused until visibly dirty, damp or damaged. Check product-specific information to determine how masks are to be used



Principals will be in contact with parents and guardians in relation to when they can expect masks and rapid test kits to be sent home.

When to stay home

All individuals must review the Alberta Health Daily Checklist with their child(ren) before sending them to school each day. Students and staff exhibiting any symptoms must remain at home until symptoms resolve. This is the single most important thing each of us can do to support our schools at this time.

Core COVID-19 and Omicron symptoms include:

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Loss of sense of smell or taste

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Isolation Requirements

The mandatory isolation period for people with core symptoms that are not related to a pre-existing illness or health condition is:

- Fully vaccinated: five days or until symptoms resolve, whichever is longer, plus five days of wearing a mask at all times when around others outside of home
- Not fully vaccinated: 10 days or until symptoms resolve, whichever is longer
- If a person tests negative, they should still stay home and away from others until symptoms resolve

Reporting positive cases of COVID-19 and student illness

To keep our schools as safe as possible, please continue to inform your school if your child has tested positive for COVID-19 on a rapid test or PCR test, is exhibiting symptoms, or will be staying home from school for any reason. Schools will continue to monitor school absenteeism due to illness.

Alberta Health Services has ended the COVID-19 positive case notification process. This means that families will no longer receive letters home regarding positive cases.

Preparing for shifts to at-home learning

In the event we must move a class or grade to temporary remote learning, parents will be immediately notified by the school regarding next steps.

Temporary online learning may occur when it isn't possible to continue in-person learning due to operational visibility.

Ventilation

The health and safety of the students and staff of Lakeland Catholic Schools is our top priority.

Our ventilation systems are checked regularly and maintained so that they are functioning as intended. In addition, our centralized monitoring system alerts our staff if a piece of equipment is not functioning properly so if a mechanical fault is detected, repair or evaluation of the issue occurs rapidly.

Lakeland Catholic is currently in the process of upgrading to MERV 13 filters in all of our facilities.

Assessments

It is imperative that quality teaching and learning continues to be the focus and sound assessment is a part of quality teaching and learning.

Final exams for students will continue at the end of January.