



Returning to in-person learning

What to Expect: Teachers

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!*

Psalm 90:17

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

When you return to school, you can expect:

Masking

It is strongly recommended that medical-grade masks are worn. Medical-grade masks are not required but are being made available for staff and students should they wish to wear them. Adult medical-grade masks are Level 3 and child masks are Level 2. Level 3 masks have greater than 98% filtration efficiency and protect against heavy levels of aerosols, spray and/or fluids. Level 2 masks have greater than 98% filtration efficiency and protect against low to medium levels of aerosols, spray and/or fluids. Cloth mask use is still acceptable. All masks must be worn appropriately and fit properly.



- Masks are strongly recommended for those in Kindergarten to Grade 3
- Due to transmissibility, students in Grades 4 to 12 are required to wear masks in the classroom at all times with the exception of when they are outside, eating or when they have a mask break
 - When students are eating, they must be mindful of physical distancing. Masks can be removed for eating and drinking but should not continue to stay off for the remainder of the lunch break
 - Mask breaks may take place at the discretion of the teacher when social distancing is in place. The balance should be that students are wearing their masks more than they are not wearing a mask
- If a student has a mask exemption, the staff member working with the student must wear a mask as well as may access additional PPE including a face shield and an N-95 mask (as required)
- All staff must wear a mask at all times in the classroom
- Masks do not have to be worn outside, on playgrounds, or supervision
- Mask Distribution: All requests for mask supplies can be made to Tessa by school administration
 - Masks come in different packaging and the schools will have to distribute and re-pack as required. Each student and staff should receive enough for a two week supply, using two masks per school day (10 masks x 2 = 20 masks per person). Additional information on packaging instructions will be shared shortly

Enhanced cleaning

Protocols remain in place.

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Cohorts

Staff are asked not to congregate in common areas such as the breakroom, hallways, etc.

Students need to physically distance themselves as much as possible. During lunch, it is essential that staff are diligent to encourage physical distancing as much as possible due to no masks.

Rapid Test Kits

LCSD Central Office will give distribution information for rapid test kits to schools next week, once the shipments arrive.

Government of Alberta provincial guidance for using the rapid test kits is that rapid tests should be used twice per week, 72 hours apart (e.g. Sunday and Wednesday, or Monday and Thursday). Additional information can be found here: [Rapid Test Kits Information](#)

- There is no requirement to report a positive rapid test result. However, to keep our schools as safe as possible, please continue to inform your school if you have tested positive for COVID-19 on a rapid test or PCR test, are exhibiting symptoms, or will be staying home from school for any reason.
- The rapid tests come in a box of five. Each ECS-12 student and staff will be given one box for each distribution that will provide them with enough tests for 2.5 weeks.
- A [how-to video](#) and a rapid test program fact sheet translated into multiple languages offers tips on how to use the rapid test kits.

Should you be symptomatic

Updated Isolation Requirements from AHS

- *Fully vaccinated (2 doses or 1 dose Janssen)*: Isolate for 5 days from the start of symptoms or until they resolve, whichever is longer, if symptoms are not related to a pre-existing condition. For 5 days following isolation, wear the upgraded medical mask at all times when around others at work or outside of home.
- *Not fully vaccinated (1 dose or less)*: Isolate for 10 days from the start of symptoms or until they resolve, whichever is longer, if symptoms are not related to a pre-existing condition.
- *If you test negative and have symptoms*: you should still stay home and away from others until symptoms resolve.

Further information can be found at: <https://www.alberta.ca/isolation.aspx>

A staff memorandum highlighting the updated isolation requirements and sick leave will be sent out to all staff.

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Shift to at-home learning

Any shift to at-home learning will be due to operational reasons and will be for 10 days according to provincial guidelines. There are three types of shifts that may occur:

1. Classroom/Grade
2. School shift
3. Division

All decisions to shift in any of these three scenarios will be made with the Superintendent based on the most current data.

Technology



For students learning from home, technology will be sent home in the same manner we have been using thus far.

Guidance documents/data/CMOH orders

The school guidance and daily checklist are anticipated to be updated by the end of the week. Additional resource documents will be added as needed.

Extra Curricular Activities

While extra curricular activities within schools are permitted, they will not be allowed between schools at this time. More information will be forthcoming in the next week.

Reporting positive cases of COVID-19 and student illness

To keep our schools as safe as possible, please continue to inform your school if you have tested positive for COVID-19 on a rapid test or PCR test, are 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, staff 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.

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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.

Useful Links

[Alberta Health Guidance on Masks for the General Public](#)

[Government of Canada: COVID-19 Mask Use](#)

[Rapid Test Kits Information](#)

[Rapid Test Kits Instructional Video](#)

[Staying safe and healthy this school year](#)