Re-Entry Scenario

1. **Who decides which scenario we will re-enter school in?**

   The Alberta government made the decision on July 21, 2020 that Scenario 1 will be in place in the fall (near normal operation). If there are changes, they will be directed by Alberta Education. In the coming weeks, the Minister of Education may issue new direction with respect to public health measures or programming. If the rate of infection increases in our region, we may be directed by the Minister of Education to move to scenario 2 or 3 with little notice. More information can be found within the Alberta Government Requirements and Guidelines for School Re-Entry Planning document.

Daily Self-Screening and Illness While at School

2. **Will staff and students be required to go through a daily health check?**

   Yes. Before coming to school each day, students, staff, parents/guardians and permitted visitors who will access the school must be screened for symptoms using the Daily Health Check. All parents will be expected to use the daily health check with their child(ren) on a daily basis before coming to school. These questionnaires will provide guidance around whether it is safe for an individual to enter a school or worksite. Parents should not be sending their child to school if they are sick.

3. **Do parents have to hand in the daily self-assessment to the school?**

   No. All parents will be expected to use the Daily Health Assessment (Daily Screening Questionnaire for Students) each day prior to sending their children to school. Schools will not be collecting paperwork as this will be too onerous to monitor on a daily basis. Parents are expected to be diligent in assessing their children every day.

4. **What if my child has pre-existing symptoms that may appear like COVID-19?**

   Individuals who have allergies or ongoing health issues must be tested at least once prior to attending school according to the Alberta Health Services Guidance document. This will establish a baseline for the individual. If symptoms change (worsen, additional symptoms,
change in baseline) the individual must stay at home and use the COVID-19 Self-Assessment Tool to determine whether your child needs to be tested for COVID-19. Talk to your school about your child’s pre-existing medical conditions so the school may keep a confidential record of these conditions, as they would with other medical conditions. Students without pre-existing conditions do not need to get an asymptomatic test prior to the start of school.

5. What happens if my child gets sick or has symptoms like COVID-19 at school?

Schools will refer to Alberta Health Services Guidelines for before, during or after an outbreak of COVID-19 at school.

Arrival and Dismissal

6. What will entry and exit look like at my child’s school?

Each school will provide detailed information before the school year begins with how they are addressing school entry, class transitions and school dismissal/exit.

7. How will arrival and dismissal work for younger children, where we previously used a hand-to-hand transition if parents are not allowed in the building?

In order to support student health and safety, parents must remain within their vehicle or within an assigned area outside the building when dropping off or picking up their children. Your school will assign all students an entry point and develop a schedule that ensures all entrances and exits are supervised.

Mask Use and Hand Sanitizer

8. Will my child have to wear a mask to school?

We will align with current advice provided by Alberta Education and Alberta Health. All staff and students in Grades 4 – 12 will be required to wear a mask in school common areas and during activities in the classroom where physical distancing is not possible, as one way to help reduce the risk of spreading the virus. Mask use for Kindergarten to Grade three students continues to be recommended. For more information on mask use, please see the provincial guidelines. If your child is physically, psychologically or developmentally unable to wear a mask, please discuss this with your school principal. Every student in the jurisdiction will be provided with two reusable masks. If a student forgets their mask, schools will ensure there are supplies available for all students and staff.
9. When will staff and student need to wear face masks?

All staff are expected to wear a mask where physical distancing of 2m is not consistently possible. Exceptions may be considered when working with individuals with a hearing impairment or when working in a context that supports 2m physical distancing or other protective measures are in place. As per Alberta Health Services (AHS) guidelines, a face shield does not replace a face mask, but may be used as an additional measure in conjunction with a face mask.

All students, K-12, riding on the yellow school bus must wear a face mask.

Students in grades 4-12 must wear face masks whenever physical distancing of 2m is not possible. This will include:
- In hallways and common areas,
- In classroom contexts in which there is a high degree of close interaction, food preparation or other physical safety conditions cannot be appropriately maintained.

Students in Kindergarten to Grade 3 are strongly encouraged to wear a face mask, if they are physically, developmentally and psychologically able to. Parents of students with unique sensory challenges should meet with school administration to discuss exemptions and alternative strategies to this mandate.

10. With the announcement of mandatory masks, it was also mentioned that there would be exemptions by Alberta Health Services. How would a parent obtain an exemption for their child that is not able to tolerate a mask due to anxiety and sensory issues?

On August 4, 2020, the Province announced an update to the provincial school re-entry guidelines requiring all Grades 4 – 12 students and staff to wear masks where physical distancing cannot be maintained. If your child is physically, psychologically or developmentally unable to wear a mask, please discuss this with your school principal.

11. Are students with asthma required to wear masks?

On August 4, 2020, the Province announced an update to the provincial school re-entry guidelines requiring all Grades 4 – 12 students and staff to wear masks where physical distancing cannot be maintained. If your child is physically, psychologically or developmentally unable to wear a mask, please discuss this with your school principal.

12. Will schools provide masks and handwashing stations/sanitizer for students?

The province is providing all students and staff with two reusable cloth masks. If a student forgets their mask, schools will ensure there are supplies available for all students and staff. Details about how these will be distributed are being determined and we will provide more details when we have more information.
In addition, there will be ample hand sanitizing stations throughout the schools, including at entrances, exits, classrooms entrances, high-touch equipment and other high-traffic areas. These hand sanitizing stations will supply sanitizer containing at least 60 per cent alcohol content (or a non-alcohol based sanitizer approved by Health Canada) as per the Alberta Health Services Guidance document.

Students are encouraged to bring additional sanitizer supplies should they wish to.

13. Will there still be gym? Will students be required to wear masks during gym class?

Schools will continue to provide physical education. Alberta Education and Alberta Health Services recommend that when possible, physical education should be done outside instead of inside and with activities that support physical distancing. Where there is shared equipment, those pieces of equipment must be sanitized before and after use. We will continue to follow Alberta Health Services Guidelines for Recreational and Physical Activity which recommends masks are not worn when students are engaging in intense physical activity.

14. As a parent, can I provide a plexiglass barrier for my child so that they do not have to wear a mask?

As per Alberta Health Services (AHS) guidelines, a face shield does not replace a face mask, but may be used as an additional measure in conjunction with a face mask. However, the updated Guidance for School Re-Entry – Scenario 1 (updated August 20, 2020) states that masks can be removed in “spaces where physical barriers have been installed between persons.” A student would still be required to wear a mask once outside of the physical barrier. Parent provided protective equipment would have to be discussed with and approved by the school administration in consultation with our Director of Facilities to ensure it meets specification and safety requirements.

15. How will my child store and care for their cloth masks?

After removing a reusable non-medical face mask that will be re-worn prior to washing, it should be placed into a clean, breathable bag or container (allows for evaporation) for storage. Consider using a bag that can be washed. All masks should have two distinct sides, one side that touches the face and one that faces outwards.

Cloth masks that are used throughout the day will need to be sent home and laundered for the next day. As per Alberta Health Services Guidelines for Masks, it is advised that parents:

- Store masks in a sealed and clean storage bag and place in a dry area of your home.
- Put cloth masks directly into the washing machine or in a bag that can be emptied into the washing machine. Throw out the bag after you’ve used it to store masks.
- Launder with other items using a hot cycle, and then dry thoroughly.
• Inspect the mask for damage prior to reuse.

Parents may choose to purchase extra masks in addition to the two masks provided by the Alberta Government. **All students MUST have at least TWO clean masks at school ready to start each day.**

16. **My child will not be able to use hand sanitizer due to health reasons. What protocols will be in place for these kids?**

There will be ample hand sanitizing stations throughout the schools, including at entrances, exits, classroom entrances, high-touch equipment and other high-traffic areas. However, if your child is unable to use hand sanitizer for health reasons, washing hands with soap and water is available. Please contact your school administrators to discuss the needs of your child specifically.

**School Buildings**

17. **Will there be traffic markers and physical distance reminders throughout schools and classrooms?**

Yes. Inside each school there will be directional signage in halls and stairways to reduce physical interaction. Posters will also be displayed throughout the school reminding students and staff to physically distance. In addition, schools will assign all students an entry and exit point to minimize risk. Your school will communicate their processes directly to students and families.

18. **Will enhanced cleaning be undertaken?**

Yes. Evergreen will ensure enhanced cleaning of its school sites, including daily cleaning and disinfecting of washrooms and high touch surfaces several times a day. Regularly scheduled deep cleaning will take place when students are not present.

**Recess and Cohorting**

19. **What is a cohort and what does that look like for my child?**

For Kindergarten through Grade 9, your children’s cohort is their classroom group. This classroom group will interact with one another and stay together throughout the school day, including recess.

For those in high school (Grades 10 – 12), student cohorts may be multiple classroom cohorts that reflect their individual and more personalized educational paths.

Keeping staff and students together decreases the number of close contacts.
20. If my child is placed in a class without any of their friends will there be some point during the day they can socially interact or will kids stay with their class cohort exclusively?

Each school will determine their own recess and break times for classes and/or cohorts. Your school will share information on breaks and recess. However, as stated, recess breaks and transitions will be taken by class cohorts/groups to limit the number of students in hallways at any one time as well as limit interactions between cohorts for contract tracing purposes. Every effort will be made to place children in classrooms with the best environment for academic, social and emotional learning.

21. What will recess look like?

Schools will develop a coordinated exit/entry schedule using as many exit and entry doors as possible for grades/classroom groups to leave their class/learning space to go outside for recess and to return to class/learning space. Schools will share their recess plan. Students will be required to wash their hands or use hand sanitizer BEFORE going outside to use equipment as well as AFTER they return from recess.

22. Will students have access to outdoor playgrounds?

Yes. Schools will follow the Government of Alberta’s Guidance For Playgrounds when using schoolyard and outdoor equipment. Before and after school, school staff will be assigned to supervise areas outside school entrances. This supervision will help support physical distancing. With this in mind, schools will not be assigning staff to supervise playground equipment before and after school. To support safety, this equipment will be off limits to students during these times.

Lunch

23. Will lunch spaces be open for use or will my child be remaining in their classroom?

Staff and students will practice physical distancing to the best of their ability while eating lunch. Students will be eating in their classroom. Students and staff are prohibited from sharing food, utensils, dishes, water bottles and drink containers. Students will be asked to wash their hands or use hand sanitizer before and after eating. They may be asked to help wipe down their own desks or tables used for eating. Student-shared microwaves will not be available.

For specifics about your school’s procedures for lunch, please contact your school administrators.
24. **Will hot lunch programs be available?**

Most schools have postponed hot lunch programs at this time. This option will be re-evaluated as the year goes on. Check with your specific school for information.

25. **Will my child be allowed to go home for lunch?**

Yes. As in the past, families who choose to have their children go home for lunch will still have that option.

### At-Home/Online Learning

26. **Is Kindergarten mandatory?**

According to the Alberta Education Act, Kindergarten is not mandatory. Therefore, should a parent choose to keep their child at home and not participate in online learning choices at this level, it will not impact their child’s opportunity for Grade 1 enrolment the following year. Students can re-enter school or online learning in quarterly periods throughout the year. Please see our division re-entry plan for specific dates.

27. **Will At-Home School in the fall look different than this past spring’s online instruction?**

Yes. This past spring, we engaged in emergency remote instruction. Teachers were required to deliver approximately 10-15% of the mandated curriculum, even though about 1/3 of the curriculum remained in the year. In elementary school, only Mathematics and Language Arts were required by Alberta Education. Elementary students were to have 5 hours of instruction per week. In choosing authentic at-home online instruction for the fall, students will be instructed in the entire program of studies in English Language Arts, Mathematics, Social Studies, and Science. We will also offer Religion. The expectation is that students will engage in learning every day. A Scope and Sequence is being developed for all teachers across the Division that will be followed, to ensure program continuity and ease the transitions of students from at-home learning back to the community school classroom. The Scope and Sequence will include priority learner outcomes and common timelines for key curriculum concepts in the core subjects across the Division.

28. **What will be the expectation of parents in the online school? Will I need to teach my child?**

While we do not expect that parents are the primary teacher, successful online learning will depend upon a positive cooperative relationship between parents and teachers. Being able
to fully participate in online activities and complete work will depend upon your child’s level of independence. Parents may assist their child in setting a regular routine, supervising work, and assisting their child in accessing their online classroom and assignments. Authentic assessment will also rely on parents supporting their child’s independent work. Online teaching and learning will take place within the normal confines of a regular school day, with the expectation that the student engage during the times posted.

29. **Will we see the teacher during online learning? Will my child need to be on camera?**

In Evergreen, we use Google Meet as our digital meeting tool. It will be an expectation that both students and teachers are on camera to facilitate the best possible instruction. Meeting times will be clearly communicated to families so a regular schedule can be maintained with flexibility for learning needs.

30. **Will online school be the same hours as in-person school?**

Distance Education/Learning at home will offer the core courses (Language Arts/English, Math, Social Studies, Science and Religion) and while the time needed to complete coursework/assignments and assessments varies with each student however the general guidelines are:

- Kindergarten: 1 - 2 hrs per day
- Grades 1 to 3: 3 hrs per day
- Grades 4 to 6: 4 hrs per day
- Grades 7 to 9: 5 hrs per day
- Grades 10-12: 2.5-3 hrs per day for each 5 credit course

31. **I have chosen at-home learning but I haven’t heard anything from the school or division. What are the next steps?**

Evergreen Catholic Schools has been working on identifying and classifying our in-person and at-home students based on the completed surveys that closed on August 17, 2020. We are currently working on staffing requirements for both programs. Parents who have chosen at-home learning can expect correspondence (email or phone call) from the division the week of August 31 - Sept 4, 2020 with more information followed up with contact from their online assigned teachers prior to the expected start for at-home learning which is scheduled for **September 8, 2020.** In-person staggered entry into schools will be from August 31 - Sept 4, 2020 with a focus on safety guidelines and structures for students. Parents will be able to ask questions about the at-home learning with their teacher once they receive communication. Many questions will be answered at that time.

32. **What about subjects other than core subjects in online learning?**

In grades K-6, subjects such as Art will be integrated within core areas. Suggestions may be provided for Physical Education.
33. Is there support for parents who have chosen at-home online learning but may not have enough devices for their children?

Please contact our Evergreen tech department to see how we can support you, much like we were able to during the emergency remote learning in the Spring 2020.

34. What if we need to make a switch between at-home and in-person learning?

To minimize disruptions in classrooms, there will be four points in the year during which you can choose at-home or in-person learning: September, November, January, and April. **Three weeks before the next quarter, you will indicate your intention to switch with your school principal.** These dates can be found on the parent re-entry plan which is posted on our Division website. With a scope and sequence developed, based on Alberta Education Program of Studies, all teachers will be following the same key learnings at a similar time throughout the year. This will make the learning transitions more natural for your child’s learning and support the teacher with their planning.

**Supporting Students Who Require Individualized/Specialized Supports**

35. My child has special needs. Will those be accommodated in the online school?

The At-Home/Online Learning experience will mirror the in-person school experience as much as is reasonable and practicable. Students with specialized supports may receive supports and services in the same process as within a regular school year. It will be important to discuss your child’s needs with the school administration as well as the at-home learning teacher. The At-Home Learning Team will review your child’s IPP and plan for your child’s program.

36. My child has an Individual Program Plan. What will that look like in the at-home online school?

Your child’s online teacher will review your child’s previous individual program plan (IPP) and begin development of the new IPP in collaboration with parents. Staff on your child’s learning team will support your child individually, in small groups, or during whole group instruction through online resources and intervention as indicated in your child’s IPP. Questions regarding the supports and services should be directed to your school administrator.
School Sports and Extra-Curricular

37. Why is the Division not allowing my child to participate in extra-curricular opportunities if we choose at-home learning as our method of educational delivery?

The choice to provide at-home options was made in direct response to the concerns parents have with respect to the health and safety of their child as a result of COVID-19 or the heightened risks to vulnerable family members within the home. The primary purpose of our Division is the education of our students. While we value what the benefits of extra-curricular involvements bring to a student’s overall school experience, it is our stance that it is contradictory to select an at-home learning format for safety reasons, but to expect that those safety reasons are not present in extra-curricular offerings. So, to maintain our priority focus on learning, and to mitigate safety risks, ECSSD has determined that participation in extra-curricular activities will only be supported for students choosing in-person learning, and at that, only insofar as the guidance from the Chief Medical Officer allows these activities to occur. At present, interscholastic athletics are on hold until further notice. As a result, should interscholastic athletics and/or band be reinstated, only students enrolled for in-person schooling will be able to participate.

38. Are sports and fine arts re-opening in ECSSD this fall?

Extra-curricular athletics must follow the Alberta Schools’ Athletic Association (ASAA) The Safe Return to High School Athletics guidelines. Extra-curricular fine arts must follow the Alberta Government Guidance for live music, dance and theatre guidelines. Clubs that cannot maintain physical distancing are cancelled until further notice. All athletics are postponed until further notice. Check with your child’s school.

Transportation

39. What are the protocols for taking the bus? Is the bus risky?

Parents should find information on transportation through their provider website. Protocols and procedures will be shared. Please contact your transportation provider if you have further questions.