

# JAWS School Re-Entry Information



Dear JAWS students and families,

We hope you are well and are ready for the return to school starting tomorrow and Wednesday. We are looking forward to having students back in our schools again and have been quite busy planning for a successful and safe return. It has been more than 160 days since our students were last in our buildings and like many of you we are all both nervous and excited for our reopening. Please read on for some more important information about our J.A. Williams High School Reopening plan.

## Staggered Entry:

We want to help students get oriented to the new routines and safety precautions and we can give your child more attention and support by having only half the students attend for our first two orientation days. Last names A through J will attend on Tuesday Sept 1 and last names K through Z on Wednesday Sept 2. All students can return to school on Thursday. There's lots of changes and this will help us practice what distancing and safety routines will look like as well as the several safety protocols new to our school this year.



## Quarterly Schedule:

One of the biggest changes is to our schedule. Similar to the Edmonton School divisions we have moved to a quarterly schedule with fewer classes and double the diploma exam dates. This move will allow our students to take fewer subjects per quarter to help ease the transition, schools have to pivot between scenarios during the school year due to Covid-19.



This new format means that instead of the typical four classes a day (two in the morning and two in the afternoon) for semester 1 which runs for approximately 20 weeks, the students will now have only 2 classes per day (one in the morning and one in the afternoon) for a 10-week quarter. They will then take their next two classes in quarter 2 for the next 10 weeks. These new in-person classes will be approximately 150 minutes long with multiple activities and breaks built in. This will also reduce the pressure of diploma exams which are now offered by Alberta Education at the end of each quarter. Our staff has put a fair bit of thought into this change and are confident that it is a good time to for the change. Many high schools across our province have been using the quarterly schedule for several years now and students and staff have reported that the quartermaster system works very well for them. We are confident that the ability to focus on fewer courses at one time will benefit us, especially during these unprecedented times.

There are several other benefits to the quarterly schedule that will assist us as we follow the Alberta Health and Alberta Education regulations in regards to health measures to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. First and foremost, this new format will allow us to cohort our students into two groups per day and greatly limit the number of interactions between students. The time away from classes during our traditional exam weeks will also be greatly reduced.

## Masking:

Many of you have already seen messages about mandatory masking for all students from grade 4 through 12. Our school is no different and will require all staff, students, and visitors



to wear an appropriate mask when entering the building or moving through any common spaces where distancing cannot be maintained. We understand that masking is not a foolproof protection, but it is one of our many layers of protection for students and staff. Students, staff, and visitors will remain masked wherever possible, but there are times when mask removal will be permitted.



We do have a supply of disposable non-medical masks for when the need arises, but there are many other more comfortable options we encourage you to explore. Students will need to wear their masks before boarding the bus on the first day and when entering the school each time, so please send your child with masks on the first day. The government has provided two reusable masks per students and these will be handed out on the first day back.

### Enhanced Cleaning and Sanitization:

Aside from the deep cleaning and disinfecting protocols that will occur each evening, JAWS now has daytime custodial staff that will continuously sanitize high touch surfaces throughout the common spaces in the school. Similarly, all staff will ensure that sanitization of desks, chairs, and all equipment will take place before they are used by another student or staff member. There will be hand-sanitizing stations in all classrooms at all entrances/exits, and everyone is required to use them when entering or exiting the building or moving from one area of the school to another. Part of our teaching process during orientation will be modeling and practicing physical distancing, how to wash and sanitize hands thoroughly, how to sanitize their own learning spaces, and how to properly put on and take off their masks -- all in an effort to keep them safe and healthy.



Please be advised that our top priority for our reopening plans remain centered on protecting the health, safety and well-being of our school community and providing high quality program during these unprecedented times. Our schedule is designed to provide all students with their core curriculum needs in a safe as possible environment and therefore there will be limited availability for schedule changes.

### Screening

Alberta Health Services has provided a self screening tool for all schools to use and it can be found at <https://www.nlpsab.ca/download/292274> . Parents do not need to submit any paper copies of screenings, but should go through the checklist on a daily basis before sending your child to school. Send your child to school only if they are healthy and exhibit no signs of illness and pass the screening tool’s questionnaire. It is absolutely essential to have a pickup plan for your child in the case they begin to exhibit any of the listed symptoms during the school day. Students will be removed from class and isolated with a caring staff member until the parent, guardian, or designated emergency contact can pick up your child. Under no circumstances will your child be permitted to ride the bus home, so a child should never be sent to school without a pickup plan in place. Confirm your emergency contact information with the school, and also inform these contacts that they may be required to pick up your child.

**SELF-SCREENING FOR COVID-19**

PARENTS, GUARDIANS, AND STUDENTS MUST USE THIS SCREENING TOOL DAILY TO DECIDE IF THE STUDENT SHOULD ATTEND SCHOOL

Does the attendee have any new onset (or worsening) of any of the following symptoms?		
• Fever	YES	NO
• Cough	YES	NO
• Shortness of breath/difficulty breathing	YES	NO
• Sore throat	YES	NO
• Chills	YES	NO
• Painful swallowing	YES	NO
• Runny nose/nasal congestion	YES	NO
• Feeling unwell/fatigued	YES	NO
• Nausea/vomiting/diarrhea	YES	NO
• Unexplained loss of appetite	YES	NO
• Loss of sense of taste or smell	YES	NO
• Muscle/joint aches	YES	NO
• Headache	YES	NO
• Conjunctivitis (commonly known as pink eye)	YES	NO

Has the attendee travelled outside of Canada in the last 14 days?	YES	NO
Has the attendee had close contact* with a confirmed case of COVID-19 in the last 14 days?	YES	NO
Has the attendee had close contact with a symptomatic** close contact of a confirmed case of COVID-19 in the last 14 days?	YES	NO

\* Face-to-face contact within 2 metres. A health care worker in an occupational setting wearing the recommended personal protective equipment is not considered to be a close contact.

\*\* 'Asymptomatic' means someone with COVID-19 symptoms on the list above.

If you have answered "Yes" to any of the above questions, please DO NOT enter the school at this time. You should stay home and use the online COVID-19 Self-Assessment Tool to determine whether you need to be tested for COVID-19 and follow the isolation guidelines on the back of this checklist.

If you have answered "No" to all the above questions, you may attend school.

## **PRE-EXISTING CONDITIONS:**

All pre-existing illness or health conditions must be reported to the school prior to the start of the 2020-2021 school year. If a student with pre-existing illness or health conditions is exhibiting symptoms consistent with COVID-19 they will be required not to come to school until they have been tested for COVID-19 and received a negative test result. If the result is negative, the student can return to school and does not need to isolate unless the symptoms worsen or new symptoms develop.



## **STUDENTS WITH SYMPTOMS:**

You are legally required to isolate for a minimum of 10 days if you have a cough, fever, shortness of breath, runny nose, or sore throat that is not related to a pre-existing illness or health condition. The mandatory isolation period is 10 days from the start of symptoms, or until symptoms resolve, whichever takes longer.

## **TESTED POSITIVE FOR COVID-19:**

You are legally required to isolate for a minimum of 10 days if you have tested positive for COVID-19. Isolation period is for 10 days from the start of symptoms, or until symptoms resolve, whichever takes longer. You will be required to show proof of a negative test result prior to returning to a school building.

## **HAVE SYMPTOMS BUT TESTED NEGATIVE FOR COVID-19:**

If you tested negative and have known exposure to COVID-19, you are legally required to isolate for 14 days. If you tested negative and have no known exposure to the virus, you are not legally required to isolate. However, it is important to stay home until your symptoms resolve so that you do not transmit your illness to others. Unless you have a pre-existing illness or health condition, you will be required to be symptom free prior to returning to a school building.

## **CLOSE CONTACTS OF CONFIRMED CASES:**

You are legally required to isolate for 14 days and monitor for symptoms if you are a close contact of a person who tested positive for COVID-19 (provides care, lives with or has close physical contact without appropriate use of personal protective equipment, or comes into direct contact with infectious body fluids). If you become sick with cough, fever, shortness of breath, runny nose or sore throat during this time, you must isolate for an additional 10 days from the beginning of symptoms or until you are feeling well, whichever takes longer.

## Food Service:

We currently do not have any food service/cafeteria offered at our high school. Students can purchase lunch from the vendors at the Bold Center. With no cafeteria on site we encourage you to send your child with a lunch and snacks for the first several days of school. We hope to begin offering some cafeteria food service options over the next few weeks.



## Moving Through the Building:

Aside from mandatory use of the hand sanitizing stations when we enter/exit or move to other locations in the building, students will notice directional signage in the hallways and on stairs. This will help with social distancing and reduce congestion.



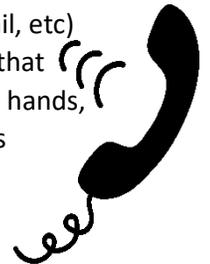
## Lockers

At this time, lockers will not be assigned. Students only have two classes per day and will be required to carry their belongings. Please bring all of your supplies with you in your backpack. Only bring what you need for quarter 1.



## Visitors and Parents in the School

Please understand that all of our plans are in place to best protect our students and staff. With that being said we ask that parents and other visitors do not enter the building without a scheduled appointment time. We strongly encourage you to communicate remotely (phone, email, etc) wherever possible. Phone 780 623 4271 if you require an in-person meeting. You will also notice that visitors to the school must complete the screening tool, be wearing an appropriate mask, sanitize hands, and complete the contact tracing sign-in forms at the front desk. Visitors may only go to the areas approved for their visit by school administration.



## When a Child Gets Sick at School

If a student shows symptoms at school:

- student will wear a non-medical mask and be isolated in a separate room where they can be kept at least 2 metres away from others; the school has several 'infirmary' areas ready for students
- parents/guardians will be contacted to pick up the child immediately; it is imperative that you ensure the school has up-to-date contact information, including current emergency contact information; you are required to have a pick-up plan each day; students will under no circumstances be permitted to ride the bus home.

## If the school has a confirmed positive case:

- the zone medical officer of health will work with school authorities to quickly:
  - identify when symptoms developed
  - identify and contact people who had close contact with the person who tested positive, offer testing, and set the isolation measures:

- people are legally required to isolate for 14 days if they live with or are a close contact of a person who tested positive for COVID-19

- only people in direct contact with a confirmed case need to isolate
- each school authority will:
  - notify staff and parents if a case is confirmed at school
  - support students and staff to learn or work at home if they are required to self-isolate

### **If a school has 2 or more cases:**

- the school would be considered to have an outbreak
- medical officers will assess the spread and exposure risk to determine if it affects multiple grades and areas, or is confined within close contacts of a confirmed case, and provide specific recommendations – an outbreak will not automatically lead to school closure
- For more information, go to the Resource guide for COVID-19 outbreaks in schools at <https://open.alberta.ca/dataset/covid-19-in-school-k-12-resource-guide-for-school-s-before-during-and-after-a-covid-19-outbreak>

Looking forward to a safe and successful year.

Thank you all for your cooperation and support through all this.



