

County Central High School

COVID-19 SCHOOL PLAN

August 2021



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Please note that all items listed below are in addition to, or in conjunction with, directives provided by Alberta Health Services and Palliser Regional Schools. For more information, please review the *Palliser COVID School Guidance* document found at <https://www.pallisersd.ab.ca/>.

Introduction:

The staff at County Central High School is excited to welcome our students back and we are looking forward to the start of another school year. In preparation for the return to school, we have prepared this document to provide some guidance and some reassurance to our families. Please note that this plan is flexible and subject to change based on direction from the Palliser School Division, Alberta Education, and Alberta Health Services. Our plan is based upon the following foundational principles:

- The safety of children, students and staff comes first.
- Student learning will continue.
- Provincial funding is still flowing to schools.
- School authorities have flexibility to do what is best for their community.

The Palliser School Division has emphasized three key strategies to minimize the risk of transmitting COVID-19 within our school communities and division. The three key strategies are:

- Follow Expert Advice – It is an expectation that we all become knowledgeable about the protocols, guidelines and directives for schools from Alberta Education and Alberta Health Services.
- Keep the Virus Out – The first and most important action we can take is to prevent anyone that is ill or has COVID-19 symptoms from entering schools, Division-owned facilities, or school buses.
- Prevent the Spread – In addition, we must take steps to reduce the possibility of transmission if someone who is ill, has COVID-19 symptoms, or is asymptomatic but able to spread the virus is in a school, a Division-owned facility, or on a school bus.

If we can follow these three basic strategies and apply sound professional judgement we will greatly decrease the likelihood of transmitting the virus within our schools and throughout the Division.

School Start-Up:

In an effort to help students ease back into the building, we will be having a staggered start to the school year:

- Grades 7 & 10 Wednesday, September 1st
- Grades 8 & 11 Thursday, September 2nd
- Grades 9 & 12 Friday, September 3rd
- All Students Tuesday, September 7th

During the first three days, students will come to school for one day as per the above schedule. All students are then expected to be in regular classes as of Tuesday, September 7th. It is our hope that this schedule will allow us to go over COVID-19 protocols, safety measures, and expectations for students in smaller groups, and will allow us to provide a proper orientation for our new students - especially our Grade 7s. (Buses will be running as usual on these days.)

COVID Safety Measures:

General Building Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- All soft furnishings have been removed from classrooms - sofas, rugs, arm chairs, etc.- Signage has been posted for reminders about proper respiratory hygiene, hand-washing, and physical distancing.- Signage has been placed at the front entrance directing visitors to complete the self-screening tool and report directly to the Main Office.
Screening	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Screening documents are posted at all entrance points.- Students, staff, and visitors must not enter the school building if they are feeling unwell or have any COVID-19 symptoms unrelated to pre-existing conditions.- Student medical files are being updated. Parents are asked to provide us with information regarding any pre-existing conditions.- We will be ensuring that all students have correct contact information as well as updated emergency contact information.- Signage is posted at the main entrance reminding persons not to enter if they have any symptoms or are feeling unwell.- Two rooms in the office that are to be used as isolation rooms in case of illness during the school day have been prepared.
Masking	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Students and staff are not required to wear masks inside the school building. Students and staff may choose to wear masks if they so wish.- Students and staff are strongly encouraged to wear masks while in the hallways and common areas if it is difficult to maintain

	<p>physical distancing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Staff and students are required to wear masks while riding school buses. - Should a student or staff member become ill while at school, they will be required to put on a mask and wear it until they have left the building. - We will encourage and support students, staff, and parents or guardians who choose to wear masks while in the building.
Cohorting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cohorts are designed to minimize contact and potential transmission while also aiding in contact tracing should the need arise. - Students are to remain in division-level cohorts and to have interactions with students in their divisions only. (Division III includes students in Grades 7-9, while Division IV includes students in Grades 10-12.)
Physical Distancing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Desks/tables/seating will be spaced out in rooms as much as possible based on class size and room size and will be placed in rows. - Extra furniture or items will be removed from classrooms if necessary to accommodate physical distancing - books shelves, work tables, etc. - Change rooms are available, and students taking PE will be assigned lockers in the change rooms. - Lockers are available - students will be assigned lockers according to grade level. - Students will be encouraged to avoid crowding and mixing in large groups while in the hallways and common areas. - All students may use the main staircase when going upstairs. - Students in Grades 7-9 will be asked to use the junior high staircase (near the Art Room) when coming downstairs, while students in Grades 10-12 will be asked to use the senior high staircase (near the science labs) when coming downstairs. - Students in Grades 7-9 will use the upstairs washrooms, and students in Grades 10-12 will use the main floor washrooms. - Students in junior high will have a separate lunch break from students in senior high. - Large group gatherings - such as whole school assemblies - are suspended for the time being.
Hygiene Practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Staff and students will be encouraged to sanitize their hands upon

	<p>entry to the school building, upon entry to each classroom, and prior to leaving the building. Frequent sanitizing or hand washing will be encouraged.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Students will be reminded to use good respiratory hygiene practices including covering one's mouth when yawning, and coughing/sneezing into one's elbow. - Students will be discouraged from sharing items such as water bottles and school supplies. - Desks will be sprayed with disinfectant at the end of each class.
<p>Drop-off and Pick-up</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Morning drop-off is naturally staggered - buses and students all arrive at different times. - Both front doors may be used for entry into the building during morning drop-off to allow students to have extra space. - Upon arrival, students in Grades 7-10 are asked to head upstairs to their lockers, while students in Grades 11-12 are asked to remain downstairs and can go to their lockers or the Learning Commons. - Multiple exit points are available to students at the end of the day to allow for spacing - students in junior high are asked to use the junior high doors to exit the building. - Students in Grades 8 and 11 will be dismissed 5 minutes early at the end of the day to reduce crowding and congestion in the hallways.
<p>Visitors</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Visitors - including parents and guardians - are allowed in the building by appointment. Visitors must call the school to set up an appointment to come into the building. - Only essential visitors will be permitted to enter the building, and all visitors must complete the self-screening tool prior to entering the building. - All visitors must sign in at the Main Office. - Service providers and delivery persons must call in advance of their arrival and must complete the self-screening tool. - All visitors, service providers, and delivery people must wear a mask and sanitize hands upon entry.
<p>Enhanced Cleaning</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enhanced cleaning of high-touch surfaces throughout the day will continue. - Shared materials and equipment will be sanitized between uses where appropriate.

Food Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Microwaves are not available for student use at this time. - The Hawk’s Nest will be open towards the end of September and will offer individually packaged food options. Workers will wear PPE. - No items will be left in the common areas (i.e. napkins, cutlery, condiments). Any food served will be pre-packaged or pre-plated. - Students may eat their lunches in the Lunch Room or outside.
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Extra-Curricular & Athletics:

Athletics and other extra-curricular activities will resume. Students, staff, and volunteers travelling to activities and games on school buses must wear masks while on the buses. During games, practices, and other activities, staff, students, and volunteers will be encouraged to maintain physical distancing. Performances and the playing of instruments are permitted.

Online Learning Options:

With the release of these guidelines, we recognize that not all families are comfortable with returning to in-school learning. As such, Palliser will continue to offer online learning for students in Grades 1-12. Any families who are interested in enrolling in online learning are asked to contact Mr. Jason Kupery (jason.kupery@pallisersd.ab.ca) if they would like to discuss the options available. We are committed to helping all students access learning in a way that promotes safety, effective instruction, and overall student wellness and success. Please note that students who choose to pursue online learning through Palliser Beyond Borders are required to make a commitment for at least one semester - they will not be permitted to switch back and forth between CCHS and Palliser Beyond Borders mid-semester.

CCHS will not be offering online learning at this time - students wishing to learn from home must register with Palliser Beyond Borders. If at any point the provincial government moves schools to at-home learning for a period of time, we will offer synchronous online classes during the school closure. Students who are away from the building for extended periods of time due to illness or isolation are expected to maintain contact with their teachers to develop a plan to stay caught up on their class work.

Symptoms & Illness:

Students and staff must stay home if they are unwell. If a student becomes ill while at school, they will be asked to put on a mask and will be escorted to the isolation room in the Main Office where they will remain until parents or guardians have been contacted. Students who are unwell will need to be picked up by a parent or guardian and should not return until they are feeling well and symptom-free.

Provincial Exams:

At this time, all provincial exams (Grade 9 Provincial Achievement Tests and Diploma Exams) will be written.

In Closing:

These protocols have been designed in accordance with the guidance provided by Alberta Health Services and the Palliser School Division, as well as feedback and input collected from families and staff members. All guidelines and protocols are subject to change as new information becomes available. Families will be notified of any changes. We appreciate the cooperation and diligence of our students and their families in working together to keep our school community safe.

Daily Schedule:

Prior to leaving home:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Complete AHS self-screening tool - Wash hands (recommended)
On the bus:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Masks are mandatory - Sit in designated seat, facing forward
Upon arrival:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Masks are optional but encouraged - Use the Main Entrance Doors only - Wash/sanitize hands upon entry - Grades 7-10 head upstairs; Grades 11-12 remain downstairs
In class:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sit in assigned seat - Masks are optional - Sharing or borrowing materials or supplies is discouraged - Staff and students are encouraged to maintain physical distancing and to spread out as much as possible
During class changes:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Masks are optional but encouraged - No congregating in the hallways
At lunch:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Masks are optional but encouraged - Students will eat lunch in the Lunchroom, the Learning Commons, or outside - Students who are permitted to leave campus are being trusted to act responsibly and maintain physical distancing, as well as to follow the COVID-19 safety protocols in place at any businesses they are visiting.
After school:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sanitize hands before leaving the building - Exit through designated doorways - junior high students use the junior high stairs and exit, while senior high students use the senior high stairs and exit.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Grade 8s and 11s released from classes 5 minutes before the bell to avoid crowding - Masks must be on while riding the school bus
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Revised Bell Schedule:

Warning Bell	8:25am	
Period 1	8:30am - 9:45am	75 min
Period 2	9:50am - 11:05am	75 min
Jr. CHAT / Sr. Lunch	11:10am - 11:55am	45 min
Sr. CHAT / Jr. Lunch	12:05pm - 12:50pm	45 min
Period 3	12:55pm - 2:10pm	75 min
Period 4	2:15pm - 3:30pm	75 min