



Hidden Valley School's routines, schedules and programs for 2020-21

Adapting to COVID-19 at our school



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Starting the 2020-21 school year

After an unusual end to last school year, we are very excited to welcome students and school staff back into our classrooms. We know this school year will be different, but we have an opportunity to work together, to be creative and set a positive example for our students of how we can be resilient when presented with challenges.

The health and safety of students and school staff is our first priority. Our school is adapting our operations and programming to meet the [health and safety guidelines for K-12 school settings](#) set by Yukon's Chief Medical Officer of Health.

The health and safety guidelines indicate that:

- Keeping students out of school has negative impacts on their mental health
- Outbreaks involving children and youth are unusual and tend to only occur in areas where there are high levels of community spread
- There is no conclusive evidence that shows children who are asymptomatic pose a risk to other children or adults
- Children and youth are not the primary drivers of COVID-19 spread in schools or community settings
- Proper health and safety measures still need to be in place to reduce risk

Staff at our school will be regularly reviewing the health and safety measures at our school with students to ensure safe and healthy habits.

Read more below about how we are adapting our school routines this school year.



Health and safety routines for the 2020-21 school year

Contacting the school

Contact us at (867) 667-8164 if you have questions about how we are ensuring the health and safety for students and staff this school year.

Staying home when sick

Students and staff must stay home if they are sick or showing symptoms. Parents should monitor their child every day for symptoms before sending them to school.

Parents should consider if they are new or worsening symptoms when monitoring, or if they are otherwise not explained. For example, a child with asthma may have a cough, which may not be new.

You can use the self-assessment tool on Yukon.ca to assess yourself and your child for COVID-19: service.yukon.ca/en/covid-19-self-assessment/

Symptoms include:

- Fever/chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath
- Runny nose
- Sore throat
- Headache
- Loss of sense of taste or smell
- Fatigue
- Loss of appetite
- Nausea and vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Muscle aches

Health officials recommend students get tested for COVID-19 if they are showing symptoms. Students and staff must stay home until they are symptom free, or if tested, until they have a negative test.

Always phone 811 or your family physician before going anywhere to get tested.

If a student or staff gets sick at school

If a student or staff gets sick at school:

- The student or staff will be immediately separated into a designated area
- The student or staff will be provided a mask



- The student's parent/guardian will be contacted to pick them up as soon as possible
- The school staff member who is sick will go home as soon as possible
- The designated area will be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected

Wearing a mask at school

Students and staff are not required to wear masks except in certain situations. They may do so if they choose.

Masks are not recommended for children unless advised by a health care provider. There are specific situations that may require a mask. These include:

- If a student or staff member gets sick at school, they will be asked to wear a mask
- If a school staff has to attend to a sick student, they will be asked to wear a mask
- If a school staff is unable to physically distance during their regular job duties, for example assisting students with activities of daily living, such as washing, using the bathroom, eating, etc.

Our school will have access to non-medical masks to ensure they are accessible when needed.

Physical distancing

The health and safety guidelines indicate physical distancing is not always possible with children. Where not possible, risks are being reduced by increasing other measures like handwashing, cleaning and disinfecting, and making sure students and staff stay home when sick or showing symptoms.

To support safe spacing, manage traffic flows in common areas, and limit mixing of different groups of students, our school is taking the following measures:

Limiting Staff and Student contact:

- use of posters and floor stickers to remind anyone in the building of physical distancing (includes foot stickers, directional arrows, wall posters)
- staff to use a variety physical cues to direct students to the appropriate locations for activities
teachers, EA's, LAT, PE teacher, and any available staff will monitor physical distancing, especially at the beginning and end of the school day
- sensory room used to assist students to self-regulate when necessary
- hygiene stations at each entrance way and in each classroom (includes hand sanitizer, hand-washing soap, paper towels)
- sanitizing wipes to be readily available – mostly for teacher use
- teachers educate students on the proper use of sanitizing station equipment
- if staff have to enter the space of a 1:1 student or for in case of an injury all staff will have a mask accessible.
- Staff member that will be entering multiple classrooms will have masks that they will wear when interacting with the students and staff members in that class (in cases where they cannot maintain 6' distance).
- For classroom teachers and EA's they will only be interacting with the classrooms that are in their hallway (four in the primary and 5 in the intermediate hallway).



- Our mental wellness team leader will be spending time with each class to ensure common language. He will also be working with the school support team to ensure we are able to support all our students as a team.

Place-Based Learning Procedures:

- The classes will not be intermingling for their PBL at the beginning of the year.
- Classroom Teachers and EA's will be staying with their groups of students.
- New teachers will have a School Support team member with them in order to support them with getting to know their students and maintaining safety for the first three days.

Limiting Student to Student Contact:

- In classrooms that are using desks, desks will be spaced out in rows, to maintain physical distancing in the classroom
- to promote spacing, students will use alternative seating when possible (e.g lap tables while sitting on floor)
- most of our classes have tables. In these rooms, we will be utilizing pods of students and these student groupings will be static and spaced away from other pods in the classroom.
- each intermediate class will have 'pods' and the students will interact only with other pod members. Pods will have labeled seating. Entrance and exit from the school will be done by pod to minimize interactions.
- to facilitate social interaction and developmentally-appropriate learning opportunities, each primary class will be considered to be a single pod. The class will enter and exit the building as a whole. Centre time and Circle time will be permitted. Emphasis will be on regular, careful hand-washing, including washing both before and after Centers. Students are still encouraged to use individual supplies.
- teachers and EA's primarily work with their class and all pods within that class
- teachers will have individual hand sanitizer in their bags when outside
- only one student permitted to leave a classroom to go to the bathroom at a time
- families who wish can have children wear masks
- students will be given lessons on how to physically distance and wash hands
- staggered entry and exit out of the school so that everyone does not come in at the same time – monitored by inside and outside school staff as per supervision schedule
- in primary and early intermediate grades, hooks will be colour coded by pod and spaced out in a pattern that will allow physical distancing
- outside – when the bell rings, students will line up in their designated colour coded area, so that a staggered entrance can occur, at 2 min intervals (we are considering this process).
- upon entry and after students are ready to enter the classrooms, they must wash/sanitize their hands before sitting down
- recess breaks will also be staggered
Group 1- 10:10:15, lunch recess 12:12:20
(Grades - to be determined)
Group 2- 10:25-10:40, lunch recess 12:30-12:50
(Grades – to be determined)
- when one group is on lunch recess, the other group is eating lunch
- any time a group comes in from the outside, they must wash their hands.



- classes will play in designated areas (zones) on the playground
- school assemblies will be done in smaller groups, in the gym, or over the PA system or through the use of video applications (to be determined)
- we would like to limit the use of tape in our school since we do not have multiple hallways to get to locations we continue to walk down the right hand side of the hallways. (which is already common practice in our school)
- we will be discussing our common greetings that we can use in the school because we have instilled morning greetings in our school culture over the years.

Place-Based Learning Procedures:

- the classes will be separated from all other classes. There will be designated areas around the school property that classes will rotate through.
- each teacher will have a classroom kit that include a mobile classroom, first aid kit, bear safety kit, and walkie-talkie so they can communicate at all times.
- Students will have individual sit-spots in order to connect with nature and maintain the social distancing in their outdoor classroom.
- We rented portable bathrooms so the students will not have to enter the school to use the washroom.

Hand washing and sanitizing at school

Students and school staff will be required to wash their hands for 20 seconds with soap and water or sanitize their hands frequently during the school day.

When students should wash their hands	When staff should wash their hands
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Before and after any transitions within the school setting (e.g. to another classroom, indoor-outdoor transitions) • Whenever hands are visibly dirty • After using the washroom • Before eating and drinking • After sneezing or coughing into hands • After playing outside 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Before and after any transitions within the school setting (e.g. to another classroom, indoor-outdoor transitions) • Whenever hands are visibly dirty • After using the washroom • Before eating and drinking • After sneezing or coughing into hands • Before handling food or assisting students with eating • After contact with body fluids (i.e., runny noses, spit, vomit, blood) • After cleaning tasks • After removing gloves • After handling garbage

Students and staff will be able to wash hands at available sinks in the school. Hand sanitizing stations will also be located at:

Students:

- We will need one in the foyer and in the common area in both hallways. Initially we will also need one in the woods behind the school by the portable washrooms. We will also need one in the staff parking lot just before the students go into the woods. This parking lot station will be brought into the school nightly and returned in the morning.

Place-Based Learning:

- There will be a hand cleaning station by the portable washrooms.
- Each teacher will have a hand sanitizer bottle that they will squirt all of the students' hands.

School Visitors:

- We will need one in the foyer when you first enter the school.

Cleaning and disinfecting the school

Government of Yukon custodial staff will be cleaning and disinfecting the school with disinfectants approved by Health Canada. They also follow [cleaning and disinfecting guidelines](#) set by Yukon's Chief Medical officer of Health.

High-touch areas and equipment, including shared items for learning will be wiped down and cleaned more frequently.

Staff and students may also take part in supporting cleaning efforts. Students may be asked to help out by washing their hands, cleaning their desk and cleaning up after using shared items for learning, just like they usually would.

Supporting safe habits at school

Teachers and school staff will go over these health and safety routines regularly with students. Parents are also encouraged to review these health and safety routines regularly with their child or children. This includes:

- Washing hands with soap and warm water for 20 seconds
- Using hand sanitizer when you can't wash your hands
- Coughing and sneezing into our elbows
- Using a tissue to blow our nose, and then throwing the tissue in the garbage
- Keeping a 2-metre distance from your friends and teachers as much as you can
- Making sure your child or children tells you when they are sick or showing symptoms
- Keeping them home when they are sick or showing symptoms



Operations and schedule during the 2020-21 school year

School start and end times, and recess and lunch

The start and end times for our school day have not changed. Our school day will start at 8:35 and end at 3:05.

Our recess and lunch breaks will be staggered for different groups of students:

- Group 1- 10-10:15, lunch recess 12-12:20
(Grades - to be determined)
- Group 2- 10:25-10:40, lunch recess 12:30-12:50
(Grades – to be determined)

Drop-off and pick-up

Student, parents and school staff should maintain a 2-metre distance during drop-off and pick-up times as much as possible.

Parents should not enter the school while waiting to drop-off or pick up their child. They should wait in their vehicle or in the designated waiting area.

Note that we will give out more information if this needs to change in accordance to the bus schedule.

Water bottles, food and meals

Students are encouraged to bring their own water bottle for the school day to reduce contact at the water fountains.

There will be no sharing of food or drinks between students at the school this year. Any meals available at the school will be served in individual portions or packaged in single-use, food grade packaging.

The breakfast and lunch programs will continue to be open to students.

Visitors and public access to the school

Parents and other guests should limit visiting the school where possible. We understand there may be times where you must visit the school building.

When visiting the school, parents and visitors to the school must:

- Enter through main foyer and exit through the main foyer
- Sign in at the front office
- Sanitize their hands when entering the school
- Maintain physical distancing while in the school



Programming during the 2020-21 school year

Contacting the school for learning supports

Contact the teacher first if your child needs additional or different supports for their learning.

If you still have concerns with the supports being offered, please contact the school to ensure the school principal is able to follow-up.

The school can be contacted at: (867) 667-8164

Learning at school

All students at Hidden Valley School will be able to attend in-class instruction, full-time for five-days a week. During the school day, students will attend their regular classes, while following health and safety guidelines. They will learn the full school curriculum.

Learning at home if a student can't attend school

Students must stay home if they are sick or have symptoms of COVID-19. If a student is unable to attend school, they will be provided their course work by their teacher as they normally would.

If a student is away for an extended period of time, they will be provided their coursework and they will be supported in their learning through:

- FreshGrade and classroom specific websites
- The classroom teacher will be the main contact at the school

If you are planning for your child to be away from school for the whole school year, please contact the school principal to discuss options.

School supplies and sharing learning materials

Sharing of school supplies and learning materials will be limited as much as possible. If shared, materials need to be cleaned and disinfected.

For student supply lists please refer to our website. [Student Supply Lists](#)

Some classes may use some shared learning materials, such as toys, blocks and other materials for learning, but they will be cleaned and disinfected using soap and water or a disinfectant wipe. Students will be asked to wash or sanitize their hands before and after each use.

Paper-based materials like text books, books and paper handouts are okay to use and share as outlined in the health and safety guidelines.

Libraries and computer labs

Our school library will remain accessible for students and staff and we will continue to allow books and other resources to be borrowed from the library.

Students and staff will be able to access IT equipment while following these measures:



- Students will be required to wash or sanitize their hands before and after using computers and other shared IT equipment
- Computers and other shared IT equipment will be cleaned after each use using disinfectant wipes; students and staff may be asked to support this effort
- Teachers will monitor the use of class iPods and iPads by assigning 1-2 students to use them per day so they are not transferred between students throughout the day.

Recess, gym, playing on the playground and Forest School

Weather permitting, recess breaks and gym classes will take place outdoors. Students and families are asked to ensure they have the proper clothing for playing outdoors.

Playground equipment is okay to use as long as hands are washed before and after going on the equipment.

When gym class is indoors, we will follow the [health and safety guidelines for sport and recreation](#).

School field trips

The health and safety guidelines allow field trips within Yukon and Canada as long as public health and safety guidelines are followed. This includes allowing:

- Outdoor overnight trips if students sleep in their own tent or are only partnered with a family member
- Hotel stays, as long as no more than two students are in each room

Our school will be assessing any planned school field trips on a case-by-case basis and will provide updates to students and parents directly through school year.

International field trips are not currently permitted.

Music classes

The health and safety guidelines note singing and playing woodwind and brass instruments must not occur at this time. While we are unable to sing or use certain instruments, our school will continue to have a music class.

The music teacher will share how he is adapting his program once the school year gets started. This may include singing in the outdoors and maintaining safe distancing.

Extracurricular activities (school sports, music, arts, other programs)

We will be assessing extracurricular activities at the beginning of the school year and determining any changes or adaptations that may be needed.

Any extracurricular activities will follow the same health and safety guidelines for K-12 school settings, and any additional health and safety guidelines that apply, for example, the [health and safety guidelines for sport and recreation](#) for school sports.

Students and parents will be updated as this information becomes available.



For more information:

We will be providing regular updates to students and families during the school year through e-mail, school newsletter, and on our school website.

Visit the following websites for more information:

- School website: <http://hve.yukonschools.ca>
- Yukon.ca information on education and schools during COVID-19: yukon.ca/en/education-and-school-supports-covid-19
- Yukon.ca information on COVID-19: yukon.ca/en/covid-19-information

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us at (867)667-8164.