



Parent Information for Scenario 1 School Re-entry Plan

Please note, the CWS 2020-21 re-entry plan is subject to change as more information becomes available from Alberta Health Services and Alberta Education. We will continue to update this information with more details through to the end of summer and during the next school year. Updated: August 26, 2020

Dear Parents & Community Members,

We are striving to make sure that our students' experiences at school are very similar to what they have been in the past. Many of these changes will only affect the adults in our community. Our preschool and kindergarten classes will continue to have the same warm feeling with caring teachers delivering the imaginative education that we are known for.

In the big school, our students will indeed see some differences, but in the classroom they will still encounter our rich curriculum and programming.

Throughout the school we are making sure outside requirements are being applied with reason. For example, as mandated by AHS, masks will be used by students in grades 4-9 and all staff in common areas (entryways and hallways), and at times where physical distancing cannot be maintained.

We deeply care about the welfare of our community and continue to work with faculty and staff to support our re-entry plan while doing everything we can to maintain the spirit of Calgary Waldorf School.

Warmly,

Apryl Sponholz
Pedagogical Administrator/Principal

Daily Self-Screening Practices

Parents/guardians must assess their children daily for symptoms of common cold, influenza, COVID-19 or other infectious respiratory diseases. Parents must use the *CWS Daily Health Check* (see attached) before sending each child to school. If your child displays any of the symptoms on the checklist they must not be sent to school.

Illness While at School

Students exhibiting signs of illness must be moved to the school's sick room. Parents/guardians must be notified and advised to pick-up their child within one hour of notification. If the parent is unable to pick up their child, they must designate an emergency contact for student pickup. It is the expectation that students are picked up by the family or emergency contact.

Confirmed Cases of Covid-19

If there are cases of Covid-19 identified within our school setting, CWS's Zone Medical Officer of Health will work directly with the jurisdiction and school administration to provide follow-up recommendations and messaging for staff, parents/guardians, and students.

Students with Pre-Existing Conditions

Individuals who have allergies or ongoing health issues and who are exhibiting Covid-like symptoms must be tested at least once according to the Alberta Health Services Guidance. This will establish a baseline for the individual. If symptoms change (worsen, additional symptoms, change in baseline) the individual must stay home and be re-tested for Covid-19 and cleared.

Student Groupings/Cohorting

A cohort is defined as a group of students and staff who remain together. The size of the cohort will depend on the physical space of the classroom or learning setting and the number of students assigned to that teacher. In this scenario, class sizes will be consistent with what CWS has provided in the past and meets the recommendations for cohort size.

Staff will work to limit cohort/class interactions where possible. Activities that bring together multiple classes or grades are to be limited wherever possible in this scenario. In most cases, teachers will move from learning space-to-space rather than students.

Physical Distancing

CWS is putting practises into place to cohort each class and to maximize physical distancing; however, we will not be able to maintain a two-metre physical separation between students at all times. By cohorting each class with their class teacher, and restricting interactions between classes, we have added a layer of protection to account for times when physical distancing is improbable.

Handwashing

Handwashing is seen as a strong defence against Covid-19, students will be required to wash their hands as they enter and leave the classroom as well as enter and leave the school. Handwashing may also be required during transition times in the classroom.

Masks

As mandated by Alberta Education, masks will only be used by students in grades 4-9 and all staff in common areas (entryways and hallways), and at times where physical distancing cannot be maintained. Within the classroom cohort, masks only need to be worn when students and teachers are working closely together, for example, in situations where they are working one-on-one with their teacher.

Student Arrival and Entry

With the exception of preschool and kindergarten students, we ask that you drop your children off near the ball diamond and allow your children to walk across the field. Drop off time will take place beginning 8:10 and be completed by 8:25.

Students in Grade 1-9 will meet at their designated spot on the school grounds. They will be directed to enter the school via their designated entrance. This entry will be staggered to allow for classes not to cross.

Kindergarten students will be directed to the Kinderyard where they will be met outside by their teacher and assistants.

Preschool parents and children will be directed into the Kinderwing building to meet the preschool teacher and assistants.

All students who arrive late must enter the school and check in at the office. Masks must be worn by students in Grade 4-9 if they arrive late.

Visitors/Parents/Volunteers

To minimize risks, volunteers and guest presenters are not permitted until further notice. Authorized visitors include parents by appointment, delivery personnel, CWS staff, CWS Board, recognised contractors, RCMP, and AHS.

Water Fountains, Water Bottles

Water fountains will remain available only as filling stations. Students and staff are encouraged to bring their own filled water bottle each day. Sinks and water refilling stations can be used to fill personal water bottles.

Washrooms

Washroom capacity will be posted, and students will be expected to wait, while practicing physical distancing from each other, if the washroom capacity is exceeded. Signage will be posted about washing hands and physical distancing.

Eating Lunch

No food sharing for staff or students. Students must not share utensils, dishes, water bottles, or drink containers. Students will be asked to wash their hands before and after eating. Students may be asked to help wipe down their own desks or tables used for eating. Use of student shared microwaves is not allowed.

Recess

Classes will have staggered recess with only 3 classes on the playground at a time. Kindergarten and preschool will stagger their outside time to ensure minimal crossover.

End of School Day

We ask that parents/guardians remain with their vehicle while waiting for their children. They must not enter the school unless they have an appointment booked. Teachers will ensure all students wash their hands prior to leaving their last class.

For students in the older grades (4-9) it is asked that the parents pick them up across the soccer field along Cougar Ridge Drive.

Students who walk to school will be asked to walk home directly. The playground will only be accessible to Aftercare students.

Indoor Events & Gatherings

To reduce interactions between cohorts, indoor multi-classroom/cohort gatherings such as assemblies or whole school groupings are not permitted.

Extra-curricular Activities

Due to the guidelines laid out by Alberta Education, CWS extra-curricular athletics are postponed until further notice. Concerts, plays and community Festivals are also postponed until further notice.

Where a club can meet while maintaining physical distancing, they can continue if they wipe down touched surfaces.

Field Trips

Guidance from AHS states that field trips and activities requiring group transportation should not be scheduled. As such, field trips should be restricted to locations within walking distance of the school. All field trips beyond a reasonable walking distance are currently postponed and should not be planned (e.g. international, out-of-province, out-of-community, across town trips).

Before and Aftercare School Programs

In Scenario 1, the Before and Aftercare Program will be offered.

Adult Entry/Appointments

We ask that all adults needing to enter the school to book an appointment. We are working on means to make this convenient for our community and will communicate this system early in September.

What happens if we are moved to Scenario 2?

Using the cohort model and strengthening our ability to distance within cohorts, CWS plans to continue in class learning in Scenario 2. Larger classes will be moved into larger spaces. The specialist Teacher schedule will be changed to minimise crossover between the Class cohort.

What happens if we are moved to Scenario 3?

In Scenario 3 Calgary Waldorf School will return to their Ongoing Learning Plan which will be supported through package exchange, Zoom and Google Classroom.

Cleaning and Healthy Highlights about our Building

Cleaning

Our dedicated Caretakers have been diligently looking after the daily cleaning needs of our school for the last 10 years. During the upcoming year, in addition to the regular nightly cleaning tasks, we will follow recommended enhanced cleaning and disinfecting protocols such as:

- High-touch points will be cleaned and disinfected regularly during the school day
- Additional nightly surface sanitization in common areas
- Shared equipment will be regularly sanitized between users

Indoor Air Quality and Classroom Sizes – This Matters!

When we built this building in 2002, much attention was placed on the indoor air quality. It was also important for us to have roomy classrooms, hallways and gathering spaces. Those features combined provide us with some real benefits right now.

The indoor air volume in this building on a per-student basis is huge, even at maximum student capacity. That means that any bacteria or virus particles present will be quite diluted in the volume of air.

Combine that volume of air with 6 separate air handling units for the different areas of the school which bring in a minimum of 30% outside filtered air at all times, in even the coldest of temperatures, and much more on hotter days, and we have a lot of fresh air in this building.

Ventilation can also be increased by having windows open whenever possible.

In addition to the fresh, filtered air that has always existed in the building, we are exploring additional equipment that can assist with purifying the air.