



# Hillside Jr/Sr High School

"A Caring Commitment to Learning"

January 7, 2022

Dear Parents, Guardians, Students and Staff,

## Re-entry Information January 2022

As you will know, students had an extended break this week to allow Hillside staff time to engage in planning for a variety of learning scenarios. While we have spent time considering what online learning will look like for our students, we also prepared for return to in-person instruction. On Wednesday, January 5, the announcement was made that students will return to in-person instruction on Monday, January 10.

Our ability to continue to maintain in-person learning will be greatly reduced if we experience staffing shortages due to illness and are unable to provide coverage for classes in the school. Should it happen that we cannot staff the school, or certain classes within the school, there may be a need to move to online for a period of time. While we have prepared for that possibility, it is not our preferred instructional delivery mode. We ask that staff, parents and students do their part to limit the likelihood of others being exposed to, and possibly contracting, COVID-19 at school.

### Before School Each Day:

- Students: Complete the COVID-19 [Alberta Health Daily Checklist](#) (For children under 18)
- Staff: Complete the COVID-19 [Alberta Health Daily Checklist](#) (For Adults 18 years and older)
- Everyone: Once At-home Rapid Tests are distributed (we expect this to be by the end of next week) it is recommended that staff and students test twice a week. (Sunday/Wednesday evenings or Monday/Thursday Mornings) Do not attend the school if it is a positive result, but follow the guidelines of AHS at that time regarding [isolation requirements](#).

### On the Bus:

- All students will be masked for their bus rides



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### At School:

- Students and Staff will be required to be masked in all common areas - hallways, cafeteria, washrooms, office. Masks must be true masks at this time - coverings such as gaiters and buffs do **not** meet the requirements. We strongly encourage everyone to wear the medical grade masks once they are available.
- Students and staff will wear masks when moving around the classroom, when working in groups, when facing each other.
- All visitors to the school will be required to complete the daily health check and wear a mask. Visitors to the school are required to book an appointment.
- While not required, students and staff are encouraged to wear masks at all times in the classroom, even when sitting in their desks with everyone facing forward.
- Students and Staff will use hand sanitizer upon entering the school; when entering classrooms and before using shared equipment.
- If a student or staff member becomes ill during the day they will be required to leave. For students, we will contact their parents/guardians to have them picked up.
- Whenever possible, students and staff will maintain physical distancing.
- Upon arrival at school, during lunch and for other breaks, students will need to put belongings in/take materials out of their lockers as quickly as possible and report to their classrooms. Students cannot “hangout” in common areas like the hallway or washrooms.
- Students will be assigned to their block 4 classroom for eating lunch each day. Mr. Brochu’s Block 4 class will report to room B136.
- Students should bring a water bottle to school and not drink directly from the water fountain.
- The Learning Commons will remain open for students but physical distancing and masking must be maintained at all times.
- The cafeteria will remain open for food service, students will need to maintain physical distancing and masking while ordering food. Once students have their food they will need to report to their assigned space to eat. There will be no eating or drinking in the hallways.
- Students will be expected to stay to the right, where possible, when moving through the hallways
- Staircases will again have one direction movement. The central staircase by the North Gym will be for going up. The staircase by the cafeteria and the one by Mr. Lawson’s/Mrs. Serediak’s rooms will be for moving down.
- Extra-curricular activities will continue, with masking and physical distancing in place whenever possible.



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- Desks will be sanitized by students upon entering the classroom. Teachers will share with their classes the procedures which will be used.

It is important to note that failure to follow the above expectations will be considered defiance and breaking of school rules and disciplinary actions may be taken for those students who do not comply with them.

As part of the plan for a safe return to school, the Government of Alberta will be distributing masks and rapid test kits for all staff and students. We do not know when we will receive them, but will distribute them as quickly as we can once they are at the school.

All of the above procedures are in place at the time of the writing of this note. We are awaiting updated guidance documents from Alberta Education and we will continue to update and communicate information as it becomes available. Please follow us on facebook or check our webpage for ongoing communication about how our school will be operating.

I have great admiration for the hard work and commitment Hillside High School staff have shown once again this week, preparing for multiple scenarios to ensure learning will continue for our students. They need to be commended for this work and dedication.

We understand the mental, emotional, physical, and academic impacts on our students, staff, and families of nearly two years of a global pandemic. The changes and disruptions we've faced have been tremendously challenging. As a school community of administrators, teachers, educational assistants, administrative assistants, IT personnel, bus drivers, maintenance and custodial staff working in partnership with parents, I feel confident that we can continue this school year strong, doing our very best for every student attending Hillside High School.

Yours Truly,

Mrs. D. Wood