

Britannia Back to School Plan 2021-2022

Dear Students and Families,

The entire staff of Britannia School is excited to welcome our students to the 2021-2022 school year.

We have been planning extensively to open our new school and to ensure a safe, engaging, productive and positive school year. We have been mindful of the guidelines provided by Alberta Health Services and our Division. Protecting each other is a shared responsibility—we all have a role to play in following the safety protocols set out by the province and the Division. These protocols are intended to reduce the risk of COVID-19, but do not eliminate all risks.

We are committed to the safety and well-being of staff, students and families. Our Division and school's Back to School Plan may exceed the provincial requirements when we feel that extra precautions are necessary to reduce the risk of Covid-19 in our school community. Our plan has been developed around three key themes:

- ✓ safety
- ✓ family choice
- ✓ high-quality teaching and learning.

The safety and well-being of staff, students and families is the foundation of this Back to School Plan. Our school-based protocols are intended to mitigate or reduce the risk of COVID-19, but do not eliminate all risk. Our plan's focus on safety does not depend on one single strategy, but many strategies that work together to support the safest environment possible within the complex dynamics of our school community.

The Division, and our school, will reassess throughout the fall and adapt measures, as needed, based on public health recommendations and vaccination rates for students who are over 12 years of age.

More information about the provincial contingency scenarios is included in the [Government of Alberta's 2021–2022 School Year Plan](#). To support families, the province has also released a [parents' guide for the 2021–22 school year](#).

Although generally aligned, school operations at Britannia may not align with what is being done at other junior high schools across the city. The decisions at schools are specific to their populations and communities and there is no "one size fits all" approach that would work in every school scenario.

In January, **prior** to the vaccines being available, the [Chief Medical Officer of Health](#) indicated "that the protocols in place (in schools) are protective against in-school transmission and analysis of all our cases in school-aged children indicated that only 6% of these cases were determined to have been acquired at school."

With 94% of Covid cases coming from other sources and based on our experiences with COVID last year, I have chosen to run a more "open" model for this school year in an attempt to return students to some level of normalcy. If the Covid scenario changes in the province and we are required to increase restrictions, we can easily change back to the model we used last year.

As we embark on this new school year, we recognize that we are all coming back from the summer and the past year with varying levels of comfort and emotions. We endeavour to be proactive in creating a respectful and supportive work environment by demonstrating awareness, vulnerability, and empathy. We very much appreciate your patience and support of our students, staff and members of our community.

If you have any questions/feedback, please feel free to call me at school (780)489-5300 or email me jason.p.smith@epsb.ca.

Sincerely,

Jason Smith, Principal

Safety and Wellbeing

<p>Organizing for Instruction</p>	<p>School hours for 2021-2022:</p> <p>8:25 am: Morning bell</p> <p>8:30 am - 9:25 am: Period 1</p> <p>9:27 am - 10:21 am: Period 2</p> <p>10:26 am - 11:20 am: Period 3</p> <p>11:23 am - 12:17 pm: Period 4</p> <p>12:17 pm - 1:00 pm: Lunch</p> <p>1:00 pm: Afternoon bell</p> <p>1:05 pm - 1:59 pm: Period 5</p> <p>2:02 pm - 2:56 pm: Period 6</p> <p>2:56 pm - 3:02 pm: Homeroom</p>
<p>Physical Distancing</p>	<p>We will continue to physically distance students, wherever possible, and throughout our building, including in classrooms, hallways, washrooms and common areas. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● removing and rearranging some seating in common areas ● assigning specific doors to students for entry and exit ● managing hallways to promote the flow of foot traffic and physical distancing
<p>Screening For Illness</p>	<p>Screening for illness is a key strategy to slow down or stop the spread of COVID-19. Staying home when sick remains an important way to care for those around us. Before coming to school each day, families must complete the COVID-19 Alberta Health daily checklist for students and children under 18 to determine whether they can attend or should stay home.</p>
<p>Students with Pre-Existing Conditions</p>	<p>Families should contact our school office at 780-489-5300 about any pre-existing conditions their child has and the related symptoms. This helps our school staff recognize the difference between these symptoms and symptoms that are a sign of illness.</p>
<p>Showing Signs of Illness While at School</p>	<p>If a student or staff member becomes ill during the school day, they will need to leave the school immediately or move to the school's infirmary.</p> <p>When a student is sick, they will wear a mask if they can do so safely. School staff who supervise the student will also wear a mask and will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● bring the student to the school infirmary, ● contact parents or guardians to pick up their child immediately, and ● follow Division safety strategies around personal protective equipment (PPE) and cleaning and disinfecting the area and school infirmary. <p>If a parent or guardian cannot pick up their child, the student will remain in the school infirmary until dismissal.</p> <p>Anyone who tests positive or has symptoms of COVID-19 must follow Alberta's isolation requirements.</p>
<p>If There is a Case Of COVID-19 at School</p>	<p>As the school year starts, the province has indicated that schools will not be informed about individual cases of COVID-19. Staff and students may choose to notify a school about a positive COVID-19 test, but it is not required. If we receive notification about a positive case from Alberta Health Services in a school, we will communicate with our school community.</p> <p>Quarantine is not required for close contacts under current provincial direction. This means classes will not be required to quarantine if there is a case of COVID-19 at school. Individuals who test positive will be expected to isolate based on the provincial requirements in place at that time.</p> <p>If there is an outbreak of any respiratory illness, including COVID-19, at a school, the Division and our school will work with Alberta Health Services to share information with our school community. As a school, we will continue to report an absence rate of 10% or higher to Alberta Health Services. This helps health officials monitor for a variety of illnesses—such as clusters of respiratory and gastrointestinal illness—and alerts Alberta Health Services to possible outbreaks.</p>

<p>Hand Washing and Sanitizing</p>	<p>Everyone who enters a school will be required to use hand sanitizer or wash their hands immediately. Students and staff will be required to wash and/or sanitize their hands throughout the day, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● every time they enter or exit the school (stations will be set up at entrances) ● before they enter classrooms (stations will be set up at each classroom entrance) ● before and after they use shared equipment (all classrooms have a kit of materials for sanitation/hygiene) ● before eating <p>Classrooms and common spaces are equipped with a bin with sanitizer, paper towels and spray disinfectant. As required, sanitizer will be available to disinfect shared equipment when it is necessary to use common supplies or materials (e.g., in PE class, math manipulatives, etc).</p> <p>Students are strongly encouraged to bring and carry their own personal hand sanitizer for personal use throughout the day.</p>
<p>Cleaning Guidelines</p>	<p>All schools will continue to follow COVID-19 cleaning guidelines. These guidelines include enhanced measures such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● purchasing recommended COVID-19 cleaning supplies ● training for custodial staff ● removing excess furniture or items that cannot be cleaned easily on a regular basis ● frequently cleaning and disinfecting high-touch surfaces such as water fountains and door handles ● more frequent cleaning and disinfecting throughout the school, with specific attention to washrooms, high-traffic areas and classrooms
<p>Masks</p>	<p>Masks are an important way to mitigate the risk of spreading COVID-19, especially now as Alberta is still working toward all eligible individuals being fully vaccinated and children under 12 cannot yet be vaccinated.</p> <p>Masks will also enable us to more quickly reintroduce many events that were postponed throughout the pandemic. With the extra level of safety that masks provide, we can slowly reintroduce parts of school life such as field trips, volunteers and special in-person events. To begin the school year, all staff and students in Pre-Kindergarten to Grade 12 will be required to wear a mask while in our buildings.</p> <p>Throughout the school year, Edmonton Public Schools will monitor health information and data related to the pandemic to help determine our ability to safely ease the use of masks for some or all students.</p> <p>Some important things to know about the use of masks are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● individuals who are physically, psychologically or developmentally unable to wear a mask, and those who cannot wear one for reasons under the Alberta Human Rights Act, may be excused from this health protocol—families should talk with school administration if this applies to their child ● masks are required for staff who are wearing face shields ● masks are included on our school supply lists for families (Students are encouraged to bring their own personal hand sanitizer and are required to have a mask. We recommend that each day, students wear one mask and bring a couple of extra masks in a sealed plastic bag.) ● should a student forget their mask, disposable masks are available at every entrance
<p>Vaccinations</p>	<p>Receiving two doses of the COVID-19 vaccine is an essential strategy to keep each other safe. Currently, vaccines are available for all Albertans 12 and older. All Albertans are encouraged to book a vaccination appointment through their local health care provider. To increase people’s access to COVID-19 vaccines, the provincial government announced immunizations will be available through temporary clinics for students in Grades 7–12, staff and community members. Parent or guardian consent will be required for students who wish to participate.</p> <p>The province does not require proof of vaccination to attend school in Alberta. For more information about vaccination policies and requirements, contact Alberta Health Services.</p>

What School Will Look Like

<p>Grade 7 Orientation</p>	<p>Grade 7 Orientation is Wednesday, September 1st at 1:30 pm (students in grade 8 and 9 who did not attend Britannia last year are also invited to attend)</p> <p>At that time students will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>introduced to their teachers and get a tour of the school</i> - <i>given their schedule and assigned a locker</i> - <i>learn some of the school rules and procedures</i> <p>Please come to the school at 1:30 pm and wait in front (weather permitting) and we'll take it from there. Parents are welcome to attend. Everyone will need a mask inside the school.</p>
<p>The First Day of School</p>	<p>Families should check SchoolZone for specific school startup information. Families who have chosen online learning for the start of the school year will hear from the Division (not Britannia) about what the first few days of school will look like.</p>
<p>Arriving and Leaving School</p>	<p>All students will be assigned an exterior door to enter/exit at the start of each morning and afternoon.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Grade 7: Enter through the front doors, wait in the front foyer until the warning bell, then move up the main stairs into classrooms - Grade 8: Enter through west doors (at the rear of the staff parking lot), wait inside the doors, then travel up the north staircase into the classrooms - Grade 9 and students in specialized programs: Enter through east doors, wait in the fitness centre hallway or small gym, then travel up the stairs by the ramp into classrooms <p>Staff will be supervising the hallways and classrooms to encourage students to keep moving and respect physical distancing as they proceed to their designated class/ desk.</p> <p>It is imperative that students arrive at school on time. To ensure building security, all doors will be locked until staff let students into the building. If a student arrives late, they will need to proceed to the front entrance (main school doors) and then check-in at the office.</p> <p>In the case of inclement weather (i.e. if it is raining heavily or if the temperature drops to -23 degrees Celsius), school entrances will be open to all students at 8:00 am. Students will need to enter designated doors, following established protocols for arriving at school.</p> <p>Adults who bring students to school will be asked to stay in their vehicle or maintain an appropriate physical distance on the edge of the school grounds. Those who need to enter the school must pre-book an appointment with the school office.</p>
<p>Lockers</p>	<p>Students will be allowed to use lockers, but items should not be left in them overnight, as the exterior spraying/sanitizing of the lockers may cause damage to contents left inside.</p>
<p>Student Supplies and Learning Materials</p>	<p>Students will use and store their own personal supplies. A full listing of required school supplies can be accessed by visiting britannia.epsb.ca. Students are encouraged to bring their own personal hand sanitizer and are required to have a mask. Students should only bring essential materials and supplies.</p> <p>Chromebooks will be sanitized prior to and after each use. Chromebooks will not be shared between students; devices will be checked out to individual students in a single class for the duration of a class. Students are encouraged and able to use their own devices during the day.</p>
<p>Washroom Protocols</p>	<p>Washrooms will be cleaned and disinfected several times throughout the day. Student grade levels will be assigned specific washrooms.</p>
<p>Water Bottle Filling Stations</p>	<p>Water fountains are operating. Students are encouraged to fill their water bottles from the water bottle filling station instead of drinking from the fountain directly. Fountains will be cleaned and disinfected several times throughout the day, with particular attention to the knob and push buttons.</p>

Closed Campus	Students will be allowed to leave school grounds during the lunch hour only with parent permission. If a student chooses to go home for lunch, they cannot return to school until 1:00 pm when the warning bell goes for afternoon classes.
Lunch	<p>Thanks to our partnership with Hope Mission, healthy lunches are provided every day for students that require one. The lunch preparation follows the Alberta government's AHS food handling guidelines and COVID food protocols. Our school is not able to support any food being brought into the school through a food delivery service (such as pizza or Skip the Dishes). At this time, we are not able to accommodate family members who want to come into the school to drop off lunches.</p> <p>Students will store lunches with their other personal belongings. All students must wash/disinfect their hands before eating and eat only their own food. At this time, microwaves will not be available to students and vending machines will not be operating. There is to be no shared food or drinks between students.</p> <p>We have several areas for the students to eat, which will allow them to be distanced while they consume their food.</p>
Food in Schools	Potluck events, barbecues or special lunch days are all postponed at this time. Treats cannot be sent from home for birthdays or other special days.
Volunteers and Visitors	Our school looks forward to having visitors and volunteers back in schools working with our students. However, as we initially come back into school under tighter health guidelines, we will continue with virtual experiences as much as possible.
Communications	<p>Families can stay in contact with teachers and administration through email, over the phone, and via the Remind! app. Contact information will be posted to SchoolZone.</p> <p>Families who need to go into the school must book an appointment in advance. Family members attending the school for any reason, including to pick up a sick child, will be asked to complete the school's visitor log and complete the Alberta Health daily checklist. Family members can call the school when they arrive and the student will be sent out.</p> <p>We believe it is important to forge a strong connection between home and school. Subsequently, we communicate with students, parents/ guardians and community members using:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● SchoolZone (our primary school communication tool) ● Google Classroom (our primary teacher/ instruction communication tool) ● Remind! app ● school website: https://britannia.epsb.ca/ ● Instagram: @britanniajhs ● YouTube: Britannia JH ● parent-teacher-student conferences (virtual this year) and interim/ progress reporting ● School Messenger
Transportation	<p>Public transit Masks are required for students who take Edmonton Transit Service (ETS).</p> <p>Yellow bus service (for our BLA and CLS students)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● all students riding the bus are required to wear a mask (those who are physically, psychologically or developmentally unable to wear a mask, and those who cannot wear one for reasons under the Alberta Human Rights Act, may be excused from this health protocol) ● students will be assigned regular seats, using a seating plan ● students will respect physical distancing while they get on and off the bus ● there will be a protective zone between the driver and student passengers ● the bus will be cleaned according to COVID-19 cleaning standards prior to each run, and this cleaning will be recorded by the driver

Teaching and Learning

Full Return to In-Person Learning	<p>We hope all students can return to in-person learning for the second half of the 2021–22 school year. If that’s not possible due to the pandemic, families will have another opportunity to choose online or in-person learning for the remainder of the year. We will share more information with families in December.</p> <p>2021–22 School Year Semesters.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● First half: September 2 to January 28, 2022 ● Second half: January 31 to June 28, 2022
Preparing to Change/Pivot if Needed	<p>In addition to preparing student lessons and units, our teachers will be working with students extensively in the early part of the school year to ensure all students are ready to pivot to alternate learning models/ scenarios if need arises due to the changing health context. To support students, our teachers and administration will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Develop and model use of a Google Classroom for every class/course ● Provide in class presentations on Mental Health and Wellbeing; in addition to supporting students with feelings of anxiety, uncertainty, or grief/ loss with recent changes at school, in their homes, and in our greater community ● Provide in class Google Classroom and Tech Prep sessions to support readiness for potential online instruction ● Provide in class presentation on Academic Planning (including high school course requirements and career planning)

School Based Activities

Field Trips	<p>As we start the school year, our students will participate in virtual field trips as much as possible. Day trips will be permitted as needed and we will work through all safety protocols with the host venue. When planning field trips:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● students will be grouped in classes throughout the trip and will be required to wear mask at the venue and on the bus ● schools will send home permission forms prior to a field trip that outline all COVID-19 protocols ● upon screening at the venue, if a student reports symptoms, parents/guardians will be contacted for a pick up ● parents can choose whether their child participates in school field trips
Assemblies and Special Events	<p>We will slowly explore the reintroduction of school events. We will assess each event based on Division guidelines and let families know which events will take place via SchoolZone. Virtual assemblies may be held within our school community.</p>
Extracurricular Activities	<p>We will slowly explore the reintroduction of school extracurricular activities that follow Division guidelines and we will let families know which activities are available via SchoolZone. Students will be able to participate in activities regardless of whether they choose in-person or online learning.</p> <p>Safety guidelines will be established before any clubs or activities are initiated. Attendance will be taken at all in person extra curricular events or offerings. Physical distancing and proper hygiene/sanitation practices will be established. As always, masks will be required.</p>
Athletics	<p>We are working to have a gradual return to athletics this fall. Specific information related to athletics offerings and guidelines for practices and games will be communicated via SchoolZone throughout the year.</p>
School Council Meetings	<p>Education is about relationships – within and outside of our classrooms. Successful schools promote the relationships among the parents/ guardians, students, teachers, administrators and other school members to develop a strong school community that focuses on student learning.</p> <p>The first parent meeting will be held in-person and online on Wednesday, October 6th at 6:00 pm. I invite ALL parents to attend. You can use this time to ask questions about the school, our practices, and policies. There are no jobs, and we do not fundraise. Our parent council is an opportunity for me to share what is going on in the school, get feedback, and ask questions. Information and a link to join the meeting will be posted on SchoolZone.</p>

Government Requirements: Symptoms or Testing Positive for COVID-19

I have symptoms and...

<i>...a positive test result.</i>	Isolate <ul style="list-style-type: none">• for at least 10 days or until symptoms have improved, and• until you have no fever for 24 hours, without using fever-reducing medications <i>whichever is longer</i>
<i>...a negative test result</i>	Stay home until your symptoms are gone.
<i>...I am a student who has not been tested</i>	If you are a student and your symptoms include fever, cough, shortness of breath or loss of sense of taste/smell, isolate: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• for at least 10 days or until symptoms have improved, and• until you have no fever for 24 hours, without using fever-reducing medications <i>whichever is longer.</i> <p>A student may have other symptoms (such as chills, sore throat/painful swallowing, runny nose/congestion, feeling unwell/fatigued, nausea/vomiting/diarrhea, unexplained loss of appetite, muscle/joint aches, headache or conjunctivitis).</p> <p>If you have one of these other symptoms:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• stay home and monitor for 24 hours.If your symptom improves, return to school when you feel well enough. (Testing is not necessary).</p> <p>If you have two symptoms or one symptom that persists or worsens:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• stay home until symptom(s) are gone.(Testing is recommended but not required).</p>
<i>...I am an adult who has not been tested</i>	If you are an adult and symptoms include fever, cough, shortness of breath, sore throat or runny nose, isolate: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• for at least 10 days or until symptoms have improved, and• until you have no fever for 24 hours, without using fever-reducing medications <i>whichever is longer.</i> <p>Adults who have other symptoms should:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• stay home until symptoms are gone.</p>

I do not have symptoms and...

<i>...have a positive test result</i>	Isolate for at least 10 days from the date that you were tested (when the sample was collected)
<i>...have a negative test result</i>	You do not need to isolate.