

## Respiratory Illness and Covid-19 Protocol (2023-24)

The health and safety of staff, students and visitors is a top priority. Please continue to follow these good hygiene habits from spreading respiratory illnesses including COVID-19.

- Stay home if you are feeling sick.
- Wash or sanitize your hands often.
- Cover your coughs and sneezes.
- Avoid touching your face.
- Clean and disinfect high touch surfaces regularly.
- Wear a mask if you get sick or develop symptoms while at school or work.

As per Alberta Health [guidelines](#), staff, students, contractors, and visitors who have symptoms of respiratory illness or test positive for COVID, should stay home until:

- symptoms have improved,
- they feel well enough to resume normal activities, **and**
- they have been fever-free for 24 hours without using fever-reducing medications.

For anyone who has a respiratory illness or has tested positive for COVID, it is recommended that they wear a mask for a total of **10 days** from the onset of symptoms (even if the symptoms have resolved or improved) when in indoor settings with other individuals.

Hand sanitizer, Health Canada approved cleaning/disinfection products, medical masks and COVID-19 test kits continue to be readily available at all schools.

When student absenteeism due to illness reaches 10 percent or more, schools will report to the Alberta Health Services Population Public Health Support Team (PPHST) **1-844-343-0971** following this [reporting protocol](#).

### **Please Keep the following updated resources handy:**

- EIPS [Protocol -Illness Absence Reporting/Outbreak Management](#) (August 2023)
- EIPS [Respiratory Illness and COVID Management Information Page](#) (Staff Connect)
- AHS [Guide for Outbreak Prevention in Schools](#) (August 2023)
- AHS [General guidance for COVID-19 and other respiratory illnesses](#) (March 2023)
- AHS [Respiratory assessment tool](#)- general guidance tool on how to assess a wide range of respiratory symptoms/illnesses and what to do.
- Health Link continues to be available for Albertans, 24/7, by calling 811.
- EIPS [Infection Control Information Page](#)- Staff Connect
- Occupational Health and Safety [OHS@eips.ca](mailto:OHS@eips.ca)