



Reopening Schools Safely: 2020-2021 COVID-19 School Planning

What are the priorities for the 2020-2021 school year?

Keeping our people healthy and safe is our highest priority. Plans for reopening schools include starting on time and providing as much in-person learning as possible.

When will I know the specific details about my child's school?

Each school's reopening plan will be available before the start of the 2020-2021 school year. Other tools to communicate will include an Education Bulletin closer to the start of the school year, as well as ongoing, regular school updates on websites, social media and through letters home.

What will be different in the 2020-2021 school year?

To keep everyone safe and healthy, all NWT's schools will have:

- Physical distancing for Grades 7-12
- More cleaning throughout the day, especially for high-touch surfaces
- Strict hand-washing routines
- Designated entrances and exits
- Different times for recess, breaks, drop-offs and pick-ups
- Use of face shields and masks by staff and students on the school bus and in school when needed
- Spacing of desks and other furniture
- Floor markings and barriers for safe movement
- Extra activities outdoors, when possible
- No assemblies and limits on other gatherings
- Limited access to parents, guardians and visitors
- New daily screening process for students and staff
- No sharing of food or personal items
- Changes to student transportation such as bussing

Will the plan be the same for all schools in the NWT?

No, school will look different for each school and community, based on school size, layout, grade level, number of students and staff, access to technology and the unique needs of individual students (including those who are at-risk or have complex needs).

What learning and wellness supports will be available for students?

All usual programs will be available, including food programming, counselling, student supports and learning plans. Parent meetings will likely be done over the computer or phone.

What happens if there is a case of COVID-19 in the school?

Parents should be prepared for:

- their child(ren) to be sent home quickly
- contact tracing (i.e. figuring out who was in contact with the individual) to be done before schools reopen



- a sick child to be put in a safe space on their own until parents can pick them up
- schools to close if many staff are sick
- if school cannot be open full time to everyone, younger students will be first to stay in school, as well as Grade 12 students to help prepare them for post-secondary

How will schools accommodate physical distancing requirements?

Some schools will need to use spaces other than classrooms inside and outside of the school. Some may have students learn in shifts, such as morning/afternoon or on different days/times, and bussing schedules may need to change.

What learning approaches will be used?

- **In-person learning** as much as possible, **in classrooms with teachers** with additional safety guidelines in place.
- **Blended learning** when in-person is not possible. This will mean the student is learning **part time in school**, as well as **part time at home or on the land**. *Example: A student attends school in the mornings and then returns home in the afternoons to do school work virtually or with take-home paper packages.*
- Distance learning **outside of the school at home or on the land** used only when students cannot attend school due to health or age (such as ages 19 and over). Students will use online learning, telephone/email check-ins and follow-ups, and/or paper-based learning packages.

How will education delivery look based on age/grade?

JK-Grade 6

- Full-time in-person learning
- No physical distancing when inside classroom 'bubble'

Grades 7-9

- Full-time in-person learning, or blended learning when necessary
- Physical distancing of 1 metre between students and 2 metres between students and staff

Grades 10-12

- Full-time in-person learning, or blended learning when necessary
- Physical distancing of 2 metres between all students and staff

Students aged 19 years and over

- In compliance with the OCPHO, students aged 19 years and over must learn remotely for their safety, so these students will be supported through distance learning

Where can I find more information?

For information on COVID-19 related to JK-12 schools, visit the [GNWT COVID-19 webpage](#) or [contact your local education body](#).