

Planning for 2020-21 school year

Information for parents and students

Returning students to classes in school

In consultation with the Yukon Chief Medical Officer of Health, the Government of Yukon is planning for Kindergarten to Grade 12 students to return to classes in public schools for the 2020-21 school year.

As part of "[A Path Forward: Yukon's plan for lifting COVID-19 restrictions](#)", health and safety guidelines for K-12 schools are being developed with Yukon's Chief Medical Officer of Health. Each school will have an operational plan outlining how the school will follow the guidelines, based on their context, and prepare to adjust if necessary.

Based on current advice and information, the plan is to return all students to full-time classes in school at the start of the new school year. Yukon's Chief Medical Officer of Health will continue to monitor the pandemic over the summer and will update the health and safety guidelines for K-12 schools before the start of school.

More information for families about what to expect in the coming school year is included in this document.

Key dates and next steps for families

June 19

Send in [school bus registration](#) to the Department of Education.

By Aug 6

Bus routes, schedules and updated health and safety information for 2020-21 will be published on Yukon.ca.

By Aug 12

Information about school operational plans for 2020-21 will be available from each school, including:

- measures to meet the health and safety guidelines for schools;
- how teachers and staff will maintain regular and ongoing communication with students, families, school communities and local First Nation(s); and
- how each school would adapt schedules and operations if necessary, based on the school operational guidelines during the pandemic.

August 18-Sept 4

First days of school for students for the 2020-21 school year. See [2020-21 school calendar](#).



What should students and parents expect in the new school year?

- Regular information updates from your local school and on Yukon.ca about school operations, and ongoing communication between teachers and families, and with the school community and local First Nation(s).
- Schools will not be business as usual during the pandemic.
- In the first few weeks of school:
 - School will start for students on the scheduled first day.
 - Students and parents will need to learn and understand many new routines and expectations at their school, including about the school day and health and safety.
- For learning and the school day:
 - Busing arrangements and school schedules may look different, including pickup and drop off, lunch hour and recess.
 - Schedules may need to be adjusted and students may not have their regular teacher or same classmates.
 - Schools will provide flexible learning programs for students, that can be adapted.
- Health and safety:
 - If students need to be kept at home for health reasons, they will be able to continue with their learning away from school. Parents will be contacted by their local school to confirm their interest for their child's return to classes in school.
 - Parents will need to monitor students for symptoms and keep them home if they are showing symptoms. They will not be allowed at school with symptoms.
 - Students will need to wash their hands before they come to school and frequently during the day.
 - Schools will be cleaned more often.
 - No physical contact or sharing personal items.
 - Class sizes may be smaller to meet space restrictions and health and safety guidelines for schools.
 - Wearing masks is a personal choice for students and staff.
- Supports:
 - Mental health supports will be available for students as they return.
 - Where available, existing school meal programs can be adapted to continue for students with health and safety measures and pickup options.



Priorities

- Health and safety of students, staff and school communities;
- Learning continuity for all students, with as many students in class as safely possible;
- Supports for students who need additional or special assistance;
- Supports for children of critical and essential service workers; and
- Supports for teachers and support staff for delivering flexible learning for students.

Ready to adjust if necessary

The goal is to return Kindergarten to Grade 12 students to classes in schools at the start of school.

Should there be an increased risk of transmission, a second wave or a community outbreak of the COVID-19 virus, Yukon schools will adapt school operations as necessary, based on the below table and their specific context.

Throughout the pandemic, we will keep as many students in classes in schools, as is safely possible.

School operations during the pandemic			
Pandemic risk	Guidelines from the Chief Medical Officer of Health	School capacity	What school looks like for students
<p style="text-align: center;">Low</p>   <p style="text-align: center;">High</p>	COVID-19 health and safety guidelines for K-12 schools	100%	Kindergarten to Grade 12 students in classes in schools full-time, 5 days per week. Flexible learning programs for all students.
		50%	If necessary: essential groups in school full-time, and part-time rotating schedules for other students. Flexible learning programs for all students.
		20%	If necessary: essential groups only in school. For example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Students with disabilities or diverse learning needs ✓ Students in need of additional support Distance learning for majority of students.
		0%	Last resort: face-to-face learning suspended; no students in classes in schools. Distance learning for all students.

