



2020-2021 School Re-entry Plan

Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten

Starting Pre-kindergarten or Kindergarten is an exciting time for children and families, but it may also be bringing mixed emotions.

School will look different this year as we change the way we do things to follow AHS guidelines to mitigate the transmission of Covid-19. Families are encouraged to read the [2020-2021 BGSD School Re-entry Plan](#).

Before school starts

School staff will reach out to you to share their site specific re-entry information about:

- Program times
- Further assessment to qualify for pre-kindergarten
- Intake meeting/staggered entry times
- Cleaning and sanitizing procedures
- Other logistics (entry doors etc.)

Families with specific concerns or needs should use this time to work with your school staff toward a plan to address them.

Screening protocol

Before sending your child to school every day, please complete the provincial [COVID-19 Screening Questionnaire](#). If your child has any symptoms they must stay home. Please see the BGSD Re-entry plan regarding pre-existing condition management.

Hand hygiene

Children must wash or sanitize their hands when entering the school and again when entering the classroom. This is an important routine teachers will reinforce. Support will be given to children who are still working on developing this skill.

Personal protective equipment (PPE)

Staff in the classroom will be wearing PPE such as face shields and/or masks. Children from Pre-k to Grade 3 in Black Gold School Division will not be required to wear a mask, but families are encouraged and supported to do so should they feel their child is capable.

Physical distancing

Physical distancing may not be possible in all of our classrooms at all times. Staff may need to assist children with tasks, with emotional support, or with conflict management to support their development and well-being while at school.

Cohort

A class is a cohort, children in one cohort will not be mixed with another cohort while in school.

Inside the classroom

Our youngest students are full of wonder and curiosity. Their programs include hands-on learning and exploration. To keep everyone safe, we are taking the following precautions:

- Materials that aren't easily cleaned, such as stuffed animals or pillows, will be removed from the classroom.
- Individualized sets of equipment or disposable equipment will be encouraged when possible.
- Equipment that is shared between cohorts will be disinfected and cleaned before another group uses it. Creation of sets of equipment for a cohort will be encouraged.
- If children are using shared materials, such as blocks or cars, they must wash or sanitize their hands before and after use.
- Rooms and equipment will be cleaned and sanitized each day, including between cohorts of children (ie am/pm class)
- Children will not do activities that involve cooking or preparing foods.
- Sensory/water play will be adapted to an individual activity (ie small containers for each child)
- Where possible, schools will take children outdoors to enhance learning.
- Children bringing in non-essential personal items should be discouraged.
- Equipment that is required for children's day-to-day use (e.g., mobility or feeding devices, weighted blankets, headphones) should be cleaned and disinfected at drop off and pick up, and should not be used by anyone other than the child.

Recess

Children will remain with their cohort for recess. Schools may stagger break times or assign specific areas of the schoolyard.

Visiting the school

Please see your school specific re-entry information or ask at the office regarding procedures to visit the school.

Getting to school

Many Kindergarten children get to school by yellow bus. They will be assigned a regular seat and will be seated with members of the same household, where possible. The bus will be cleaned prior to each trip.

Children with symptoms of illness should not get on the bus or go to school. Families are encouraged to consider getting their children to and from school if they are not comfortable with their child riding on a yellow bus with other children

Resources for Families

If you have additional questions about Pre-kindergarten or Kindergarten, please contact your school.

If you have concerns with your child's development, and want to inquire if you may qualify for Pre-kindergarten, please email niki.gill@blackgold.ca.

