



**CALGARY  
GIRLS  
CHARTER  
SCHOOL**

## **PARENT FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (F.A.Q.)**

We appreciate that there are questions that will continue to surface as we embark upon our re-entry to school. We will be constantly evaluating and re-evaluating our protocols and procedures as our 'new normal' is being informed and understood. These F.A.Q.s are being answered with the information we have now, knowing that things can and may change.

### **Health and Safety Considerations**

**Q: What happens if my child forgets their mask or needs a new mask?**

**A:** All students will be issued with two reusable cloth masks. It would be prudent for families to procure a small supply of additional reusable masks that could be cycled throughout the school week. The school will have a limited supply of non-medical disposable masks in case of emergency or the case of a student forgetting her mask. Families may choose to pack an extra mask each day with their student should they require one.

**Q: Will there be a specific uniform mask for the students to wear?**

**A:** At this time, no, however, Top Marks has made simple solid color masks available for purchase for \$7.50 per mask.

**Q: If not, are there guidelines on colour etc. that we should be following in purchasing additional masks for school?**

**A:** Some parents may already have purchased or made reusable masks. Before October 1, any patterns or logos on the masks must be school appropriate. After October 1, simple solid colors that are aligned with the school uniform will be required.

**Q: Must students wear cloth masks or are non-medical disposable masks allowed?**

**A:** Students may wear disposable masks if preferred. These will not be provided by the school.

**Q: Will masks be required all the time or only in hallways and other areas where social distancing is hard?**

**A:** The direction from the province is that masks are to be worn at all times as well as in hallways and common areas. Exceptions apply if students are engaging in physical activities such as physical or outdoor education. In those circumstances, other health measures would apply, such as physical distancing and increased hand hygiene practices. While eating lunch, masks would be removed.

**Q: How will the school be sanitized and who will be doing it?**

**A:** Our cleaning contractor, JanPro, will continue to do our cleaning and sanitizing.

Additional daily cleaning staff has been hired to increase the frequency of cleaning of high touch surfaces and common areas including the bathrooms. Additional weekly deep cleaning protocols are also in place on both campuses.

**Q: Will the couches be removed so a lot of girls are not sitting on them as usual?**

A: For the time being, soft seating has been removed to support physical distancing measures.

**Q: How will shared equipment be cleaned?**

A: Instruction will be modified to reduce the amount of shared equipment. If there is shared equipment, all equipment will be cleaned according to Alberta Health Services guidelines with approved cleaning products.

**Q: Do the students have to put hand sanitizer on regularly or will they be using soap and water?**

A: Hand hygiene protocols recommend increased hand-washing as opposed to the use of hand sanitizer. Hand sanitizer will be available and may be used when hand washing is not possible.

**Q: How will all of the students have access to sinks?**

A: Many of our classrooms have sinks in them, making hand washing much easier with less demand on the common sinks. Teacher established routines to support effective hand hygiene practices and physical distancing will be implemented.

**Q: Are students eating at their desks within their cohorted classroom?**

A: To minimize the movement through the school, students will be eating at their desks within their cohorted classroom. Students will wipe their desks with an approved cleaner and then wash their hands prior to eating their lunch. We will be physical distancing as much as possible and will have the plexiglass dividers in the cases where students are sitting at tables.

**Q: What is meant by daily screening?**

A: The government has provided a [daily screening tool](#) for all people to use to determine whether or not they should be self-isolating. Only if a person exhibits NO symptoms as outlined on the screening tool, would they be allowed into the school. Anyone exhibiting any symptoms as outlined on the screening tool is NOT permitted to enter the school.

**Q: Are there plans to temperature check the children each day before entering school?**

A: At this time there are no plans to do a temperature check on every student prior to entering the school. Parents will be required to do a daily assessment of their child(ren) prior to sending students to school. If the child exhibits any of the symptoms that are part of the screening tool, the child is to remain home.

**Q: What is the plan to try to support social distancing?**

A: There are a number of measures we will be incorporating to support physical distancing.

- Staggered entry at the outset of the year designed to facilitate explicit health protocol education and training for students with their homeroom teachers.
- (one third of students for each of the first three days of school)
- Desks and tables in classrooms separated as far as possible.
- Shifts in internal timetable to facilitate physical distancing to limit movement throughout the building.
- Directional floor markings.
- Bus loading and unloading practices.
- Separate and dedicated grade entrances.
- Limits on the number of students in the washroom at any given time.
- Spacing in washrooms with respect to toilets and sinks.
- *Wearing of masks will mitigate times when physical distancing is not possible.*

**Q: I understand assemblies happen - will those be cancelled with COVID?**

A: For the time being, we will not be having in-person full school assemblies. Alberta Health mandates that a maximum of 100 people seated is allowed at an indoor gathering. We plan to proceed with caution as we re-enter the school.

**Q: How will buses be socially distanced?**

A: Buses will not facilitate physical distancing as it can be achieved in non-confined spaces. To manage to transport students as safely as possible, students will be required to sit in a seating plan on the bus, will sit with siblings and will be required to wear masks while on the bus. Physical distancing while embarking and disembarking from the bus will be required.

**Q: Will you leave windows open as long as you can to achieve good ventilation in the school?**

A: We recognize that fresh air is desirable and will be opening windows when possible or will be going outside to learn when appropriate and possible.

### **Health Measures & Responding to Illness**

**Q: Will the school community be notified if a child tests positive for COVID 19?**

A: The school will take direction from the Public Health Officer regarding communication with the school community. Alberta Health Services will be responsible for communication and contact tracing should a member of our community test positive for COVID19.

**Q: If a student/teacher tests positive, how will this be handled? (will the specific class be sent home for 2 weeks)?**

A: The Medical Officer of Health will work with the school to determine the steps to be taken in the case of a student or teacher testing positive for COVID-19. This will be undertaken on a case by case basis. In the event that a student or students had to be isolated at home for an extended period of time, support for at-home learning would be provided.

**Q: In the event that a child is confirmed covid-19 positive, is the entire class asked to self-isolate for two weeks, or what are the parameters for close contact in a classroom**

**setting?**

A: Definition of a close contact according to AB Health - a person is less than 2 m from someone COVID 19 positive for more than 15 min without appropriate PPE. Contact tracing would be utilized to determine next steps. Each situation will be handled on a case by case basis.

**Q: School re-entry coincides with the start of flu season. What is planned to stop parents sending children to school thinking it's just a cold or flu?**

A: A number of cold and flu symptoms do resemble COVID19 symptoms. In the 'new normal' parents would be required to administer the daily screening tool to their child(ren). Any symptoms as outlined on the screening tool ([LINK](#)), if exhibited by the child, would require the parent to keep the child(ren) at home until:

- 10 days **AND** the symptoms have resolved
- A negative COVID test is provided to the school **AND** symptoms have resolved. If they are COVID-19 negative, please bring a copy of the results to the school. The school will not keep a copy of the results but will know that it is safe for the student to return.

Students who are required to be at home will continue to be supported by their classroom teachers until it is safe for them to return to school.

**Q: What is meant by self assessment?**

A: Adults who are regularly in the school on a daily basis will be required to complete a self-assessment using the daily screening tool. Only if a person exhibits NO symptoms as outlined on the screening tool, would they be allowed into the school. Anyone exhibiting any symptoms as outlined on the screening tool is NOT permitted to enter the school and are encouraged to be tested for COVID19. Daily Screening Tool [LINK](#)

**Q: Your plan cites physical barriers between students. Is this implemented in every classroom, and if so, what are these barriers specifically?**

A: At CGCS one area of focus in our programming is collaborative work. Previously, tables have seated four students. Moving forward, we will be seating only two students at a table and tables will have a plexiglass divider in the middle to create a physical barrier between the two students.

**Q: Will students be required to bring their own water bottles to school rather than using common water fountains?**

A: It is recommended that students bring their own full water bottles to school rather than using water fountains. Water fountains will, however, be cleaned during the day and at end of day.

**Learning Considerations**

**Q: What is the plan for a second wave if schools shut down again?**

A: As was the case when schools were closed in March, if directed, CGCS would pivot to online learning with Google Classroom being our learning management system. Lessons have been learned as a result of our experience in the spring and we would be applying

those new understandings to enhance and elevate the online learning experience for our students should we be directed to do so.

**Q: Will the Hub Online Learning approach be offered for CGCS students?**

A: Hub Online learning is a jurisdictional approach to distance learning offered by other school boards. At CGCS we have the ability to support individual student learning at home while focusing on the importance of relationships and community for which CGCS is known. Using Google Classroom as our learning management system students, as part of their homerooms, will be able to access learning resources collaboratively created by our grade teams. Unlike the Hub Learning approach, our learning at home support will be designed to have students connected to their homeroom teacher to complete their programs. Whether someone is learning at home or is merely absent for a day or two (i.e. dental appointment, family matters) additional at-home learning support will be provided. As with all aspects of our re-entry, we will be constantly evaluating how things are working and responding as needed.

**Q: If parents choose to teach their child/children from home, what support will be provided by the school? The letter mentions “significant commitment and support from parents”, what does this mean?**

A: Students will have access to Google Classroom with weekly overviews and materials provided by their designated CGCS homeroom teacher. In-class learning and at-home learning will align with one another, although activities may differ. Additional support (i.e. connection with a classroom teacher provided periodically throughout the week) will be determined based on the age of the student and subject area. At-home learning will require coordination from families to support the learning outcomes identified in the Alberta Education Program of Studies. The child's teacher will assess the child's learning regularly, as is done in an in-class program. Families wishing to transfer back to a full-time in-school learning environment will coordinate the child's re-entry plan with the school.

**Q: Will there be opportunities for social interaction and group work, as well as clubs?**

A: At CCGS we recognize and value the social benefits that emerge from social interaction, group work and clubs and activities and particularly the strength of relationships that are created by participating in them. We will continue to create opportunities for social interaction and collaboration when learning at school while adhering to health measures. For the time being, we will be cautiously re-entering the school so will not be starting our formal clubs initially. As we re-establish our routines, we will re-evaluate our processes and will consider how and when we might be able to restart our clubs.

**Q: Will children with disabilities like ADHD still get the same level of help if they return to school?**

A: Students with diverse learning needs will continue to receive additional support and/or appropriate program accommodations, as outlined in their IPP.

**Q: How will students be able to take their options classes?**

A: In order to maintain student cohorts for safety and provide students with robust complementary courses, we will be modifying our delivery of options in grades 6-9 for

the first two months of the year, with re-evaluation of the program delivery each quarter. Students will remain in their cohorts and will be afforded the opportunity to experience a number of different options throughout the year as a cohort group, versus individualized option choices.

**Q: Will band be offered as an option this year?**

A: As per the public health recommendations, Band will not be offered in the same way as it has been offered previously. Due to the safety concerns regarding transmission of COVID-19 through breath, droplets, and shared equipment, exploration of band, music and choir will be undertaken with an emphasis on other aspects of general music education.

**Q: Will home schooled children be able to connect with teachers, students and classroom lessons via google classroom on a daily basis? i.e. can home schooled children actively partake in live classroom lessons?**

A: At this time, emphasis will be on in-school instruction. Students learning from home will be supported with weekly overviews and resources for learning, which align with in-class learning. There will be periodic opportunities throughout the week for students learning at home to connect virtually with a classroom teacher, although these opportunities will not be live classroom lessons. As we gain greater understanding of the context with respect to students learning in person and at home, there may be opportunities for increased classroom participation for those students learning at-home.

**Q: Is 'Buddies' cancelled?**

A: At this time we are limiting in-school interactions to the cohorts organized in homerooms and will not be planning cross-campus activities. We will not be bringing together the community in large groups or regrouping students in order to practice the health measures outlined by Alberta Health and Alberta Education.

### **General Programming Inquiries**

**Q: What are class sizes?**

A: Class sizes vary from our smallest class size of 25 students to our largest class size of 29.

**Q: How will students store their school supplies at school?**

A: Students will be asked to bring their daily supplies to school in their backpacks. Students will keep their backpacks beneath their desks to minimize the need to move about the classroom.

**Q: If schools go to every other day or every other week - will I still be paying full busing fees for the year and for supervision or will those drop in half?**

A: As we embark upon the school year with 'near normal' circumstances, we will be charging full fees for busing and supervision with the plan that we will be at school daily. If we are directed to move to Scenario 2 for a significant and extended period of time, we would re-evaluate our fees at that time.

**Q: Will any of the fees increase due to COVID cleaning or fewer students in classrooms, or some taking online or fewer on the bus?**

A: Our school fees were set in the spring and have not changed. In May, in anticipation of potential re-entry challenges this fall, the Board of Directors committed additional funds to support needs related to COVID19, including those related to the public health measures i.e. enhanced cleaning

**Q: You said possible staggered entry - is this entering at different times? How does this work?**

A: For the first three days of school, August 31, September 1 and September 2, approximately one third of each class will attend school in order to make connection with the homeroom teacher and to receive explicit instruction regarding the 'new normal' routines and protocols. At this time, we will still have a common start and end time. Internal schedule adjustments may be made to maximize physical distancing.