

Adopted	October 13, 2015
Revision Date	March 9, 2020
Review Year	2025

Objective:

To provide direction and support for the implementation of a Pandemic Plan with Aurora staff, students, parents and stakeholders as informed by and in cooperation with the Alberta Government and Alberta Health Services. Aurora Administration in coordination with school staff, students and parents are expected to optimize safe practices and resources for mutual benefit, health and wellness.

Responsibility:

The key responsibility in each school resides with the Principal in coordination with the school staff. The Superintendent and Secretary-Treasurer will provide timely support with the Principal(s).

Regulation:

A. GENERAL PROCEDURES

1. In any event where Alberta Health Services shares evidence and recommendations with regard to a significant outbreak such as Influenza, virus, and/or other significant highly contagious health concern in the region, the school administration has the authority to invoke the Pandemic Plan to minimize risk to students, staff, parents and community.
2. The Superintendent and/or Secretary Treasurer will be informed in a timely manner by the school administration of their implementation of the Pandemic Plan. Further supports will be provided to school administration by the Superintendent and/or Secretary Treasurer to ensure clarity and coherence of the roles, processes and responsibilities in case of an outbreak/contagion situation and in alignment with recommendations by Alberta Health Services.
3. The Superintendent and/or Secretary Treasurer will ensure the timely implementation of communication with school stakeholders in coordination with the Principal(s). This includes a regularly updated link on the Aurora website that includes Alberta Health Services updates relative to the particular communicable disease/contagion context.
4. The Superintendent in consultation with the Board of Directors may temporarily suspend school practices and operations guidelines in non-pandemic contexts to ensure compliance with directives from Alberta Health Services, or any related provincial and/or federal health regulations, legislations or emergent directives.

B. KEY PREVENTATIVE PRACTICES AND PANDEMIC SUPPORTS

1. Prevention practices:
 - a. Students, staff and or parents should remain home from school, work or public places if recently exposed to or experiencing medical symptoms associated with the particular pandemic illness;
 - b. Seek medical attention as soon as possible and in compliance with Alberta Health Services recommendations consistent with the respective pandemic;
 - c. Cover you cough with a disposable tissue or other suitable means to reduce transmission of contagion;

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- d. Keep hand/fingers away from eyes, nose and/or mouth. Avoid direct personal contact with others such as sharing drinks, utensils, shaking hands, etc.
- e. Regularly wash your hands with soap and water - minimum of 20 seconds duration;
- f. Use alcohol-based (60% or higher) sanitary hand cleanser.
- 2. Identification, Supervised Isolation and Parent/Guardian Pick-up:
 - a. Any acute/rapid or current onset of illness and/or symptoms that may include fever, cough, sore throat, and/or respiratory illness;
 - b. Movement of affected individual(s) to a supervised isolation/quarantine room followed by timely communication with parent/guardian to expedite pick-up of the affected student and off-site medical support.
- 3. Ensure hand-washing posters distributed throughout schools;
- 4. Custodian team to optimize the cleaning and use of disinfectants appropriate to situation to minimize spread of contagion;
- 5. Tracking of daily attendance by each school administrative/office team in order to provide accurate and timely evidence to Alberta Health Services and Aurora Superintendent/Secretary Treasurer as requested/required;
- 6. Schools may close at the discretion of the Superintendent in consultation with the Aurora Board of Directors and/or by order of Alberta Health Services and/or Alberta Education.

References:

BP 8050 School Emergencies

Pandemic Planning Guide for Alberta School Authorities, Alberta Education

Alberta Health Services