



Grey Mountain Primary School routines, schedules and programs for 2020-21

Adapting to COVID-19 at our school



Table of Contents

Starting the 2020-21 school year	3
Health and safety routines for the 2020-21 school year.....	4
Contacting the school.....	4
Staying home when sick	4
If a student or staff gets sick at school.....	5
Wearing a mask at school.....	5
Physical distancing	5
Hand washing and sanitizing at school	6
Cleaning and disinfecting the school.....	7
Supporting safe habits at school	7
Operations and schedule during the 2020-21 school year.....	8
School start and end times, and recess and lunch	8
Drop-off and pick-up.....	8
Water bottles, food and meals	8
Visitors and public access to the school	8
Programming during the 2020-21 school year.....	9
Contacting the school for learning supports.....	9
Learning at school	9
Learning at home if a student can't attend school.....	9
School supplies and sharing learning materials	9
Library and iPads/laptops.....	10
Recess, gym and playing on the playground.....	10
School field trips.....	10
Music and cooking	10
For more information:	11



Starting the 2020-21 school year

After an unusual end to last school year, we are very excited to welcome students and school staff back into our classrooms. We know this school year will be different, but we have an opportunity to work together, to be creative and set a positive example for our students of how we can be resilient when presented with challenges.

The health and safety of students and school staff is our first priority. Our school is adapting our operations and programming to meet the [health and safety guidelines for K-12 school settings](#) set by Yukon's Chief Medical Officer of Health.

The health and safety guidelines indicate that:

- Keeping students out of school has negative impacts on their mental health
- Outbreaks involving children and youth are unusual and tend to only occur in areas where there are high levels of community spread
- There is no conclusive evidence that shows children who are symptomatic pose a risk to other children or adults
- Children and youth are not the primary drivers of COVID-19 spread in schools or community settings
- Proper health and safety measures still need to be in place to reduce risk

Staff at our school will be regularly reviewing the health and safety measures at our school with students to ensure safe and healthy habits.

Read more below about how we are adapting our school routines this school year.

Health and safety routines for the 2020-21 school year

Contacting the school

Contact us at 667-5189 or kim.ramsay@gov.yk.ca if you have questions about how we are ensuring the health and safety for students and staff this school year.

Staying home when sick

Students and staff must stay home if they are sick or showing symptoms. Parents should monitor their child every day for symptoms before sending them to school.

Parents should consider if they are new or worsening symptoms when monitoring, or if they are otherwise not explained. For example, a child with asthma may have a cough, which may not be new.

You can use the self-assessment tool on Yukon.ca to assess yourself and your child for COVID-19: service.yukon.ca/en/covid-19-self-assessment/

Symptoms include:

- Fever/chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath
- Runny nose
- Sore throat
- Headache
- Loss of sense of taste or smell
- Fatigue
- Loss of appetite
- Nausea and vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Muscle aches

Health officials recommend students get tested for COVID-19 if they are showing symptoms. Students and staff must stay home until they are symptom free, or if tested, until they have a negative test.

Always phone 811 or your family physician before going anywhere to get tested.



If a student or staff gets sick at school

If a student or staff gets sick at school:

- The student or staff will be immediately separated into a designated area
- The student or staff will be provided a mask
- The student's parent/guardian will be contacted to pick them up as soon as possible
- The school staff member who is sick will go home as soon as possible
- The designated area will be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected

Wearing a mask at school

Students and staff are not required to wear masks except in certain situations. They may do so if they choose.

Masks are not recommended for children unless advised by a health care provider. There are specific situations that may require a mask. These include:

- If a student or staff member gets sick at school, they will be asked to wear a mask
- If a school staff has to attend to a sick student, they will be asked to wear a mask
- If a school staff is unable to physically distance during their regular job duties, for example assisting students with activities of daily living, such as washing, using the bathroom, eating, etc.

Our school will have access to non-medical masks to ensure they are accessible when needed.

Physical distancing

The health and safety guidelines indicate physical distancing is not always possible with children. Where not possible, risks are being reduced by increasing other measures like handwashing, cleaning and disinfecting, and making sure students and staff stay home when sick or showing symptoms.

To support safe spacing, manage traffic flows in common areas, and limit mixing of different groups of students, our school is taking the following measures:

- Student tables in classrooms will be arranged to keep students and staff physically distant from one another.
- Class sizes have been reduced.
- For the most part, students will remain in their classes throughout the day.
- As much as is possible, classroom teachers and EAs will remain with one class for most of the day to minimize the number of adults interacting with a class.
- Greetings such as "air fives" will be used rather than hugs and high fives.

- Physical distancing with our students (ages 4-9) is not possible during many activities including circle time, story time, playtime, dressing for outside time, holding hands while walking, teaching fine motor skills, and when children are upset, hurt, or in distress.
- After physical contact has been made (ex. hug, hand-holding) – both student and teacher will wash/sanitize their hands.
- Each class will be divided into 4 groups. Banks of coat hooks will have one student from each group. Students will be called by group to use the coat hooks, ensuring that each child is distanced from the others.
- Students with physical, health, or social-emotional needs will be supported by the same teacher/EA as much as possible.
- Learning assistance will occur in the classroom as much as possible.
- Each student will have their own “tool kit” with basic school supplies including pencils, crayons, markers, glue, scissors, eraser, and ruler. These tool kits will be used in their class, and if they are needed in any other part of the school.
- Students will be learning outdoors as much as possible to allow for greater distance between students.
- When desk/table work is required, students will spread out as follows: 2 students per table facing the same direction, 3 students at side counter, 2 students at horseshoe table facing the same direction.
- French instruction (prep time) will be delivered in the classroom to minimize hallway traffic.
- Each class will have library on a separate day to minimize hallway traffic and to minimize using that space. Library tables will be wiped after each group of students has used the library.
- It is expected that students will share toys and educational objects and play in close proximity with each other.
- All children will be on the playground at the same time for recess, with handwashing before and after recess.
- Toys will not be brought from home into the school.

Hand washing and sanitizing at school

Students and school staff will be required to wash their hands for 20 seconds with soap and water or sanitize their hands frequently during the school day.

When students should wash their hands	When staff should wash their hands
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Before and after any transitions within the school setting (e.g. to another classroom, indoor-outdoor transitions) • Whenever hands are visibly dirty • After using the washroom • Before eating and drinking • After sneezing or coughing into hands 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Before and after any transitions within the school setting (e.g. to another classroom, indoor-outdoor transitions) • Whenever hands are visibly dirty • After using the washroom • Before eating and drinking • After sneezing or coughing into hands

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• After playing outside	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Before handling food or assisting students with eating• After contact with body fluids (i.e., runny noses, spit, vomit, blood)• After cleaning tasks• After removing gloves• After handling garbage
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Students and staff will be able to wash hands at available sinks in the school. Each classroom has two sinks. Hand sanitizer will be stored and managed by school staff.

Cleaning and disinfecting the school

Government of Yukon custodial staff will be cleaning and disinfecting the school with disinfectants approved by Health Canada. They also follow [cleaning and disinfecting guidelines](#) set by Yukon’s Chief Medical officer of Health.

High-touch areas and equipment, including shared items for learning will be wiped down and cleaned more frequently.

Staff and students may also take part in support cleaning efforts. Students may be asked to help out by washing their hands, cleaning their desk and cleaning up after using shared items for learning, just like they would usually would.

Supporting safe habits at school

Teachers and school staff will go over these health and safety routines regularly with students. Parents are also encouraged to review these health and safety routines regularly with their child or children.

This includes:

- Washing hands with soap and warm water for 20 seconds
- Using hand sanitizer when you can’t wash your hands
- Coughing and sneezing into our elbows
- Using a tissue to blow our nose, and then throwing the tissue in the garbage
- Keeping a 2-metre distance from your friends and teachers as much as you can
- Making sure your child or children tells you when they are sick or showing symptoms
- Keeping them home when they are sick or showing symptoms



Operations and schedule during the 2020-21 school year

School start and end times, and recess and lunch

The start and end times for our school day have not changed. Our school day will start at 8:30am and end at 3:00pm. We expect children to be picked up promptly at the end of the school day.

Our time for recess and lunch has also not changed. Students will have recess breaks from 10:15am – 10:35 and lunch break from 12:05pm – 1:00pm.

Drop-off and pick-up

Student, parents and school staff should maintain a 2-metre distance during drop-off and pick-up times as much as possible.

Parents can drop students off at the school between 8:00am and 8:30am. Parents will not typically come into the school. Kindergarten parents and parents of new students to the school will be permitted to come into the school to help their child adjust to a new school environment.

Parents/daycares pick up students from the playground at 3:00pm. Daycares will meet their children in designated spots.

Water bottles, food and meals

Students are encouraged to bring their own water bottle for the school day to reduce contact at the water fountains. Water fountains can be used. Student will be taught and encouraged not to touch the mouthpiece while drinking from the fountain.

There will be no sharing of food or drinks between students at the school this year. Any snacks available at the school will be served in individual portions or packaged in single-use, food grade packaging.

Visitors and public access to the school

Parents and other guests should limit visiting the school where possible. We understand there may be times where you must visit the school building.

When visiting the school, parents and visitors to the school must:

- Enter and exit through the library/main door entrance
- Sign in at the office
- Sanitize their hands when entering the school
- Maintain physical distancing while in the school

Programming during the 2020-21 school year

Contacting the school for learning supports

Contact the teacher first if your child needs additional or different supports for their learning.

If you still have concerns with the supports being offered, please contact the school to ensure the school principal is able to follow-up.

The school can be contacted at: 667-5189 or kim.ramsay@gov.yk.ca.

Learning at school

All students at Grey Mountain Primary will be able to attend in-class instruction, full-time for five-days a week. During the school day, students will attend their regular classes, while following health and safety guidelines. They will learn the full school curriculum.

Learning at home if a student can't attend school

Students must stay home if they are sick or have symptoms of COVID-19. If a student is unable to attend school, they will be provided with learning activities by their teacher as they normally would.

If a student is away for an extended period of time, they will be provided with learning activities and the classroom teacher will follow up with phone calls to parents to support the learning.

If you are planning for your child to be away from school for the whole school year, please contact the school principal, Kim Ramsay kim.ramsay@gov.yk.ca to discuss options.

School supplies and sharing learning materials

Sharing of school supplies and learning materials will be limited as much as possible.

To limit sharing, all students will have their own school supplies in their own "tool kit". The school will purchase school supplies and parents will pay a student fee of \$40 for Kindergarten students and \$70 for Grade 1-3 students,

Classes will use some shared learning materials, such as toys, blocks and other materials for learning. They will be cleaned and disinfected using soap and water or a disinfectant wipe.

Paper-based materials like books and paper handouts are okay to use and share as outlined in the health and safety guidelines.



Library and iPads/laptops

Our school library will remain accessible for students and staff and we will continue to allow books and other resources to be borrowed from the library.

Students and staff will be able to access IT equipment while following these measures:

- Students will be required to wash or sanitize their hands before and after using shared IT equipment
- Computers and other shared IT equipment will be cleaned after each use using disinfectant wipes; students and staff may be asked to support this effort

Recess, gym and playing on the playground

Weather permitting, recess breaks and gym classes will take place outdoors. Parents are asked to ensure that students have the proper clothing for playing outdoors.

Playground equipment is okay to use as long as hands are washed before and after going on the equipment.

When gym class is indoors, we will follow the [health and safety guidelines for sport and recreation](#).

School field trips

The health and safety guidelines allow field trips as long as public health and safety guidelines are followed.

Our school will be assessing any planned school field trips on a case-by-case basis and will provide updates to students and parents directly through school year.

Music and cooking

The health and safety guidelines note singing must not occur at this time. While we are unable to sing or use certain instruments, our school will continue to incorporate music into our programming.

Small groups of students may cook and prepare food with a staff member while meeting the health and safety guidelines, including washing hands before cooking, limiting sharing of equipment and cleaning and disinfecting surfaces.



For more information:

We will be providing regular updates to students and families during the school year through e-mail, the school newsletter and on our school website.

Visit the following websites for more information:

- School website: <http://gmp.yukonschools.ca/>
- Yukon.ca information on education and schools during COVID-19: yukon.ca/en/education-and-school-supports-covid-19
- Yukon.ca information on COVID-19: yukon.ca/en/covid-19-information

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the school at 667-5189 or kim.ramsay@gov.yk.ca.