

COVID-19 Living Evidence Profile #3

(Version 3: 23 September 2021)

Question

What is known about how schools (K-12) and post-secondary institutions (colleges and universities) adjust COVID-19 transmission-mitigation measures as infection rates change and vaccination rates increase?

What we found

This living evidence profile is designed to complement two existing living evidence syntheses that address COVID-19 transmission [in schools](#) (kindergarten to Grade 12) and [in post-secondary institutions](#) (colleges and universities), which provide comprehensive syntheses of empirical evidence. We complement these syntheses by profiling guidelines, which are not included in these existing syntheses, and describing experiences from seven other countries and from all Canadian provinces and territories. The experiences of greatest interest are those related to how governments approach matching the type and intensity of transmission-mitigation measures to local infection and vaccination rates. The rationale for the selection of the countries, as well as additional details about our approach, are provided in Box 1. We organized our findings using the framework below.

Organizing framework

- When should adjustment be made (i.e., triggers for change)?
 - Case rates and other epidemiological indicators
 - Vaccination-related factors (e.g., proportion of school- or college/university-age population vaccinated, proportion of population vaccinated, and proportion of high-risk population vaccinated)
 - Community capacity (e.g., public-health capacity for contact tracing)
- Where should measures be changed?
 - Grade schools
 - Kindergarten and elementary schools

Box 1: Our approach

We identified new research evidence addressing the question by searching the COVID-END [inventory of best evidence syntheses](#) and resources prioritized in the COVID-END [guide to key COVID-19 evidence sources](#) on 11-17 August 2021, and then updated on 22 September 2021. We identified jurisdictional experiences by searching jurisdiction-specific sources of evidence listed in the same COVID-END guide to key COVID-19 evidence sources, and by hand searching government and stakeholder websites, in the 13-19 August 2021 period with targeted update searches conducted on 22 September 2021. We selected seven countries that are likely to have developed and/or implemented plans to adjust transmission-mitigation measures in schools or post-secondary institutions either because they have high vaccination rates (Chile, Israel, United Kingdom and United States) or because of having consistently low transmission rates for several months (Australia, China and New Zealand).

Given that two living evidence syntheses already exist about transmission in schools and in post-secondary schools, we focused only on identifying guidelines in our search, which are not included in the living evidence syntheses.

We appraised the quality of the guidelines we identified as being highly relevant using three domains in the AGREE II tool ([stakeholder involvement](#), rigour of development, and editorial independence), and classified guidelines as high quality if they were scored as 60% or higher across all three domains.

This living evidence profile was prepared in the equivalent of three days of a ‘full-court press’ by all involved staff, and will be updated in six weeks and then two months after that to provide evidence

- High schools
 - Post-secondary institutions
- What measures should be changed?
 - Operation of schools
 - Online instruction (whole or partial)
 - Student supports
 - Instructor supports
 - Staffing ratios
 - Classroom changes (e.g., limiting number of students; increasing distance between students)
 - Facility changes (e.g., expanding classroom size by using additional facilities; providing class outside)
 - Skill redevelopment programs
 - Operation of residences in post-secondary schools
 - Building occupancy
 - Room occupancy (e.g., single, double or more)
 - Access to and rules for common spaces for gatherings
 - Enforcement of rules
 - Engagement in extracurricular activities (e.g., athletics, music or other school-based or post-secondary clubs)
 - Intramural
 - Inter-collegiate
 - Accompanying public-health measures
 - Infection prevention
 - Washing hands
 - Wearing masks
 - Disinfecting surfaces and facilities
 - Physical distancing (e.g., within and between cohorts, limits to class size, desk spacing)
 - Temporal distancing (e.g., holiday staggering, time-of-day staggering)
 - Ventilation maximization
 - Public-focused behaviour-change supports
 - Infection control
 - Screening (e.g., active, passive, symptom awareness, different tests and in different settings)
 - Quarantining of exposed or potentially exposed individuals
 - Testing
 - Isolation of suspected or confirmed cases
 - Contact tracing
- Reported challenges implementing any of the measures above

What we found

We identified six new relevant guidelines that met our minimum requirements for a guideline (i.e., includes explicit recommendations and an explicit process for developing them). We deemed three to be highly relevant because they had direct relevance to one or more categories in the organizing framework. The three highly relevant guidelines included two guidelines from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (U.S. CDC) and one guideline from the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC). The guidelines from the U.S. CDC on grade schools and post-secondary schools

were identified in the previous versions but have since been updated (4 August 2021 and 23 July 2021, respectively). All three guidelines were assessed as low-quality using AGREE II.

This LEP also includes guidelines from the previous version that we deemed to still be highly relevant (found in Appendix 2b), for a total of 13 highly relevant guidelines.

We outline insights from the highly relevant guidelines and from the jurisdictional scans in narrative form below. This is accompanied by Table 1 (key findings from each of the highly relevant guidelines), Table 2 (experiences from other countries), and Table 3 (experiences from Canadian provinces and territories). In addition, key findings from guidelines identified in previous versions are provided in Table 4, and Table 5 provides experiences from other countries and from Canadian provinces and territories that were identified in previous versions. For those who want to know more about our approach, we provide a detailed summary of our methods in Appendix 1. In addition, we provide all guidelines identified from our searches in Appendix 2, and documents excluded at the final stages in Appendix 3.

Key findings from highly relevant guidelines

Related to grade schools, [an updated U.S. CDC guideline](#) recommended universal indoor masking for all students, staff, teachers, and visitors to K-12 schools, regardless of vaccination status. In addition to this prevention measure, the U.S. CDC recommended the use of multiple prevention strategies for schools (e.g., physical distancing, screening testing, ventilation, hand washing and respiratory etiquette, staying home when sick and getting tested, promotion of vaccination, contact tracing in combination with quarantine and isolation, disinfection and cleaning), given that some student populations may not be eligible for a vaccine due to their age. Similarly, [the new school guideline from PHAC](#) that align with the current federal/provincial/territorial public-health response for ongoing management of COVID-19, recommended that grade schools should adhere to multiple layers of prevention strategies and outbreak management plans. In terms of infection-control measures, the [U.S. CDC guideline](#) recommended that fully vaccinated people should be tested between three to five days after they have had known exposure to someone with either suspected or confirmed COVID-19, and to wear a mask in public indoor settings for 14 days or until they receive a negative test result.

Related to post-secondary schools, The [U.S. CDC stated that higher-education institutions in the U.S. can return to full capacity in-person learning](#), without requiring or recommending masking or physical distancing for people, including students, staff and faculty. Their detailed guidelines remain the same as previous versions in terms of promotion of COVID-19 vaccination, guidance for higher-education institutions where everyone is fully vaccinated and/or not fully vaccinated, and general considerations for all higher-education institutions. Additionally, [the new school guidance from PHAC](#) encouraged schools to maximize vaccination coverage in their academic and community settings before the start of the 2021-2022 school year. Finally, PHAC recommended the use of standardized protocols and digital programs such as web-based applications and QR codes to notify or report infections and for case management purposes.

Key findings from the jurisdictional scan

We identified several new insights across the domains of the organizing framework based on the experiences with adjusting COVID-19 transmission-mitigation measures in schools and post-secondary institutions in seven countries (Australia, China, Chile, Israel, New Zealand, the United

Kingdom, and the United States), as well as all provinces and territories in Canada. We summarize these insights according to each domain of the framework below.

When should adjustments be made?

In terms of triggers for adjustments, we found that an increase in COVID-19 cases in August in most of the countries reviewed has impacted how these countries plan to ensure the safety of students, staff and faculty during 2021-2022 school year. Specifically, we found that:

- in China, schools and universities have the flexibility to postpone the start of the upcoming school semester in areas with medium or high risk of COVID-19 outbreaks;
- as of 16 August 2021, all schools and universities in metropolitan Melbourne in Australia have been closed as a stay-at-home curfew is in place due to high COVID-19 transmission;
- Australian Capital Territory and New South Wales also have their schools closed but allow school-based staff, vulnerable children, children whose parents or caregivers cannot work from home, and children who must be supervised for essential activities to attend school;
- after detecting the first COVID-19 case in the Auckland community after six months without any reported cases in the country, all of New Zealand entered Alert Level 4 on 17 August 2021 and all grade schools and post-secondary schools were closed;
- Israel will be conducting nationwide antibody testing for all students and staff in August and September;
- increasing COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations and deaths in the U.S. since July 2021, and an uptick in cases and hospitalizations in children of all ages, has led the U.S. CDC to update its guidance for K-12 schools and Institutions of Higher Education (IHE) (these guidelines are referenced above);
- the Government of Canada recommends that public-health measures implemented in community settings, such as schools, should be adjusted when communities move from lower risk to higher risk of COVID-19 spread; and
- rising COVID-19 cases in Alberta has caused the Chief Medical Officer of Health to recommend a pause to the province's plan to significantly scale back COVID-19 testing, contact tracing, and isolation measures and instead keep the existing measures in place until 27 September 2021 to monitor trends in case rates.

The increased availability of COVID-19 vaccines worldwide has also triggered adjustments in how governments have made vaccines more accessible to eligible students, although increasing student vaccinations has been met with some challenges in recent weeks. For example:

- education authorities across China, in cooperation with medical institutions, will organize vaccinations for students aged between 12 to 17 upon informed consent from the students as well as their parents and guardians;
- the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunization (ATAGI) has recommended that the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine be prioritized for specific groups of children between 12 and 15 years old, including children with specified medical conditions, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, and children living in remote communities, before a rollout to all children;
- although New Zealand began vaccinating the general public (including teachers and school faculty) on 28 July 2021 in a phased approach based on age, vaccinations were suspended for 48 hours on 17 August 2021 to allow time for contact tracing of the new COVID-19 case and ensure a safe environment for vaccinators and the public;
- the U.K.'s Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has approved the Spikevax vaccine (formerly COVID-19 Vaccine Moderna) for use in 12 to 17 years of age, and a

new target to offer first doses of COVID-19 vaccine to all people aged 16- and 17-years of age in England by 23 August 2021 has been set by the U.K.'s Health and Social Care Secretary to provide students with protection before entering the September school year;

- although the U.S. CDC has recommended that all eligible students, parents, teachers, and staff get vaccinated as soon as possible, roughly a dozen U.S. states have banned schools and employers from mandating COVID-19 vaccination; and
- the U.S. CDC has also recommended that IHEs where all students, staff, and faculty are fully vaccinated prior to the start of the semester can return to in-person learning at full capacity without requiring masking or physical distancing for people who are fully vaccinated.

The Government of Canada has recommended that public-health authorities (PHAs) work with school administrators to identify ways to increase vaccine coverage among the eligible school population (i.e., 12 years and older). For example:

- COVID-19 vaccines are available to anyone 12 years and older in all Canadian provinces and territories, and several provinces and territories have recommended that staff, faculty and students get their second dose prior to the start of the school year;
- several major universities in Ontario, Alberta, and Saskatchewan have announced vaccination requirements for all staff, students and faculty to be fully vaccinated or have plans to be fully vaccinated before returning to campus for the 2021-2022 school year;
- in Alberta, B.C., and Saskatchewan, vaccination is considered a personal choice and the province will not be mandating vaccinations to attend school, while in Ontario and New Brunswick, all post-secondary schools are required to implement mandatory vaccination policies that will require students, staff and faculty to provide either proof of full vaccination, a medical reason for not being vaccinated, or completion of a COVID-19 vaccination educational session no later than 7 September 2021;
- in Quebec, secondary schools will require proof of vaccination from students to participate in certain extracurricular activities; and
- the Governments of Alberta, Ontario, Saskatchewan, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island are making temporary vaccination clinics available in schools for eligible students, teachers, and faculty.

What measures should be changed?

In terms of what measures should be changed, we found that:

- the governments of Israel, the U.K., and the U.S. have removed their recommendations for cohorting of students in schools for the upcoming school year;
- the U.K. government has recommended the opening of all education and childcare settings and has strongly encouraged attendance, while the U.S. CDC has also strongly recommended in-person learning as a priority in fall 2021, even as COVID-19 cases surge in the country;
- in Israel, all students living in “orange” or “red” zones will be tested once a week, and the U.K. government has recommended that secondary schools should be prepared to provide on-site testing;
- in its updated guidance for COVID-19 prevention in K-12 schools, the U.S. CDC has recommended that fully vaccinated people who have a known exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 be tested three to five days after exposure, regardless of whether they are symptomatic; and
- the U.S. CDC has also recommended that schools and IHEs maintain three feet physical distance between students within classrooms rather than six feet, given that when combined with masking

and other layers of prevention strategies, COVID-19 transmission levels been shown to remain low among students.

The countries and Canadian provinces and territories reviewed have similarities and differences in their policies on wearing masks in public and at schools, including that:

- in the U.K., England has removed the requirement to wear face coverings by law while in Scotland, masks are required in indoor public spaces in universities and secondary schools;
- the U.S. CDC has recommended universal indoor masking for all students two years and older, staff, teachers, and visitors of K-12 schools, but there has been a mixture of varying mask policies and mandates for schools at the state and local levels within U.S. states
- most states in the U.S. have lifted mask mandates in schools, but local districts are allowed to impose them if they feel it is necessary, while 12 states, plus the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, have imposed mask mandates in schools and nine states have banned all school districts in their state from imposing mask mandates;
- Ontario and Quebec students from grades 1 to 12 must wear non-medical or cloth masks indoors, and masks are recommended for all students and staff in Manitoba schools;
- masks are not required in Alberta, Yukon, and Northwest Territories (N.W.T.) classrooms, but Yukon and N.W.T. do require masks in indoor common areas and on school buses;
- masks will be mandatory indoors when physical distancing is not possible in Alberta's three major universities come September 2021 when schools open; and
- in New Brunswick, masking is mandatory in common indoor areas among K-8 students and school personnel, while students in Grades 9 to 12 are required to wear masks in common indoor areas until 90% of individuals aged 12 to 19 are fully vaccinated.

In terms of infection-prevention measures, the Government of Canada recommends that schools monitor the uptake of public-health measures (PHMs), in consultation with regional and local PHAs, and adjust them to address any challenges with implementation and adherence. The Government of Canada also recommends that protocols be put in place to support individuals travelling to school in Canada from outside of the community or country. Most Canadian provinces and territories have released plans to guide the reopening of schools, colleges and universities in the fall. For example:

- in B.C., a 'COVID-19 Safety Plan' will no longer be a requirement for schools for September 2021, instead institutions will be required to have a communicable disease plan;
- given that all students will be returning to in-person school in the fall, the Government of Alberta has provided a plan for the 2021-2022 school year with contingency scenarios for "in-school classes" and "at-home learning" school operations;
- Saskatchewan released its plan on 8 July 2021, and classrooms in Saskatchewan will return to traditional in-class learning without any mandated public health measures or restrictions;
- Manitoba's plan has three stages based on current case rates and community transmission and will be re-opening schools under the caution yellow stage where kindergarten to grade 12 students will return to full-time in-person learning;
- all students in Ontario will be allowed to return to in-person learning in the fall, but students will be in cohorts (elementary schools) or schedules will only have two in-person classes (secondary school);
- in Newfoundland and Labrador, public-health recommendations for the upcoming school year are based on community transmission risk and can be adjusted as needed;

- while New Brunswick has yet to release their guidance for the 2021-22 school year, Quebec, Nova Scotia, PE.I., Yukon, and Nunavut have announced plans for K-12 school operations;
- the Governments of Ontario and Alberta have indicated that students, teachers, and staff must self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms every day before attending school, and parents/guardians of N.W.T. students are required to monitor their children for symptoms of COVID-19 using a screening tool every day; and
- most Canadian provinces and territories will be allowing extracurricular activities during the upcoming school year, but Northwest Territories will not be allowing high contact physical activities indoors or drama, singing or band programs.

Table 1: Key findings from highly relevant guidelines about adjusting transmission-mitigation measures as vaccination rates increase and infection rates decrease

Organizing framework domains		Key findings focused on grade schools	Key findings focused on post-secondary schools
When should adjustments be made (i.e., triggers for change)?	Case rates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PHAC guidelines for the planning and operation of schools during the 2021-2022 school year references the broader PHAC public-health measures guidance to describe adjustments based on low- and high-risk scenarios (low-quality AGREE II rating; last updated 28 August 2021) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PHAC guidelines for the planning and operation of schools during the 2021-2022 school year reference the broader PHAC public-health measures guidance to describe adjustments based on low- and high-risk scenarios (low-quality AGREE II rating; last updated 28 August 2021)
	Vaccination-related factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PHAC released guidance for the planning and operation of schools during the 2021-2022 school year <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Schools may wish to work with appropriate health authorities to offer on-site vaccination clinics to increase vaccination coverage among eligible students (with parental consent as required) (low-quality AGREE II rating; last updated 28 August 2021) • The U.S. CDC continues to promote vaccination as the leading public-health prevention strategy to help schools safely return to in-person learning (including extracurricular activities) (low-quality AGREE II rating; last updated 4 August 2021) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PHAC released guidance for the planning and the operation of schools during the 2021-2022 school year, which is in alignment with the current federal/provincial/territorial public health response plan for ongoing management of COVID-19 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Post-secondary schools are advised to maximize vaccination coverage in the school setting and in the community (among those who are eligible) before the start of the 2021-2022 school year to reduce the risk of SARS-CoV-2 transmission and/or local outbreaks once in-person learning begins (Low-quality AGREE II rating; last updated 28 August 2021) ○ PHAC provides broader public-health measures guidance for schools as an additional resource to consider for their planning (low-quality AGREE II rating; last updated 28 August 2021) • The U.S. CDC continues to promote vaccination as the leading public-health prevention strategy to help schools safely return to in-person learning (including extracurricular activities) (low-quality AGREE II rating; last updated 23 July 2021)

	Community capacity (e.g., public-health capacity for contact tracing)	<i>None identified</i>	
What measures should be changed?	Operation of schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PHAC released guidance for the planning and operation of schools during the 2021-2022 school year, which is in alignment with the current federal/provincial/territorial public health response plan for ongoing management of COVID-19 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ It is recommended that schools and institutions take a risk-based approach to COVID-19, and most evidence to date indicates that adherence to multiple layers of mitigation measures can be effective in limiting the transmission of SARS-CoV-2 in child and youth settings, including kindergarten to Grade 12 (Low-quality AGREE II rating; last updated 28 August 2021) • The same guidance from PHAC included additional considerations such as communication strategies for K-12 and post-secondary students, staff and parents/guardians (e.g., reminders, stories, videos) that are age appropriate, inclusive, actionable and accessible, organized activities in the school setting, travel and/or international students, and post-secondary housing • The U.S. CDC released prevention strategies for K-12 school operations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ As of 4 August 2021, the U.S. CDC recommends universal indoor masking for all students, staff, teachers and visitors to K-12 schools, regardless of vaccination status ○ They also recommend to make in-person instruction a priority, while also ensuring multiple prevention strategies are in place such as physical distancing, screening testing, ventilation, handwashing and respiratory etiquette, contact tracing in combination with quarantine and isolation, disinfection and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The U.S. CDC stated that higher education institutions can return to full capacity in-person learning, without requiring or recommending masking or physical distancing for people including students, staff and faculty (Low-quality AGREE II rating; last updated 23 July 2021)

		cleaning (Low-quality AGREE II rating; last updated 4 August 2021)	
	Operation of residences in post-secondary schools	Not applicable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PHAC released guidance for the planning and operation of schools during the 2021-2022 school year, which is in alignment with the current federal/provincial/territorial public-health response plan for ongoing management of COVID-19 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The guidance encourages boarding schools and post-secondary housing to consider vaccination-uptake strategies and monitoring, implementation of testing strategies (based on vaccination coverage), and information on travel restrictions cleaning (low-quality AGREE II rating; last updated 28 August 2021) • The U.S. CDC continues to promote its detailed guidelines for shared and congregate housing in addition to its interim public-health recommendations for fully vaccinated people <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Students who are not fully vaccinated should be housed in single rooms instead of shared rooms (where feasible) ○ Schools should consider limiting building access by non-residents, capacity of communal spaces, and establishing cohorts (e.g., groups of dorm rooms or dorm floors) (low-quality AGREE II rating; last updated 23 July 2021)
	Engagement in extracurricular activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PHAC released guidance for the planning and operation of schools during the 2021-2022 school year, which is in alignment with the current federal/provincial/territorial public-health response plan for ongoing management of COVID-19 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The guidance indicates that the level of engagement in extracurricular activities (e.g., 	<i>None identified</i>

		<p>varsity and intermural sports) depends on community transmission risk</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ In high-risk areas, schools may opt for physical distancing and outdoor activities ○ In low-risk areas, schools may consider high-contact or team sports ○ In terms of music, band, singing and choir, PHAC continues to advise the consideration of outdoor music and band practices, no sharing of instruments or accessories, smaller cohorts or other alternative instruction methods, and appropriate instrument cleaning measures (low-quality AGREE II rating; last updated 28 August 2021) 	
	Accompanying infection-prevention measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● PHAC released guidance for the planning and the operation of schools during the 2021-2022 school year, which is in alignment with the current Federal/provincial/territorial public health response plan for ongoing management of COVID-19 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The guidance also provides advice on core measures such as hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette and additional measures such as physical distancing, masking where appropriate, indoor ventilation, and cohorting (Low-quality AGREE II rating; last updated 28 August 2021) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● PHAC released guidance for the planning and operation of schools during the 2021-2022 school year, which is in alignment with the current federal/provincial/territorial public-health response plan for ongoing management of COVID-19 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ PHAC provides broader public-health measures guidance on both core and additional public-health measures for schools to consider in their planning (low-quality AGREE II rating; last updated 28 August 2021)
	Accompanying infection-control measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● PHAC recommended appropriate outbreak management, where schools should have plans in place for early recognition of individuals potentially infected with COVID-19 and prevention of ongoing COVID-19 spread, in addition to established processes for symptom/case reporting, information sharing and supporting the regional/local public health unit in their case management and contact tracing efforts as required (low-quality AGREE II rating; last updated 28 August 2021) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● PHAC recommended that post-secondary schools should consider digital programs (e.g., web-based apps, QR codes) to assist in case and contact management in addition to standard protocols and plans for notification/reporting infections (low-quality AGREE II rating; last updated 28 August 2021)

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The U.S. CDC recommended that fully vaccinated people who have a known exposure to someone with either suspected or confirmed COVID-19 to be tested between three to five days after exposure (regardless of whether they have symptoms) (Low-quality AGREE II rating; last updated 4 August 2021) 	
Reported challenges implementing any of the measures above			

Table 2: Experiences in other countries with adjusting transmission-mitigation measures as vaccination rates increase and infection rates decrease

Organizing framework domains		Key findings focused on grade schools	Key findings focused on post-secondary schools
When should adjustments be made (i.e., triggers for change)?	Case rates	<p>Chile</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On 26 July 2021, the government set up a plan of four different levels of opening, that is triggered by the case load and vaccination rates (although these levels are not explicitly determined) In this plan, educational activities are allowed at all levels with some restrictions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Step 1: Students can voluntarily go to schools, and schools need a formal authorization of the ministry to open Step 2: Students can voluntarily go to schools and no authorization is requested Step 3: Schools can work all days 	
		<p>China</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Schools in China's areas classified as having medium or high risks of COVID-19 outbreaks may delay the start of the upcoming autumn semester <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Should there exist the medium- or high-risk areas right before the start of the new semester, schools in the areas will adopt postponement accordingly 	<p>China</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As of 5 August 2021, more than 10 universities in China have issued the notices about postponing the start of school in the fall and not returning to school temporarily
		<p>New Zealand</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Up until 16 August 2021, all of New Zealand remained in Alert level 1, but on 17 August 2021 all of New Zealand entered Alert Level 4 after the first case of COVID-19 was reported in the Auckland community after six months without any reported cases in the country <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This means that all grade schools are closed until further notice 	<p>New Zealand</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On 17 August 2021 all of New Zealand entered Alert Level 4 after the first case of COVID-19 was reported in Auckland after six months without any reported cases in the country <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This means that all post-secondary schools are closed until further notice
		<p>United States (U.S.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC), COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations and 	<p>U.S.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC), COVID-19 cases,

		<p>deaths have continued to increase in the U.S. since July 2021, especially amongst populations with higher levels of community transmission and lower vaccination rates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations in children of all ages have also increased in recent weeks 	<p>hospitalizations and deaths have continued to increase in the U.S. since July 2021, especially amongst populations with higher levels of community transmission and lower vaccination rates</p>
Vaccination-related factors	Australia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As of 18 August 2021, 16,201,270 total vaccine doses have been administered country-wide • On 2 August 2021, the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunization (ATAGI) recommends that the following groups of children among those aged 12 to 15 years be prioritized for the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine, with more information on the roll-out of the vaccine in all other children within coming months: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Children with specified medical conditions that increase their risk of severe COVID-19 o Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children aged 12–15 years o All children aged 12–15 years in remote communities, as part of broader community outreach vaccination programs that provide vaccines for all ages (≥ 12 years) 	Australia
	China	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In China, education authorities across the country, in cooperation with medical institutions, will organize vaccinations for students aged between 12 to 17 properly and safely upon informed consent from the students as well as their parents and guardians 	
	New Zealand	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Zealand began vaccinating the general public (including teachers and school faculty) on 28 July 2021 in a phased approach based on age, starting with residents over age 60 	New Zealand
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Zealand began vaccinating the general public (including teachers and school faculty) on 28 July 2021 in a phased approach based on age, starting with residents over age 60

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ As of 16 August 2021, any New Zealander 50 years and older is eligible for vaccination ○ Anyone 16 years and older will be eligible for vaccination as of 1 September ● Vaccinations were suspended in New Zealand on 17 August 2021 for 48 hours to allow time for contact tracing of the new COVID-19 case and ensure a safe environment for vaccinators and the public 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ As of 16 August 2021, any New Zealander 50 years and older is eligible for vaccination ○ Anyone 16 years and older will be eligible for vaccination as of 1 September ● Vaccinations were suspended in New Zealand on 17 August 2021 for 48 hours to allow time for contact tracing of the new COVID-19 case and ensure a safe environment for vaccinators and the public
		<p>United Kingdom (U.K.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● As of 18 August 2021, 88,401,088 total vaccine doses have been administered, with 87.3% of the population over 18 years having received a first vaccine dose, and 75.7% having received a second dose ● As of 17 August 2021, the U.K.'s Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has approved the use of the Spikevax vaccine (formerly COVID-19 Vaccine Moderna) that allows its use in people 12 to 17 years of age ● The U.K.'s Health and Social Care Secretary announced the new target to offer a first dose of COVID-19 vaccine to all people aged 16 and 17years England by 23 August 2021, in order to provide them with protection before entering the September school year 	<p>U.K.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● As of 18 August 2021, 88,401,088 total vaccine doses have been administered, with 87.3% of the population over 18 years having received a first vaccine dose, and 75.7% having received a second dose
		<p>United States (U.S.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● According to the U.S. CDC, 70.2% of the U.S. population 12 years and older have received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine while 59.6% of the population is fully vaccinated with a COVID-19 vaccine <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The U.S. CDC recommends that all eligible students, parents, teachers and staff get vaccinated as soon as possible ● Roughly a dozen U.S. states have banned schools and employers from mandating COVID-19 vaccination 	<p>U.S.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● According to the U.S. CDC, 70.2% of the U.S. population 12 years and older have received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine while 59.6% of the population is fully vaccinated with a COVID-19 vaccine <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The U.S. CDC recommends that all eligible students, parents, teachers and staff get vaccinated as soon as possible ● Roughly a dozen U.S. states have banned schools and employers from mandating COVID-19 vaccination

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • So far, only Hawaii, California, Washington state, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico have implemented vaccine mandates for students and teachers in all school districts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • So far, only Hawaii, California, Washington state, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico have implemented vaccine mandates for students and teachers in all school districts
	Community capacity (e.g., public-health capacity for contact tracing)	<p>Israel</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A nationwide antibody testing in Israel will be carried out for all students and staff in August and September 	
What measures should be changed?	Operation of schools	<p>Australia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The following states in Australia have their schools closed and are only open for school-based staff, vulnerable children, children whose parents or caregivers cannot work from home, and for essential activities that must be undertaken under supervision, such as Year 12 critical examinations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Australian Capital Territory ○ New South Wales • The Government of Australia’s Northern Territory announced that as of 20 August 2021, schools will open and mask requirements apply to people aged 12 years and over • For the state of Queensland, the Government and Department of Education is following the state’s roadmap to easing restrictions, in which currently the state is following guidance under stage 1 as of 8 August 2021 to 20 August 2021 and schools are open, and each school is to determine who can come onto the grounds • The state of South Australia is currently under Level 1 restriction in which schools and preschools continue to operate in-person learning with masks to be worn by staff and students in year 8 and above • For the Australian state of Victoria, as of 9 August 2021 restrictions in regional Victoria are easing and schools will be open, but for metropolitan Melbourne, a stay-at-home curfew is in place and 	<p>Australia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For the state of Queensland, the Government and Department of Education is following the state’s roadmap to easing restrictions, in which currently the state is following guidance under stage 1 as of 8 August 2021 to 20 August 2021, and universities are open • The state of South Australia is currently under Level 1 restriction in which higher education facilities may operate • For the Australian state of Victoria, as of 16 August 2021 for metropolitan Melbourne a stay-at-home curfew is in place and all universities and further education must close or move to remote learning

		<p>all schools are closed as of 16 August 2021, except for vulnerable children and children of authorized workers or providers</p>	
		<p>Chile</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Ministry of Education has released a protocol to control infections within educational facilities • Among other common measures that were included before the vaccination plan started, the following additional measures have been implemented <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Enhanced ventilation of classrooms and common spaces in educational facilities ○ Students' temperature must be checked at home every day before school <p>Different hours of start and end of day at school, with several modules of breaks and classes to avoid crowds</p>	<p>Chile</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same for primary education
		<p>Israel</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schools in Israel will not require special restrictions such as cohorting for students returning to school in the fall 	
		<p>New Zealand</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As part of COVID-19 protocols, if a school is linked to a probable or confirmed case of COVID-19, close contacts will be required to isolate and the school will be required to close for 72 hours 	
		<p>U.K.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The U.K. government released an updated guidance document as of 17 August 2021 for parents and carers on early-years providers, and schools during COVID-19 with the following recommendations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Education and childcare settings are open, and attendance is mandatory and strongly encouraged ○ Secondary schools should be prepared to provide on-site testing ○ A child does not need to remain in a consistent group ("bubble") 	<p>U.K.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In England, all university students can return to in-person teaching from 17 May 2021 • As of 17 August 2021, the U.K. government updated its operational guidance for higher-education providers and partner organizations

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The removal of the requirement to wear face coverings in law, but expects and recommends that they are worn in enclosed and crowded spaces ● A guide for students on how GCSEs, A levels, vocational and technical qualifications will be graded and awarded in summer 2021 was released and updated on 9 August 2021, and applies to England, Wales and Northern Ireland ● The Welsh government released its operational guidance for schools and settings last updated 14 July 2021 that aims to support schools and local authorities to plan for the start of the 2021-2022 academic year 	
		<p>U.S.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● In its Guidance for COVID-19 prevention in K-12 schools that was updated on 5 August 2021, the U.S. CDC has indicated that in-person learning should be a priority in fall 2021, and provides recommendations for measures to prevent the transmission of COVID-19 in light of the high circulation of the Delta variant in the country 	<p>U.S.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● On 23 July 2021, the U.S. CDC removed its recommendation for Institutions of Higher Education (IHE) to consider cohorting individuals according to vaccination status ● The U.S. CDC also recommends that IHEs where all students, staff and faculty are fully vaccinated prior to the start of the semester can return to in-person learning at full capacity without requiring masking or physical distancing for people who are fully vaccinated
	Operation of residences in post-secondary schools	Not applicable	
	Engagement in extracurricular activities		
	Accompanying infection-prevention measures	<p>China</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● On 13 August 2021, the National Health Commission of the People’s Republic of China revised the guidelines for the normalization of pandemic prevention and control in key sites, units, and populations, including the recommendations for staff and students in kindergarten, elementary schools, and high schools, e.g., screening, ventilation, disinfection, hand hygiene 	<p>China</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● On 13 August 2021, the National Health Commission of the People’s Republic of China revised the guidelines for the normalization of pandemic prevention and control in key sites, units and populations, including the recommendations for staff and students in post-secondary institutions (e.g., screening, ventilation, disinfection, hand hygiene)

		<p>U.K.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In England, all students will no longer be required to wear face coverings in schools and colleges from 17 May 2021 while in Scotland, masks must still be worn in indoor spaces in universities and secondary schools • The Scottish government released guidance that was last updated 16 August 2021 that provides guidance on reducing risks in schools and sets out the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Local authorities and schools should continue to apply the mitigations that were in place at the end of last term, with the exception of some modifications as set out in the guidance and this approach is expected to remain in place until the end of September until further advice is provided ○ Modifications that should be made to mitigations relate to an updated wider policy on self-isolation, contact tracing and testing, and other public health measures 	
		<p>U.S.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Due to the highly contagious Delta variant circulating in the U.S., the U.S. CDC recommends universal indoor masking for all students two years and older, staff, teachers, and visitors of K-12 schools, regardless of vaccination status <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ It is also recommended that schools maintain a three feet physical distance between students within classrooms, and when that is not possible, to layer multiple other prevention strategies (e.g., handwashing, ventilation, and screening testing) ○ The CDC’s physical-distance recommendation was changed from six feet to three feet based on evidence that when combined with indoor masking, COVID-19 transmission rates between students three feet apart remained low 	<p>U.S.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The U.S. CDC continues to recommend general infection-prevention considerations for all IHEs in its guidelines, including improving ventilation and maintaining routine cleaning and disinfection practices

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A physical distance of six feet is recommended between students and teachers/staff, and also between teachers/staff who are not fully vaccinated ● Following the U.S. CDC’s recommendation for universal indoor masking in schools, there has been a mixture of varying mask policies and mandates for schools at the state and local and levels within U.S. states <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Most states have lifted mask mandates in schools, but local districts are allowed to impose them if they feel it is necessary ○ 12 states, plus the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, have imposed mask mandates in schools ○ Nine states have banned all school districts in their state from imposing mask mandates 	
	Accompanying infection-control measures	Israel <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Israeli students living in “orange” or “red” zones will be tested once a week 	
		U.S. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● In its updated Guidance for COVID-19 prevention in K-12 schools, the U.S. CDC has recommended that fully vaccinated people who have a known exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 be tested three to five days after exposure, regardless of whether they are symptomatic 	
Reported challenges implementing any of the measures above			

Table 3: Experiences in Canada with adjusting transmission-mitigation measures as vaccination rates increase and infection rates decrease

Organizing framework domains		Key findings focused on grade schools	Key findings focused on post-secondary schools
When should adjustments be made (i.e., triggers for change)?	Case rates	<p>Canada</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Government of Canada recommends that public-health measures implemented in community settings, such as schools, should be adjusted when communities move from lower risk to higher risk of COVID-19 spread <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A higher risk of COVID-19 spread is signaled by several indicators, including high or increasing community transmission that is beyond the threshold at which the local healthcare system can effectively manage 	<p>Canada</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Government of Canada recommends that public-health measures implemented in community settings, such as schools, should be adjusted when communities move from lower risk to higher risk of COVID-19 spread <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A higher risk of COVID-19 spread is signaled by several indicators, including high or increasing community transmission that is beyond the threshold at which the local healthcare system can effectively manage
		<p>Alberta</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alberta’s 2021-2022 School Year Plan indicates that in the event of a resurgence of the COVID-19 pandemic that has an impact on the province’s education system, the decision to adjust operations will be at the discretion of the local school authority, taking into account the health measures in place 	
		<p>Newfoundland and Labrador</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Newfoundland and Labrador, the recommendations from public health for return to school of Grades K-12 are based on community transmission risk <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Higher risk of COVID-19 is associated with high or increasing community transmission, a community outbreak, the introduction of new cases in a setting where there is low vaccination coverage, and evidence of immune escape from variants of concern • Should a school transition from low risk of COVID-19 spread to high risk of COVID-19 spread, school operation plans similar to those of last school year will be enacted 	
		<p>Yukon</p>	<p>Yukon</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yukon University remains flexible in the response to the changing reality of COVID

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yukon updated the K-12 school guidelines for 2021-22, which will be adjusted based on vaccination rates and COVID-19 epidemiology locally and nationally 	within the territory and will adjust the pandemic measures as the situation warrants
Vaccination-related factors	Canada	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Government of Canada’s released interim guidance for Schools kindergarten to grade 12 to assist schools in planning for the 2021-22 academic year <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It recommends that public health authorities (PHAs) should work with school administrators to identify ways to increase vaccine coverage among the eligible school population (i.e., 12 years and older) Accessibility to vaccines can be enhanced by offering onsite vaccination clinics at schools or making accommodations for individuals who must access vaccination off-site It also indicates that administrators should ensure that those who choose not to be vaccinated are not stigmatized because of their vaccination status 	Canada <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Government of Canada’s released interim guidance for Schools and post-secondary institutions to assist educators in planning for the 2021-22 academic year <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It highlights the importance of maximizing vaccination coverage in the post-secondary education school setting and in the community before the school year begins in order to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission It recommends that PHAs should work with school administrators to identify ways to increase vaccine coverage among the eligible school population (i.e., 12 years and older) Accessibility to vaccines can be enhanced by offering onsite vaccination clinics at schools or making accommodations for individuals who must access vaccination off-site Several universities have announced vaccination requirements for all staff, students and faculty to be fully vaccinated or have plans to be fully vaccinated before returning to campus for the 2021-2022 school year <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This includes most major universities in Ontario, the University of Saskatchewan, and the University of Regina
	British Columbia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> COVID-19 vaccination of students, faculty and staff of B.C. schools is strongly encouraged by the province, but not mandatory 	
	Alberta		Alberta

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vaccination is considered a personal decision in Alberta and the province will not be mandating vaccinations for students, staff and faculty of to attend school • The Government of Alberta announced that COVID-19 vaccinations will be available through temporary clinics in schools in fall 2021 for students in grades seven through 12 and for teachers and staff <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Parents or guardians must provide consent for students to be vaccinated ○ All students and staff are strongly encouraged to get vaccinated with two doses before the beginning of the school year, but vaccination is not mandatory 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On 17 August 2021, Alberta’s three major universities – the University of Alberta, University of Calgary, and University of Lethbridge – announced that they will require every individual entering their campuses to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 or to undergo regular rapid testing
		<p>Saskatchewan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff are encouraged by the province of Saskatchewan to avail themselves of all Ministry of Health recommended vaccinations, according to the province’s Safe Schools Plan 	<p>Saskatchewan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The University of Saskatchewan and the University of Regina will require all faculty, staff, and students to be fully vaccinated by 1 October 2021 to be on campus
		<p>Ontario</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As of 15 August 2021, 56% of youth aged 12 to 17 in Ontario are fully vaccinated (with 69% partially vaccinated) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Government of Ontario and public health units will be launching vaccination clinics in schools as students return to school in the fall 	<p>Ontario</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A growing number of post-secondary schools in Ontario will now require a proof of vaccination for students, faculty, staff and visitors who plan to be on campus or attending university facilities starting this fall 2021 in light of the Delta variant • According to the Government of Ontario, post-secondary schools must implement mandatory vaccination policies no later than 7 September 2021, which requires students, staff, and faculty to provide either proof of full vaccination, a medical reason for not being vaccinated, or completion of a COVID-19 vaccination educational session
		<p>Québec</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secondary schools in Québec will require proof of vaccination from students in order to participate in certain extracurricular activities 	
		<p>New Brunswick</p>	<p>New Brunswick</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As of 30 July 2021, the province did not renew its mandatory order and therefore all restrictions have been removed as the province goes into the green zone School and school district employees in New Brunswick are required to get vaccinated or undergo regular testing according to the province's 2021-22 Guidelines New Brunswick's Chief Medical Officer of Health urged parents and guardians to book a vaccine appointment immediately to get their children vaccinated, at least for the first dose, to ensure optimal protection of students and staff for the September school year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As of 30 July 2021, the province did not renew its mandatory order and therefore all restrictions have been removed as the province goes into the green zone St. Thomas University and Mount Allison University announced that COVID vaccinations will be mandatory for students, faculty and staff for the fall semester, while the University of New Brunswick will not be making vaccinations mandatory
		<p>Nova Scotia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All students and staff who are eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccine in Nova Scotia are strongly encouraged by the province to get both doses 	
		<p>Newfoundland and Labrador</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In Newfoundland and Labrador, eligible individual is strongly encouraged to get two doses of COVID-19 vaccine to reduce the risk of COVID-19 in schools and communities 	
		<p>Yukon</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In Yukon, eligible students and staff are strongly encouraged to get their second dose of the vaccine at least 2 weeks prior to the start of the school year 	
	Community capacity (e.g., public-health capacity for contact tracing)		
What measures should be changed?	Operation of schools	<p>Canada</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PHAC has recommended that schools should reopen in fall 2021 with appropriate measures in place (first to open, last to close) based on assessment of risk 	<p>Canada</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Government of Canada recommends in its school re-opening guideline that protocols should be put in place to support individuals travelling to school from outside of the community or country <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local, regional, provincial, and national requirements for travelers may necessitate

			<p>a period of quarantine before integration into the school environment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Government of Canada has provided a Guideline for international students arriving to Canada from abroad
			<p>British Columbia (B.C.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● On 5 July 2021, B.C. Post-Secondary Institutions, with the support of the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Training, released its updated Return-to-Campus guidelines for post-secondary schools ○ A ‘COVID-19 Safety Plan’ will no longer be a requirement for schools for September 2021, instead institutions will be required to have a communicable disease plan
		<p>Alberta</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● All students in Alberta will be returning to in-person school in fall 2021 and the Government of Alberta has provided a Plan for the 2021-2022 school year on their website ○ The Plan provides two contingency scenarios for the operation of schools during the 2021-2022: 1) For “In-school classes” scenario, school authorities must implement routine and other additional health measures to reduce transmission of COVID-19; 2) for the “At-home learning” scenario, pre-K students and students with disabilities will continue to access services in school while grades K-12 will shift to at-home/online learning ○ Approval from the Minister of Education is required for a short-term shift to online learning due to operational reasons 	<p>Alberta</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● While the province has not provided specific guidelines for tertiary education institutions in Alberta, individual universities and colleges have implemented their own response plans for COVID-19 for the upcoming school year ● When a member of the University of Alberta’s community has had symptoms of COVID-19 in the past 14 days and received a positive test result, the Rapid Response Plan is activated and a Triage Team is contacted to remain in contact with the individual and coordinate communications with close contacts until the case is resolved, but there are no changes to school operations ● The decision to shut down a building or campus at the University of Calgary is based on a large number of cases over a short period of time, with triggers being: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Five positive cases over a week in a building for a building shutdown, and

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Thirty positive cases on campus over a week for a campus shutdown
		<p>Saskatchewan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● On 8 July 2021, the Government of Saskatchewan released the 2021-2022 Safe Schools Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ As of 11 July 2021, when the province moved into step 3 of its re-opening plan, all prior pandemic restrictions applicable to the previous school year will no longer be in place ○ Classrooms will return to traditional in-class learning without any mandated public health measures or restrictions 	<p>Saskatchewan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The University of Saskatchewan has a five-stage operations framework to guide adjustments to operations and public-health measures during the COVID-19 pandemic <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Based on this framework, as cases begin to rise in the province, more restrictions to operational activities will be implemented, such as moving to blended learning and restricting access to certain buildings and activities on campus
		<p>Manitoba</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● In August 2021, the Manitoba government released its Restoring Safe Schools Planning Guide for 2021-2022 School Year <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The re-opening plans fall under three stages based on current case rates and community transmission, including the caution, restricted, and critical level with varying public health requirements under each level ○ In September 2021, the province will be re-opening schools under the caution yellow, where kindergarten to Grade 12 students will return to full-time in-person learning 	
		<p>Ontario</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Government of Ontario has indicated that public and private schools will return to full-time in-person learning for the 2021-2022 school year (with the option of remote learning) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Elementary and secondary school students will attend school in-person five days a week ○ Students will be in cohorts (elementary schools) or schedules will only have two in-person classes (secondary schools) ○ Shared spaces are open for use including libraries, cafeteria, computer or tech labs, locks, gyms, and change rooms 	<p>Ontario</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Although the province of Ontario has not provided guidelines for operations of post-secondary schools, guidance has been provided by Toronto Public Health <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Staff, faculty, students and visitors should stay home if sick, but there is no particular guidance on transitioning to online learning in the event of an outbreak (Guidelines from Toronto public health)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Assemblies are allowed as long as they follow public health measures 	
	<p>Québec</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Government of Québec continues to use guidance released in June 2021 to guide schools for the fall <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ All students will attend school in-person 	<p>Québec</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Government of Québec indicated a plan for a return in the fall 2021 and released general guidelines for colleges and universities that specifies that colleges and universities should determine the format of courses (e.g., in-person or distance learning)
	<p>New Brunswick</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As of 12 August 2021, the Education and Early Childhood Development Minister of New Brunswick has announced that the government is in the process of finalizing guidelines for the 2021-2022 school year and to be shared with students, families, teachers, and staff 	
	<p>Nova Scotia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From the province's phase one plan, schools are open and following the back to school guidance, last updated 3 June 2021 	
	<p>P.E.I.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prince Edward Island provides an online directory of operational plans for each school in the province, to be updated as more information is released • As of 18 August 2021, the province is in step 3 and 4 of its reopening plan, which sets out that there will be full-time classroom learning in kindergarten to Grade 12 school settings 	<p>P.E.I.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As of 18 August 2021, the province is in step 3 and 4 of its reopening plan, which sets out that there will be online and/or classroom learning (with physical distancing) in post-secondary settings
	<p>Newfoundland and Labrador</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ According to Newfoundland and Labrador's K-12 Return to School Plan 2021, depending on a school's physical space and school population size, a school in high risk of COVID-19 transmission may be required to temporarily shift to blended or online learning 	
	<p>Yukon</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yukon schools will be back to "near normal" operations when classes resume later in August 2021 	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ All students will be back to full-time in-class learning with some measures continuing to be in place to keep schools as low-risk settings ○ Classes begin at Whitehorse schools on 23 August 2021, while those at some rural Yukon schools begin either before or after that date 	
		<p>N.W.T.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Government of Northwest Territories updated its JK-12 School Information on 10 August 2021 that covers information for students and parents, information for school staff, and learning resources related to school operation during COVID-19 	
		<p>Nunavut</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Nunavut government issued the 2021-22 opening plan for Nunavut schools <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ All schools will be open for 100 percent in-class learning for all students at the beginning of the 2021-22 school year unless otherwise advised by the chief public health officer ○ Schools could be required to transition to remote instruction depending on the COVID-19 situation ○ ‘Illness response kits’ should be provided in schools to include non-medical masks, gloves, hand sanitizer, and disinfectant wipes ● Several factors will determine the pandemic's impact on school operations in Nunavut, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The status of COVID-19 in each community, including the transmission of COVID-19 variants ○ Healthcare capacity to respond to COVID-19 in a community ○ Public health capacity to test, trace and isolate cases ○ Vaccine coverage within specific age groups, schools and communities 	
	Operation of residences in post-secondary schools	Not applicable	<p>Canada</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● In addition to encouraging COVID-19 vaccination uptake, the Government of Canada’s guidelines for the 2021-22 academic year indicates that administrators of boarding

			schools and post-secondary schools may choose to implement testing strategies at the beginning of the school year as well as frequent testing on campus during COVID-19 outbreaks
Engagement in extracurricular activities	B.C.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> B.C. students are anticipated to be permitted to participate in extracurricular activities including inter-school sports, arts events, and special-interest activities such as overnight trips 	
	Alberta	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is no specific restriction on school activities in Alberta, and schools may continue with extracurricular activities as normal <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Masks must be worn on school buses 	
	Saskatchewan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Saskatchewan students can resume regular extracurricular activities and field trips 	
	Manitoba	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manitoba students can resume extracurricular activities and field trips in accordance with current public health guidelines 	
	Ontario	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Government of Ontario indicated that students can participate in academic and extracurricular activities with appropriate physical distancing (including music programs, day trips and overnight stays, physical education classes, clubs) 	
	Québec	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Government of Québec continues to use guidance released in June 2021 to guide schools for the fall <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extracurricular activities are permitted Proof of vaccination is required for secondary school students who plan to participate in high-risk extracurricular activities Field trips are permitted 	
	Newfoundland and Labrador		

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In Newfoundland and Labrador, extracurricular activities like sports and field trips can resume in a low-risk situation 	
		<p>N.W.T.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Government of Northwest Territories updated its JK-12 School Information on 10 August 2021 and indicated key changes to extracurricular activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No drama classes or productions, singing, choir, or band programs No high contact physical activities indoors, with recommendations for outdoors physical education No assemblies or large gatherings 	
	Accompanying infection-prevention measures	<p>Canada</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In its Guidance document for schools for the 2021-22 year, the Government of Canada recommends that schools monitor the uptake of public-health measures (PHMs), in consultation with regional and local PHAs, and adjust them to address any challenges with implementation and adherence <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PHMs may include core PHMs, such as staying home when ill and hand hygiene, and additional PHMs, such as physical distancing and masking In school settings with low vaccination coverage (e.g., school population under 12 years old), indoor ventilation, regular screening and testing, physical distancing, and cohorting may be PHMs that regional/local PHAs recommend for schools to enhance 	<p>Canada</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In its Guidance document for schools for the 2021-22 year, the Government of Canada recommends that schools monitor the uptake of public-health measures (PHMs), in consultation with regional and local PHAs, and adjust them to address any challenges with implementation and adherence <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PHMs may include core PHMs, such as staying home when ill and hand hygiene, and additional PHMs, such as physical distancing and masking
		<p>B.C.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On 17 June 2021, the B.C. Centre for Disease Control and B.C. Ministry of Health released a joint public health guidance document for K-12 schools on what to expect for the 2021-2022 school year <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommended infection-prevention measures are included 	
		<p>Alberta</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All children under 18 years going to school in Alberta in fall 2021 must complete the Alberta Health Daily Checklist for children under 18 every day before going to school 	<p>Alberta</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Masks will be mandatory indoors when physical distancing is not possible in Alberta's three major universities come September 2021 when schools open

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • According to the Government of Alberta's website, Alberta does not have a mask requirement in schools but masks may be temporarily recommended if there is a respiratory illness outbreak at a school 	
		<p>Manitoba</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Manitoba schools, new infection-prevention measures will be implemented starting 7 September 2021 under the caution level of the province's school re-opening plans <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Masks are recommended for all students and staff ○ Cohorts will be used for kindergarten to Grade 6 students ○ Cleaning and disinfecting practices will focus on high-touch surfaces and common areas ○ Staggering entrance and exit times will be implemented 	
		<p>Ontario</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Government of Ontario released guidance where students from grades 1 to 12 must wear non-medical or cloth masks indoors, while it is optional and encouraged for students in kindergarten • The Government of Ontario indicated that schools will continue enhanced cleaning practices and provide adequate ventilation measures 	
		<p>Québec</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Government of Québec continues to use guidance released in June 2021 to guide schools for the fall <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Masks are mandatory for students in elementary and secondary school ○ Physical distancing is not required ○ Hand hygiene and disinfection measures will continue 	<p>Québec</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • According to the Government of Quebec's Return to Class Plan for Fall 2021 in higher education, physical distancing is not required in post-secondary schools and masks are required at all times <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Physical distancing is only required in certain circumstances, including in gyms, between tables in eating areas, and during certain musical activities
		<p>New Brunswick</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In New Brunswick, masking is mandatory in common indoor areas among K-8 students and school personnel, while students in Grades 9 to 12 are required to wear masks in common indoor areas until 90% of individuals aged 12 to 19 are fully vaccinated 	

		<p>Newfoundland and Labrador</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cohorts and physical distancing of two metres are not required in Newfoundland and Labrador schools in a low-risk situation, but schools are encouraged to take measures to prevent crowding in indoor common spaces <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ If a school were to move into a high-risk situation, cohorting, physical distancing and mask-wearing would likely resume, taking into consideration the epidemiology and immunization status of the population 	<p>Newfoundland and Labrador</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With the provincial public health mask mandate being lifted on 10 August 2021, the use of masks on Memorial University campuses and locations continues to be encouraged, but will no longer be required as of 10 August, with some exceptions, including in university vehicles with more than one person, shuttle buses, and on-campus health facilities and isolation facilities
		<p>Yukon</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • According to the updated the K-12 school guidelines for 2021-22 in Yukon <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ No masks in classrooms, but will be required in indoor common areas and on buses 	
		<p>N.W.T.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Government of Northwest Territories updated its JK-12 School Information on 10 August 2021 and indicated key changes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Non-medical masks are required on school buses and within the school building outside of the classroom ○ Masks are not required in classroom ○ Physical distancing is not required for Grades 1 to 12 (only recommended for JK to Grade 6) 	
		<p>Nunavut</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 2021-22 opening plan for Nunavut schools included the following infection-prevention measures <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ For the distribution and collection of learning packages, all participants, including staff, students, and parents/guardians, should wear masks and staff distributing materials should wear disposable gloves 	
	Accompanying infection-control measures	<p>Canada</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In terms of reporting and outbreak management, the Government of Canada recommends that schools should have plans in place for early recognition of individuals who may potentially be infected with COVID-19, and that the regional/local PHAs should be contacted in the event of an 	<p>Canada</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In its guidance document for schools, the Government of Canada highlights that jurisdictions may want to consider using digital platforms to assist with reporting and outbreak management efforts in post-secondary school settings

		<p>outbreak or when severe illness occurs at school so that contact tracing efforts can commence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Administrators should also develop plans to manage possible outbreaks and to communicate with students, families/guardians, staff and the local community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Administrators should also develop plans to manage possible outbreaks and to communicate with students, families/guardians, staff and the local community
			<p>Alberta</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Starting 1 September 2021, the University of Alberta, University of Calgary and University of Lethbridge have required members of their campus community who are not fully vaccinated to undergo rapid testing regularly and to receive a negative test result before they can participate in in-person activities
		<p>Saskatchewan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mask use in indoor public settings became mandatory in schools in Saskatchewan on 17 September 2021 ● Fully vaccinated school staff in Saskatchewan who are asymptomatic and have been identified as a close contact of an individual who tested positive for COVID-19 may continue to work as usual while unvaccinated staff must isolate for 14 days following last exposure ● Fully vaccinated students who are asymptomatic and identified as a close contact may continue to participate in all school activities without restrictions (other than the provincial mask mandate) while unvaccinated students cannot attend extracurricular activities for the self-isolation period of 10 days 	<p>Saskatchewan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Some Saskatchewan universities, including the University of Saskatchewan and the University of Regina, chose to implement mask requirements on campus for the fall 2021 semester even before they were not required to by the province until 17 September 2021
		<p>Ontario</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Government of Ontario indicated that students, teachers, and staff must self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms every day before attending school <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Students can return to school if they are symptom free for 24 hours and do not require a doctor’s note ○ Students must isolate for 10 days if their test results come back positive 	<p>Ontario</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A Covid-19 Decision Guide for post-secondary institutions has been provided by Toronto Public Health that highlights isolation of ill individuals immediately <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Fully vaccinated close contacts may not need to self-isolate while unvaccinated individuals must self-isolate
			<p>Nova Scotia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Fully vaccinated students at post-secondary institutions in Nova Scotia are not required to

			isolate upon arrival on campus, but it is recommended that they get tested at least twice within their first 14 days on campus
		<p>Newfoundland and Labrador</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Everyone attending school is encouraged to continue completing the Daily Health Check Screening Questionnaire and to stay home when they are sick <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ They should also use the online COVID-19 Assessment Tool to determine if testing is required 	
		<p>N.W.T</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Government of Northwest Territories updated its JK-12 School Information on 10 August 2021 and indicated key changes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Use of PPE, healthy respiratory practices and hygiene practices, enhanced custodial services, safe delivery of lunch or food programs and water, and physical distancing will continue to be encouraged ○ Parents/guardians are required to monitor their children for symptoms of COVID-19 using a screening tool every day 	
		<p>Nunavut</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 2021-22 opening plan for Nunavut schools included the following infection-control measures <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ An isolation room should be identified for individuals who start exhibiting symptoms or who have been exposed to COVID-19 to stay for being picked up ○ General public and all non-essential visitors, including parents and guardians, are not allowed to enter schools, with a few exceptions 	
Reported challenges implementing any of the measures above			

Table 4: Key findings from guidelines identified in previous versions related to adjusting transmission-mitigation measures as vaccination rates increase and infection rates decrease

Organizing framework domains	Guidelines focused on grade and post-secondary schools	
When should adjustments be made (i.e., triggers for change)?	Case rates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (U.S. CDC) released comprehensive guidance that describes prevention strategies for elementary, middle and high schools specific to the level of community transmission (low, medium, substantial, and high transmission thresholds) (low-quality AGREE II rating; last updated 19 March 2021) • The American Academy of Pediatrics released COVID-19 guidance for safe schools and stated that schools could remain open in communities with low and high community transmission, but is primarily based on safety prevention measures and guidance from local health authorities (high-quality AGREE II rating; last updated 25 March 2021) • The Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) described 10 epidemiological indicators to guide either the increase of restrictions or to lift restrictions for grade-school settings. (low-quality AGREE II rating; last updated 21 February 2021)
	Vaccination-related factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The U.S. CDC stated that vaccinating teachers and staff is one layer of prevention and protection, which resulted in Health and Human Services issuing a Secretarial Directive on 2 March 2021 that allowed teachers and staff working in kindergarten to Grade 12 schools to be eligible for a vaccine across the U.S. (specific U.S. CDC guidance is available for teachers and school staff) (low-quality AGREE II rating; last updated 19 March 2021) • PHAC recommended that existing school immunization requirements should be maintained and highly encourages influenza vaccination for all children, staff and volunteers (low-quality AGREE II rating; last updated 21 February 2021) • A U.S. CDC guideline for higher-education institutions emphasized increasing vaccination rates among students, faculty and staff by providing on-site vaccinations with multiple vaccination locations and times, strengthening access to off-site vaccination locations, and providing flexibility surrounding student and staff absences (low-quality AGREE II rating; last updated 4 June 2021) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Promoting vaccinations through education campaigns, word-of-mouth and partnerships with trusted campus organizations was additionally suggested • The same U.S. CDC guideline indicates that higher-education institutions where all students, faculty and staff who are fully vaccinated prior to the start of the term can return to full capacity in-person learning, without requiring or recommending masking or physical distancing • The same U.S. CDC guideline indicated that where everyone may not be fully vaccinated, higher-education institutions should offer and promote vaccinations, promote consistent and correct mask use, and continue physical distancing, contact tracing, testing, quarantine protocols and following specific housing protocols
	Community capacity (e.g., public-health capacity for	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The American Academy of Pediatrics stated that students or staff members who have had a known exposure to COVID-19 should self-quarantine for 14 days and school districts should partner with their local health officials to facilitate contact tracing in their schools (high-quality AGREE II rating; last updated 25 March 2021)

	contact tracing)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The CDC recommended that schools should collaborate with local health authorities when a positive case is reported, and provided guidance on staying at home, isolation, case investigation and contact tracing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ For schools to remain open, local health authorities need to have enough contact tracers such that contacts are notified within 48 hours of a positive test result ○ Close contacts must quarantine unless they are fully vaccinated or have tested positive in the last three months and do not have symptoms ○ Schools should be last to close and first to reopen for in-person instruction (over non-essential businesses and activities such as indoor dining, bars, social gatherings, close-contact sports) (low-quality AGREE II rating; last updated 19 March 2021) • The American Academy of Pediatrics recommended that school districts should partner with local health authorities to facilitate contact tracing (high-quality AGREE II rating; last updated 25 March 2021) • PHAC recommended that schools and local public-health authorities should establish processes for case management and contact tracing (e.g., attendance records) (low-quality AGREE II rating; last updated 21 February 2021) • PHAC recommended that post-secondary institutions could facilitate contact tracing with existing technologies (e.g., on-campus video cameras, electronic-lock records, contact-tracing mobile applications) to complement traditional contact tracing
What measures should be changed?	Operation of schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The French Pediatric Society indicated that class closure is justified if at least three students are infected from the same class (low-quality AGREE II rating; last updated 27 October 2020) • The U.S. CDC recommended that staff should limit non-essential interactions between adults (and adults and students) (low-quality AGREE II rating; last updated 19 March 2021) • The U.S. CDC guideline also stated that younger children in elementary schools are likely to have less risk of in-school transmission than older students in middle or high schools due to low susceptibility and transmission rates (low-quality AGREE II rating; last updated 19 March 2021) • The U.S. CDC recommended improving cleaning and maintenance protocols, improving ventilation, focusing on health equity, as well as supporting staff, student and employee mental health (low-quality AGREE II rating; last updated 4 June 2021) • PHAC provides detailed considerations for jurisdictions in relation to COVID-19 prevention measures for grade schools: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Consider a layered approach when physical distancing is not possible ○ Consider in-person school attendance, virtual or at-home learning, or a hybrid of the two (with progressive introduction of in-person attendance based on grade level, with primary schools preceding secondary schools) (low-quality AGREE II rating; last updated 21 February 2021) • PHAC provided examples of mitigation strategies such as seating students at least two metres apart, offering virtual lectures, online exams, and offering activities outdoors (low-quality AGREE II rating; last updated 21 February 2021)
	Operation of residences in	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PHAC provides additional guidance related to residences, quarantine and isolation policies (e.g., allowing students living in residence to self-isolate in their dorm room or designated on-campus rooms/residences, off-campus

post-secondary schools		<p>accommodations, cohorting students positive with COVID-19, and appropriate care and support such as meals) (low-quality AGREE II rating; last updated 21 February 2021)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The U.S. CDC recommended that people in shared housing should continue to follow CDC’s public-health recommendations for fully vaccinated people (low-quality AGREE II rating; last updated 4 June 2021)
Engagement in extracurricular activities		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The U.S. CDC recommends that in-person instruction should be prioritized over extracurricular activities (including sports and school events), and that extracurricular activities such as singing, band, sports and exercise should be moved outside (low-quality AGREE II rating; last updated 19 March 2021) • Additional risk-mitigation decision-making tools are available, including the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ K-12 Schools COVID-19 Mitigation Toolkit (U.S. CDC) • A U.S. CDC guideline for higher-education institutions indicated that in-person instruction should be prioritized over extracurricular activities (including sports and school events) to minimize transmission on campuses with mixed population of fully, partially, and not vaccinated people <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Limitations to the size of gatherings may be an additional measure ○ People who are fully vaccinated do not need to wear a mask or physically distance while participating in sports ○ People who are not fully vaccinated should continue to wear masks, maintain physical distancing, and practise proper hand hygiene • PHAC recommended that assemblies, team sports, field trips, or extracurricular activities where physical distancing cannot be maintained should be postponed (low-quality AGREE II rating; last updated 21 February 2021) • PHAC provides guidance for specific educational activities, which all depend on risk-mitigation approaches: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Schools should choose physical education and recreational activities where physical distancing can be maintained ○ Schools should consider outdoor music and band practices with appropriate physical distancing, no sharing of instruments or mouthpieces, and to clean instruments at a distance or with a disposable cloth ○ Schools should consider outdoor singing activities with appropriate physical distancing (or with fewer performers) (low-quality AGREE II rating; last updated 21 February 2021) • Additional risk-mitigation decision-making tools are available, including the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Risk-mitigation tool for child and youth settings operating during the COVID-19 pandemic (PHAC) ○ Risk-mitigation tool for gatherings and events operating during the COVID-19 pandemic (PHAC) ○ Risk-mitigation tool for outdoor recreation spaces and activities operating during the COVID-19 pandemic (PHAC) ○ COVID-19 Return to High Performance Sport Framework (PHAC) • In terms of extracurricular activities, the PHAC guidance document encouraged institutions to use risk-mitigation approaches when considering if and how these types of activities could proceed on- and off-campus (e.g., postponing sports events/activities and limiting/prohibiting spectators), with further guidance available related to COVID-19 Return to High Performance Sport Framework (low-quality AGREE II rating; last updated 21 February 2021)
Accompanying infection-		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regardless of the level of transmission, the U.S. CDC recommended that all schools should implement five key prevention strategies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Universal and correct use of masks and physical distancing should be prioritized

prevention measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Masks should be worn within the school and on school buses ○ Elementary students and middle- and high-school students with low community transmission should be at least three feet apart, but students with high community transmission should be at least six feet apart (if cohorting is not possible) ○ Use cohorting where possible (especially when case rates are substantial or high) ○ Schools should only offer referrals for diagnostic testing if they are exhibiting symptoms at school, but screening tests may be useful especially in communities with moderate to high transmission (low-quality AGREE II rating; last updated 21 February 2021) ● The American Academy of Pediatrics provided specific guidance on infection-prevention measures based on age group and staff (pre-kindergarten, elementary schools, secondary schools) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Pre-kindergarten risk mitigation measures include mask wearing for adults and children aged two years or older, cohort classes, use of outdoors, air ventilation (open windows) and hand hygiene ○ Elementary schools are recommended to mandate universal masks for both students and adults, cohort classes, physical distancing, use of outdoor spaces, air ventilation, and hand hygiene ○ Secondary schools are recommended to mandate universal masks for both students and adults, cohort classes, physical distancing, air ventilation, and public education to students and parents ○ School health staff should have access to PPE ○ Schools should have policies regarding symptom screening for teachers and staff upon reopening, and a rapid-response plan for students, teachers or staff members (high-quality AGREE II rating; last updated 25 March 2021) ● The French Pediatric Society released guidance for school re-entry in October 2021: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Soap or hand sanitizer distribution stations at the entrances of schools and classrooms along with education about regular use ○ Mandatory masks for all adult staff at all times ○ Masks for middle- and high-school students, unless physical distancing is possible in the classrooms ○ A child exposed to a COVID-19 positive individual at home must be tested before returning to school ○ A symptomatic child (of at least six years old) must be screened unless another diagnosis is made ○ Screening of an entire class only warranted if one teacher or at least two students are symptomatic and COVID-19 positive ● A U.S. CDC guideline for higher-education institutions recommended that higher-education institutions with a fully vaccinated population should: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Continue masking and physical distancing for people with weaker immune systems ○ Continue hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette, contact tracing, cleaning, disinfecting and ventilation practices ○ Daily health screens for students, faculty and staff ● The same U.S. CDC guideline outlined key considerations for implementation of prevention strategies such as level of community transmission, vaccination coverage, robust screening and testing program, and local outbreaks or increasing trends (low-quality AGREE II rating; last updated 4 June 2021) ● Students positive with COVID-19 must remain home for at least seven days (low-quality AGREE II rating; last updated 27 October 2020)
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Public Health Agency of Canada released considerations for risk-mitigation measures <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Schools could use the risk-mitigation tool to determine which measures are applicable and relevant to grade level (e.g., hygiene protocols for younger and older children) ○ Prohibit students who have symptoms and/or exposure to COVID-19 from entering the school ○ Promote infection control (e.g., hand hygiene, avoid face touching, signage, how to wash hands, implement schedule for frequent hand hygiene) ○ Promote physical distancing (e.g., two-metre distance, restrict or manage flow of people in common areas, visual cues to encourage physical distancing, limit visitors, play stations with limited number of children, recommend one parent do drop-offs/pick-ups) ○ Increase ventilation (e.g., move activities outdoors, ensure ventilation system operates properly, increase air exchanges by adjusting HVAC systems, open windows) ○ Reduce exposure to high-touch surfaces ○ Modify how long students are in contact with each other (e.g., modify delivery of program, divide or cohort classes, stagger break times and schedules, staff travel between classes instead of children (low-quality AGREE II rating; last updated 21 February 2021)) • The Public Health Agency of Canada released detailed guidance and considerations for post-secondary institutions during the COVID-19 pandemic, including personal prevention measures, domestic and international travel, on-campus assessments and mitigation strategies, academic institutions, experiential learning and research activities, on-campus housing, supporting community gatherings and student life, and off-campus activities • In terms of screening, they encourage institutions to provide basic information on how to recognize and monitor symptoms, and provide appropriate instructions on seeking medical care (low-quality AGREE II rating; last updated 21 February 2021)
	Accompanying infection-control measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As of 15 May 2021, the CDC suggests continued use of existing COVID-19 prevention strategies for the 2020-21 school year
Reported challenges implementing any of the measures above		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None identified

Table 5: Experiences from other countries and from Canada identified in previous versions related to adjusting transmission-mitigation measures as vaccination rates increase and infection rates decrease

Organizing framework domains	Experiences from other countries focused on grade and post-secondary schools	Experiences from Canada focused on grade and post-secondary schools
When should adjustments be made (i.e., triggers for change)?	Case rates	<p>Canada</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As of 3 May 2021, Canada has recorded a total of 1,243,242 cases of COVID-19, and the risk to Canadians is considered high Canada is currently in its third wave of COVID-19 infections and many provinces are either managing outbreaks in multiple child/youth settings or have suspended in-person learning altogether, except for those providing childcare for essential workers According to Health Canada, measures put in place to mitigate COVID-19 risks in child/youth settings should be proportionate to the risk of COVID-19 transmission in the community In its guidance for post-secondary institutions during the COVID-19 pandemic, Health Canada includes significant decreases in COVID-19 transmission on-campus and in the surrounding community as indicators to guide the lifting of restrictions As of 9 June 2021, Canada has recorded a total of 1,243,242 cases of COVID-19, and the risk to Canadians is considered high COVID-19 cases in Canada have decreased significantly over the last month, with a 35% decrease in case counts reported during the week of 23 May 2021 compared to the week before Grade school closures and openings continue to vary by province or territory Post-secondary school closures and openings have continued to vary by province or territory <p>Alberta</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alberta is currently the province with the highest rate of COVID-19 infection per 100,000 people in Canada, with <p>Australia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Australia has a three-step plan to guide the easing of public-health restrictions, including those that have an impact on the opening of primary and secondary schools, and tertiary-education facilities Each state or territory can implement the plan at their own discretion based on exposure risk and transmission rates COVID-19 cases in Australia declined in April 2020 and currently the country is reporting an average of 21 new cases per day over the past week <p>Chile</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Face-to-face classes were suspended in Chile for one year, from March 2020 to March 2021, due to the COVID-19 pandemic Schools were not opened even when COVID-19 case counts significantly decreased after August 2020 (the school year in Chile runs from March to December) When schools reopened in March 2021, they only remained open for a few weeks after a new surge in COVID-19 cases caused health officials to close schools again and move students to online learning <p>Israel</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> COVID-19 cases in Israel have significantly declined since the start of the vaccination campaign in December 2020, with about 100 to 150 new cases daily (with continued decline) On 18 April 2021, Israel’s schools (Grades 1 to 12) resumed full in-person learning six days a week, a decision that was made based on low COVID-19 transmission rates in the country <p>China</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On 26 February 2021, prevention and control guidelines for daycare/preschool, elementary schools and high schools operating during the spring semester were updated by China’s National Health Commission (NHC) and Ministry of Education based on the current pandemic situation and characteristics of schools, and prevention and control guidelines for post-secondary institutions operating during the spring semester <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Once new cases appear in local areas, it is necessary to strictly implement prevention and control measures such as temperature screening of employees and students ○ Once new cases occur on campus, class suspension, closed management, and nucleic acid testing for all employees and students will be conducted as appropriate • Schools in Ruili City, in southwest China's Yunnan Province, have been suspended since 31 March 2021 following reports of new COVID-19 cases <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Students and teachers are required to quarantine at home and attend online classes <p>New Zealand</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Zealand has a four-level alert system in place that guides how and when public-health restrictions in primary, secondary and tertiary schools should be eased based on COVID-19 transmission rates in the country or in a specific region • Restrictions for in-person learning are triggered in Alert Levels 3 and 4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ In Alert Level 3, multiple active COVID-19 clusters are in multiple regions, and there are restrictions on attendance and gatherings for in-person school ○ In Alert Level 4, widespread outbreaks and sustained community transmission is occurring and schools are closed ○ In-person school can occur in Alert Levels 1 and 2 with public-health measures 	<p>the highest infection rates being reported in adults aged 30-59</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On 3 May 2021, Grades 7 to 12 of schools in hotspot regions shifted to online learning in response to rising cases • On 4 May 2021, the Premier of Alberta announced that in response to the spike in COVID-19 cases in the province, all schools in Alberta (K-12) will be closed for two weeks and moved to online learning starting 7 May 2021 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Premier also mentioned that the province currently has approximately 80,000 students and staff in self-isolation due to COVID-19 exposure • The Alberta government tracks the status of COVID-19 in kindergarten to Grade 12 schools in the province, and classifies schools as “Open”, “Alert” (one to four cases), and “Outbreak” (five or more cases) • On 4 May 2021, the Premier of Alberta announced that all post-secondary institutions in the province will be moved to online learning effective immediately for three weeks • Alberta’s COVID-19 test positivity rate has decreased significantly in recent weeks, from 13.4% on 2 May 2021 to 3.8% as of 8 June 2021 • On 25 May 2021, all students in Alberta in grades K-12 returned to in-person learning after two weeks of school closure in early May due to spiking COVID-19 cases <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ All schools in the municipality of Wood Buffalo continued online learning for an additional week due to a slower decline in cases when compared to other regions in the province ○ The two-week closure allowed schools to address operational challenges caused by the rise in cases • Although Alberta entered Stage 2 of its reopening plan on 10 June 2021 allowing for in-person learning, some universities, including the University of Alberta and the University of Calgary, have advised students to continue working from home until advised otherwise
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As of 10 June 2021, all of New Zealand is in Alert Level 1, meaning that COVID-19 cases in New Zealand are contained, all grade schools and post-secondary schools are open and there are no restrictions on personal movement <p>United Kingdom (U.K.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The number of daily new COVID-19 cases in the U.K. has begun to drop as the vaccination program is well underway <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ About 2,350 new cases have been reported daily in the country • The U.K. government has a five-level alert system in place to guide decisions of its public-health response measures • The U.K. also has a COVID-19 recovery strategy that outlines three steps to guide the order of the lifting of public-health measures <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ In step 1, infection rates are high and schools should remain closed, with the exception of vulnerable children or the children of critical workers who would benefit from attending in-person ○ In step 2, a phased return for childcare and schools can be implemented based on reduced infection rates <p>United States (U.S.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The U.S. CDC provides guidance for reopening and operational procedures during the COVID-19 pandemic across several sectors and services, including childcare and K-12 schools • However, states and territories can decide whether and how they will apply this guidance at their own discretion • The U.S. CDC recommends a phased prevention approach in K-12 schools based on two indicators <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Indicator 1: the total new cases per 100,000 persons in the past seven days 	<p>Ontario</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Government of Ontario uses five colour-coded levels of public-health measures that are assigned to zones throughout the province (“green – prevent”; “yellow – protect”; “orange – restrict”; “red – control”; “grey – lockdown”) and which are based on key quantitative thresholds and indicators based on case rate, health-system capacity, and public-health capacity • The Government of Ontario maintains a dashboard of COVID-19 cases in schools and childcare centres (but is currently paused given that in-person learning is suspended in the province) <p>Québec</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Government of Québec maintains a detailed dashboard with case rate information found within the school systems (public and private schools) • The Government of Québec uses four alert levels (“level one – vigilance”; “level two – early warning”; “level three – alert”; “level four – maximum alert”) and implements these levels according to case rate, transmission control, and healthcare-system capacity (quantitative thresholds are unavailable) throughout the province <p>New Brunswick</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently most of New Brunswick is in Yellow COVID-19 alert level, and one region is in the Orange alert level • Although cases are decreasing, the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health has indicated no plans to reassess the existing levels <p>Nova Scotia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Premier and Chief Medical Officer of Health of Nova Scotia announced on 22 April 2021 that restrictions are back in place for Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM) and surrounding areas due to increasing rates of COVID-19
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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decisions to change scenarios for a school or school community will be made after consultation with regional public-health authorities • Newfoundland and Labrador will begin taking a phased-in approach to reopening the province to the rest of Canada as early as July 1 if <u>vaccination rates and epidemiology allow</u> • Memorial University of Newfoundland and Labrador uses <u>five stages of risk levels for pandemic risk mitigation</u>, which assist with the scale-up and scale-back plan for university functions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ As of 25 May 2021, Memorial University has adjusted its <u>COVID alert level scale to low</u> in light of the improvement in the COVID-19 situation in Newfoundland and Labrador and the changing provincial level, which took effect on 29 May 2021 <p>Yukon</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If a student or school staff tests positive for COVID-19 it does <u>not mean the whole class or school will need to self-isolate or close</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Yukon Communicable Disease Control will <u>provide guidance based on the specific circumstances of the case</u>, and gather information (e.g., risk of exposure to any close contacts) • Based on the direction of Yukon’s Chief Medical Officer of Health, the plan for the 2020–21 school year includes flexibility to reduce the number of students in schools if there is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <u>An increased risk of transmission</u>, or ○ <u>A second wave</u>, or ○ <u>Community outbreak of COVID-19</u> <p>Nunavut</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Nunavut, learning environments and education strategies change based on a <u>four-tier stage system</u> where restrictions to in-school learning environments increase as the risk of COVID-19 transmission increases
Vaccination-related factors	Australia		Canada

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As of 25 April 2021, a total of 1,937,300 vaccine doses have been administered to Australian residents • As of 14 June 2021, 5,931,245 total vaccine doses have been administered countrywide • According to Australia’s current vaccine roll-out strategy, staff and students of primary and secondary schools will not be prioritized for early vaccination • Australia is vaccinating the population based on age and risk of severe illness <p>Chile</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As of 20 April 2021, 40.89% of the total population in Chile has received at least one dose of the vaccine • Teachers and other educational workers were considered a prioritized group to get vaccinated <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ No information was found on how many teachers have been vaccinated to date • Students are not yet eligible to be vaccinated <p>Israel</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As of 20 April 2021, 60% of the population has received at least one dose and 56% of the population is fully vaccinated • Earlier in the year on 23 January 2021, some health plans prioritized the vaccination of students aged 17 and 18 to allow them to return to school and write their matriculation exams at the end of the lockdown <p>China</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • China’s prevention and control guidelines recommend COVID-19 vaccination for eligible education staff on a voluntary, informed basis • The guideline developed by China’s National Health Commission on 2 April 2021 does not recommend that people under 18 should be vaccinated since no clinical trial data has been obtained for people in this age group • On 3 April 2021, China’s Ministry of Education has issued a notice to ask local education departments and universities to proactively cooperate with local vaccination work by: 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) in Canada recommended sequencing of populations for COVID-19 vaccinations in Canadian provinces and territories that prioritizes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Those at high risk of severe illness and death ○ Those most likely to transmit COVID-19 to those at high risk of severe illness and death ○ Individuals contributing to the maintenance of essential services ○ Those whose living or working conditions put them at high risk of infection • NACI highlights that essential workers and those living and working in conditions that put them at high risk of infection should be defined, prioritized, and informed by federal/provincial/territorial discussions • As of 3 May 2021, 33.6% of Canada’s population has been vaccinated with at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine • As Canadian provinces and territories progress through their vaccine roll-outs, education staff have started to join the priority groups becoming eligible for vaccination <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Approaches for determining when education staff have or will become eligible for vaccination varies by province/territory • On 5 May 2021, Health Canada approved the use of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine in children 12 years and older • NACI recommends that if a risk assessment deems that the benefits of vaccination outweigh the potential risks, and if informed consent is obtained, adolescents 12 to 15 years of age may be offered the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine • Although adults attending post-secondary institutions have not been prioritized for COVID-19 vaccination in Canada, many students may get early access to vaccines if they fall into a prioritized vaccine group within a province, such as living in a designated hotspot in Ontario
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The U.S. CDC provides guidance for the allocation and administration of vaccines for teachers and staff and vaccine toolkits for school and childcare settings • On 4 June 2021, the CDC updated its Considerations for Institutions of Higher Education to include more guidance on offering and promoting COVID-19 vaccination, as well as guidance on prevention strategies in institutions of higher education (IHEs) where everyone is fully vaccinated and those where not everyone is fully vaccinated <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ To increase access to COVID-19 vaccines, IHEs should 1) provide on-site vaccination or local vaccination sites through partnerships, 2) consider hosting mass vaccination clinics or smaller vaccine venues on campus, 3) connect with local or state health department or health system to coordinate promotion and implementation of vaccinations, 4) use trusted messengers such as current and former students to promote vaccination, 5) consider offering multiple locations and vaccination times to accommodate student work and academic schedules, 6) facilitate access to off-site vaccination services in the community, 7) offer flexible sick leave options for employees with side-effects after vaccination, and 8) offer flexible excused-absence options for students receiving vaccination and those with side-effects following vaccination ○ To promote vaccination IHEs can 1) develop educational messaging for vaccination campaigns to build vaccine confidence and consider utilizing student leaders and athletes as spokespersons, 2) ask student and other organizations who are respected to help build confidence in COVID-19 vaccines, and 3) ask staff, faculty and students to promote vaccination efforts in their social groups and communities ○ IHEs where all students, faculty and staff are fully vaccinated prior to the start of the semester can 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The university will take a gradual approach to the return to campus starting in the summer and building throughout the fall <p>Ontario</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Starting 3 May 2021, all remaining elementary and secondary school staff in Ontario (i.e., educators, custodial, school-bus drivers, administrative staff) will be eligible for a vaccine <p>Québec</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primary and secondary school staff in Québec are considered essential workers in environments at high risk of an outbreak (priority group nine) and are currently eligible for a vaccine <p>New Brunswick</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As of 10 June 2021, 72.2% of the population aged 12 years and older have received their first vaccine dose <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Another 19,511 people need to receive their first vaccine dose to reach the province's 75% mark, which is necessary to begin loosening pandemic restrictions under the province's phase one of reopening <p>Nova Scotia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As of 10 June 2021, 663,840 vaccine doses have been administered in Nova Scotia, with 58.7% of the population having received their first vaccine dose and 4.8% having received their second dose and are fully vaccinated • Nova Scotia's reopening plan consists of a five-phased approach based on ongoing progress of provincewide vaccination coverage and improvements in public health and healthcare indicators, such as COVID-19-related hospitalizations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Phase one of the plan begun on 2 June 2021 and will continue until expected date of 16 June 2021 for phase two <p>Newfoundland and Labrador</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Newfoundland and Labrador has released its COVID-19 immunization plan, which states that until more evidence emerges, the population must continue to comply with
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		<p>return to full capacity in-person learning, without requiring or recommending masking or physical distancing in accordance with CDC’s Interim Public Health Recommendations for Fully Vaccinated People</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IHEs where not everyone is fully vaccinated will have a mixed population of those who are fully vaccinated and those who are not on campus, and therefore will have to make decisions about how to protect the people who are not fully vaccinated and consider: 1) the level of community transmission of COVID-19, 2) COVID-19 vaccination coverage among students, faculty and staff, 3) implementing robust, frequent COVID-19 screening and testing programs, and 4) any local COVID-19 outbreaks or increasing trends 	<p>the Special Measures Order and the public-health guidance for all alert levels, even after vaccination</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As of 6 May 2021, Newfoundland and Labrador is tweaking its vaccination roll-out, and is now promising to get first COVID shots to children age 12 and up before the end of the school year <p>Prince Edward Island</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As of 9 June 2021, 111,616 vaccine doses have been administered provincewide, with 94,715 (67.4%) of the population having received a first vaccine dose and 16,901 (12.0%) having received their second dose and are fully vaccinated • Prince Edward Island released a five-step provincial reopening plan for summer and fall 2021 and decisions to move forward in the plan will be guided by monitoring and surveillance criteria, including achieving vaccine targets and a low level of COVID-19 transmission <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ As of 6 June 2021, step one of the reopening plan will come into effect <p>Yukon</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education and childcare facilities will have additional restrictions removed when children can receive COVID-19 vaccinations • People must continue to follow the Safe 6 plus 1, get tested when necessary, and follow all self-isolation requirements even if they have received immunization in Yukon or outside the territory • Beginning 31 May 2021, the Government of Yukon has scheduled clinics for Yukon youth aged 12 to 17 to be vaccinated with the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine • Starting 18 June 2021, children under 12 returning from outside Yukon will not have to self-isolate for 14 days if they are with a fully vaccinated parent or caregiver • As of 25 May 2021, the next phase in Yukon will consider relaxing physical-distancing and masking requirements in schools, and requirements for approved
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			<p>plans for some or all education and childcare facilities when supported by high vaccination rates and improved understanding of variants</p>
	<p>Community capacity (e.g., public-health capacity for contact tracing)</p>	<p>Australia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All schools must keep a record of staff and visitor contact details for contact tracing purposes <p>China</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The local pandemic prevention and control policies and requirements will be considered for the preparations for the spring semester in 2021 <p>New Zealand</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All education facilities in New Zealand are required to display a QR Code poster that can be scanned by staff, students and visitors to keep track of where they have been by using the New Zealand COVID Tracer App <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This assists with contact tracing at all alert levels by creating a “digital diary” of the places people have been that enables the Ministry of Health to quickly contact people who have been in close contact with a COVID-19-positive person Close contacts of people who have tested positive for COVID-19 are contacted by the Ministry of Health or Public Health Unit (PHU) The Ministry of Health has developed a technology system called the National Contact Tracing Solution (NCTS) to manage contact tracing in New Zealand It enables accurate and timely information about contacts to be recorded, and also enables PHUs to delegate contact tracing tasks to other PHUs if required <p>U.K.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The U.K. moved to a home-based asymptomatic testing model for students and staff in secondary schools where rapid testing using Lateral Flow Devices (LFDs) are provided for students and staff to test themselves twice a week at home <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Testing is voluntary but strongly encouraged 	<p>Canada</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Canadian government has pledged to support provinces and territories in building capacity throughout the pandemic; however, they respect provincial jurisdiction to determine how community capacity will be enhanced <p>Alberta</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All COVID-19 positive cases should be reported to Alberta Health Services for follow-up Alberta has launched the ABTraceTogether mobile contact-tracing app that helps residents know if they have been exposed to COVID-19 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AHS uses data from the ABTraceTogether app to facilitate contact tracing The government has recommended that post-secondary institutions encourage their staff, students and volunteers to download and use the ABTraceTogether app to facilitate contact tracing In late January 2021, AHS added more than 2,000 contact tracers to increase their contact-tracing capacity and investigate all COVID-19 positive cases confirmed everyday, after the contact-tracing system in the province collapsed at the end of 2020 Given the recent spike in COVID-19 cases in the province, it is unknown if AHS currently has sufficient contact-tracing capacity According to the province’s Guidance for Post-Secondary Institutions, post-secondary institutions should consider collecting the contact information for all staff and students and are encouraged to collect daily attendance lists for in-person classes The University of Alberta has a Contact Tracing and Rapid Response Plan that provides guidance to staff, faculty and students on responding to a COVID-19 case:

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As of 8 March 2021, secondary schools were asked to offer students COVID-19 testing onsite for those who are unable or unwilling to test themselves at home • Staff of primary schools are also asked to test themselves twice a week using the LFDs • Test results must be reported to NHS Test and Trace, and students and staff should share their result with the school to assist contact-tracing efforts <p>U.S.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents should be asked to report positive cases to schools to help facilitate contact tracing • Similarly, school administrators should notify staff, teachers, families, and emergency contacts or legal guardians immediately of any case of COVID-19 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A web-based tool launched by the school should be used to record the buildings and rooms a staff, faculty or student visits in order to improve contact-tracing efforts ○ All faculties, departments and groups are required to have a rapid-response plan should a COVID-19 case be identified in their work area ○ Individuals directed by AHS to self-isolate must contact their supervisor or instructor immediately <p>Ontario</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Government of Ontario is currently strengthening the guidance and capacity for public-health units where individuals would be contacted within 24 hours if they were in close contact with a positive case <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Public-health units work together with schools and post-secondary institutions to provide contact-tracing guidance (e.g., proper attendance and records) • Ontario has access to 1,700 staff from the federal government and the Ontario Public Service <p>Newfoundland and Labrador</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On 24 May 2021, several schools in the Central Region area were closed to in-class instruction for two days (25-26 May 2021) in response to an identified cluster of COVID-19 in the area (Alert Level 4 Communities)
What measures should be changed?	Operation of schools	<p>Australia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schools reopened for in-person learning in late April/early May 2020 • With low transmission of COVID-19 in Australia, Monash University has supported the return of all staff back to on-site work effective 23 April 2021 • On-site teaching and instruction will continue for students that are currently residing within the country • Based on advice from the Victorian Chief Health Officer, the Australian state of Victoria has allowed return to face-to-face learning for all students as of 4 June 2021 	<p>Canada</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In relation to school operations, Health Canada makes several recommendations to support the opening of child/youth settings during the pandemic: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Where possible, establish a two-metre distance between children/youth, staff and volunteers and use visual cues to encourage physical distancing ○ Assess what infrastructure can be enhanced to provide more space for physical distancing ○ Stagger break times ○ Increase desk distance between children/youth ○ Consider the option of virtual learning, especially for older youth or those at risk of severe illness

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Based on the advice of the Victorian Chief Health Officer, technical and further education, universities, and other training providers in regional state of Victoria can reopen, however those residing in metropolitan Melbourne will continue remote learning until 10 June 2021 <p>Chile</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In March 2021, the Ministry of Education announced a plan to safely reopen schools during the year called “Chile recovers and learns” (Chile recupera y aprende) that includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An initial exam to diagnose the current state of learning among schools • A set of tools for teachers to manage students’ emotions while returning to in-person classes • A system will be created to detect children who are not part of the educational system, and to detect early students at risk of leaving the educational system • In-person classes are not allowed under lockdown phases in the Government of Chile’s four-step plan for reopening, which are the steps that most of the country is currently in <p>Israel</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As of 18 April 2021, all students from daycare to Grade 12 will return to in-person classes, which ends the requirement to teach children in smaller class sizes • Some universities resumed in-person classes after the Passover holiday • Entry to campus will only be allowed to students who have been vaccinated, recovered from COVID-19, or have a negative PCR test • Some universities planned to do hybrid classes for students who have not been vaccinated <p>China</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The updated guidelines require kindergarten, elementary, high schools and higher-education institutions to: 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Increase the frequency of cleaning and disinfection, especially on high-touch surfaces, and avoid sharing communal equipment and supplies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examples of mitigation strategies provided by Health Canada for the operation of post-secondary institutions during the pandemic include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Offering virtual lectures simultaneously to in-person lectures to limit the number of individuals in classrooms ○ Offering online exams when possible ○ Adjusting HVAC systems or opening windows to increase ventilation ○ Scheduling access to campus facilities, such as labs and gymnasiums ○ Cohorting students in small groups to minimize individuals’ number of contacts ○ Keeping a safe and secure attendance record system for contact tracing purposes • The Government of Canada has provided financial supports for students and recent graduates as part of its COVID-19 Economic Recovery Plan <p>British Columbia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Provincial COVID-19 Health and Safety Guidelines for K-12 Settings were updated on 16 April 2021, and include guidance on classroom changes, online instruction, and student support <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Five-Stage Framework for K-12 Education includes guidelines on learning-group size, density targets, in-class instruction, and remote learning where transitions between stages are dependent on the community risk of COVID-19 in British Columbia ○ Learning groups (cohorts) and physical distancing are to be implemented, with guidelines provided for the maximum learning-group size in elementary, middle and secondary schools at each stage of the Five-Stage Framework ○ Key considerations for supporting students with disabilities/diverse abilities are outlined, including
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish the "point-to-point" coordination, monitoring and response mechanism among health institutions, schools and families • Provide training for all staff and employees • Stockpile anti-epidemic supplies, such as hand sanitizers, disinfectants, masks, thermometers • Strengthen preventive disinfection of campus, facilities and equipment (including air conditioning and ventilation systems) • Ensure good ventilation <p>New Zealand</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All fundamental public-health measures (physical distancing, hand hygiene, regular cleaning and disinfecting) should be followed at all alert levels • Under Alert Levels 1 and 2, in-person attendance at school and early-learning facilities is allowed for all children/students <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Distance learning is provided for those who are required to self-isolate, are waiting for a test result, or are staying home because they are at a higher risk of severe illness from COVID-19 • Under Alert Level 3, schools (years 1 to 10) and early-childhood education centres can remain open at limited capacity for children who cannot be supervised at home <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Virtual learning is recommended ○ School bubbles of no more than 20 children/students are required and a two-metre distance must be kept between bubbles; to reduce congestion, it is recommended that class and break activities be staggered ○ Staff and children who are at a higher risk of severe illness from COVID-19 should stay home ○ Voluntary flexibility for some year 12 and 13 students to return to in-person school is allowed 	<p>prioritizing their attendance in in-person learning, their participation in learning groups, and alternate teaching methods to facilitate learning while maintaining prevention and exposure control measures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The provincial guidelines for K-12 settings include a flow chart of classroom considerations for secondary schools and school boards when planning instructional delivery: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Organize students and staff into learning groups ○ Create timetables for in-learning group and cross-learning group classes with physical-distancing requirements for each group ○ Supplement in-class instruction with remote learning for courses that cannot operate through learning groups or physical-distancing approaches • On 2 March 2021 the First Nations Education Steering Committee and First Nations Schools Associations released a guidance document to support First Nations schools in the reopening of school facilities adapted from the B.C. Ministry of Education’s Provincial COVID-19 Health and Safety Guidelines for K-12 Schools, which includes a school reopening planning template and health and safety considerations • With the support of the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Training, post-secondary institutions in British Columbia created the COVID-19 Go Forward Guidelines for B.C.’s Post-Secondary Sector, which includes recommendations for accessing campus safely, education delivery, and student support <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ All post-secondary institutions are required to develop COVID-19 safety plans for reducing transmission and reopening campuses safely ○ Institutions should provide supports to students learning remotely and guidance should be provided to instructors on teaching in the remote format • On 30 April 2021, the COVID-19 Return-to-Campus Primer was released by B.C. Post-Secondary Institutions
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tertiary-education organizations (TEOs) should maintain their ability to deliver courses remotely and fully transition to remote learning if required • Guidelines have been developed for TEOs based on New Zealand’s alert level system • Under Alert Level 1, all teaching, research and learning activities can operate as normal with no COVID-19 restrictions • Under Alert Level 2, there are no size restrictions on teaching, research and learning activities, but TEOs should ensure that public-health measures are strictly followed, and capacity should be restricted to enable physical distancing • Under Alert Level 3, all teaching, research and other on-site activities must be done remotely, and where it is not possible to deliver teaching online, some facilities may remain open but must remain limited to 20 people or less • Under Alert Level 4, all educational facilities are closed and examinations must be conducted remotely if possible • Upon advice from the local Medical Officer of Health, any education facility connected to a confirmed or probable case of COVID-19 should be closed for at least 72 hours to allow time for contact tracing and cleaning/disinfecting • As of 10 June 2021, New Zealand is under Alert Level 1, which means that in-person attendance at school and early learning facilities is allowed for all children/students and all teaching, research and learning activities can operate as normal with no COVID-19 restrictions • Education New Zealand is strengthening its partnership with the Enroller digital platform for schools in New Zealand by subsidizing its cost for the remainder of 2021 and 2022, starting with secondary schools 	<p>with the support of the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Training, which included guidance on planning for post-secondary school reopening in Fall 2021 based on the assumption that all adults in B.C. will have received at least one dose of the vaccine before 1 July 2021, and that many will receive two doses by the end of August</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ There will be no limits on the number of participants for in-class activities ○ No physical-distancing requirements will be implemented for classrooms regardless of size ○ There will be no requirements for cohorting students, assigning seats, or taking attendance <p>Alberta</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On 4 May 2021, the Premier of Alberta announced that in response to the spike in COVID-19 cases in the province, all schools in Alberta (K-12) will be closed for two weeks and moved to online learning starting 7 May 2021 • AHS recommends that during the pandemic, physical distancing should be enhanced in schools by reorganizing rooms to allow for more physical space, creating cohorts of students by class, guiding traffic flow through entrances and hallways, and avoiding large gatherings like assemblies • According to the province’s Guidance for Post-Secondary Institutions, before reopening to in-person attendance, post-secondary institutions should establish their own COVID-19 response plans that include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Adaptations to education spaces to meet maximum attendance and physical-distancing requirements ○ A schedule for enhanced cleaning and disinfection of high-traffic areas ○ Plans to respond to and manage illness of staff and students • Most post-secondary institutions in Alberta have continued to deliver courses and services to students remotely
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ During the pandemic, this platform has enabled New Zealand schools to make the transition to digital for international student marketing, recruitment and application processing ● Education New Zealand provides mental health supports, like counselling, for international students in need of it during the pandemic <p>U.K.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● On 8 March 2021, all U.K. students resumed in-person learning ● Full-time return to school in Scotland for all children and young people started on 12 April 2021 and the following arrangements will be put in place: ● Removal of strict two-metres physical distancing between students in secondary schools ● Attendance in schools will include teaching and support staff ● Protective measures and mitigations set out in this released guidance will remain in place for all schools at Level 3 from 26 April 2021 ● From 12 April 2021, primary, special and secondary schools in Wales will resume in-person learning ● Schools are to ensure that appropriate mitigations are in place and in line with the operational guidance for schools and settings ● From 12 April 2021, primary, special and secondary schools in Northern Ireland will resume in-person learning ● The U.K. government released operational guidance for higher education that outlines reopening of buildings, social distancing on campus, face coverings, and additional protective measures ● Universities in Scotland will follow staggered return periods, in which universities will continue to maintain in-person teaching at any one time at the currently designated 5% maximum until 26 April 2021 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● On 4 February 2021, Alberta’s Minister of Advanced Education said that post-secondary institutions should prepare to return students to full-time on-campus learning in September 2021 ● The Alberta government provides information on its website about grading, admissions, transfers, financial support, and placements for post-secondary students <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Student services and supports vary by institution, and students are advised to contact the institution directly for more information on supports available ● On 25 May 2021, all students in Alberta in grades K-12 returned to in-person learning after two weeks of school closure in early May due to spiking COVID-19 cases ● Graduation ceremonies are allowed for students in grade school during regular school hours, but only staff and graduating students are allowed to attend <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Virtual graduation should be considered when possible <p>Saskatchewan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Saskatchewan Safe Schools Plan outlines eight priority areas of action for the safe return of students to schools during COVID-19, including classroom changes and online instruction considerations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Four levels of education delivery are to be provided: level 1) in-class learning with additional measures to ensure safety; level 2) in-class learning with mask usage for staff and students; level 3) reduced in-class learning with cohorts and hybrid learning models; and level 4) transition to alternative learning opportunities ○ Transitions between levels are determined through consultations with local school divisions and local public-health officials ● Facility changes should include modifying room configurations to promote physical distancing, increasing signage in hallways, and minimizing shared surfaces with adequate soap and sanitizer near school entrances <p>Manitoba</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After 26 April 2021, risk assessments will be updated regularly, following the Health and Safety guidance • Operational guidance for schools in England has been updated on 24 May 2021 and specific changes have been made to some sections such as face coverings, student support and well-being, and advice on students who are abroad • As of 17 May 2021, schools and local authorities in Scotland will operate in Level 1, 2 or 3 according to local circumstances • The Scottish government’s strategic framework, last updated 23 March 2021, outlines protective measures for each level • As of 17 May 2021, all university students in England can return to in-person learning • As of 17 May 2021, most of Scotland has moved from Level 3 to Level 2, with some of the country moving to Level 1, and universities and colleges will operate within protection-level guidance of their local authority area • Those in levels 0-2 will operate a blended learning model • Those in levels 3-4 will operate a restricted blended learning model • As of 7 June 2021, higher-education institutions in Wales can operate with a combination of in-person and blended learning <p>U.S.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students should be spaced at least three feet apart in classrooms in elementary, middle and high schools • When cases are in the high range, middle and high schools that cannot cohort should distance students six feet apart in the classroom • In cases where schools must be temporarily closed for in-person instruction, schools should make efforts to provide continuity of instruction through synchronous remote learning or at-home activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On 20 October 2020, the Government of Manitoba released the COVID-19 K-12 School Settings Practice Guidance and Protocols advising parents, caregivers and students on what to expect when returning to school: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Designated entrances and exits ○ One-way hallways ○ Spacing between desks and tables ○ Limiting bathroom occupancy • In partnership with the Ministry of Education, the Remote Learning Support Centre portal was launched by stakeholders from the educational sector to provide resources and tools to support learning at home for students and teachers • The Guidelines for Boarding Schools (K-12) and University/College Residences in Manitoba outline protocols for room occupancy and common areas in residences <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Single occupancy should be implemented where possible, otherwise students should be grouped together based on the same classes and year ○ Washrooms can be assigned to students and a shower schedule can be implemented ○ Communal areas such as kitchens can remain open with ongoing cleaning, disinfection and physical-distancing measures in place ○ Limits should be placed on time spent in communal areas • The government released guidance for the operation of Manitoba schools during the Critical (Red) Response Level in the Restart Manitoba Pandemic Response System, characterized by uncontained community spread of COVID-19 and/or significant strains on the healthcare system <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Schools will be closed except for children of critical service workers in kindergarten to Grade 6, who can continue to participate in in-person learning
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The U.S. CDC provides guidance on Considerations for Institutions of Higher Education, which identifies virtual-only learning options, activities and events as the lowest risk, hybrid learning models (where students participate in virtual learning and in-person learning is limited to courses and laboratory instruction that cannot be delivered remotely as some risk) • Hybrid learning models that provide a mix of virtual learning and in-person learning for all courses, and in-person-only models of learning are designated as medium and high risk, respectively • On 15 May 2021, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in the U.S. recommended that schools use current COVID-19 prevention strategies for the upcoming 2021-2022 year • The CDC's update on 4 June 2021 also adds general considerations for all IHEs about cleaning, improving ventilation, and maintaining healthy facilities • These considerations include health-equity considerations to mitigate those disproportionately affected by COVID-19, supporting coping and resilience among employees and students, and considerations for students, faculty and staff with disabilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On 14 June 2021, Manitoba schools in remote learning will be able to provide in-person small group teaching to five to six students per group <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Physical distancing of two metres must be maintained ○ Masks must be worn except while seated ○ Capacity limits within schools should be enforced to ensure physical distancing can be maintained ○ Cohorts should be utilized <p>Ontario</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Government of Ontario released guidance to reopening schools for the 2020-21 school year <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ As of 12 April 2021, grade schools have closed in-person instruction and moved to remote learning indefinitely ○ Prior to closure, elementary schools were reopened for in-person instruction with enhanced health and safety protocols (e.g., cohorted group for class, recess and lunch, staggered breaks) ○ Secondary schools had the option for conventional or adapted in-person instruction (e.g., class cohorts of 15 students with alternate schedules and at least 50% of instructional days) • It was announced 4 May 2021 at a provincial press conference that remote learning will be available to students for the next school year • The Government of Ontario provided COVID-19 resources to the education sector in addition to increased funding for health and safety training, supports for students and staff (e.g., special-education needs, increased funding for mental health services, testing) and increased testing capacity (totalling \$1.6 billion) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ It was announced on 4 May 2021 at a provincial press conference that schools would be receiving temporary COVID-19 funding, totalling more than \$1.6 million, for improving ventilation systems, filter replacements, remote learning, and recovery
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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Government of Ontario is investing \$106.4 million to financially assist public colleges and universities due to decreases in tuition and ancillary and incurred expenses • Most universities in Ontario remain open with limited staff and students on campus, and the majority of students are currently doing remote learning during the current lockdown <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Some universities have cancelled in-person meetings, closed athletic facilities, and limited the mobility for students living in residence <p>Québec</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Government of Québec routinely updates school closures: (last updated 29 April 2021) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Pre-school and elementary schools in certain regions and municipalities will resume in-person instruction starting 3 May 2021 (Communauté métropolitaine de Québec and Chaudière-Appalaches) ○ Preschool and elementary schools in Gatineau and the Outaouais region will remain closed until 7 May 2021 ○ Secondary schools and vocational training centres in Communauté métropolitaine de Québec, Gatineau, Chaudière-Appalaches, and Outaouais are closed until 7 May 2021 ○ Unless stated, preschool and elementary school students will do their classes online • The Government of Québec invested \$138 million to improve student access to school resources (e.g., homework assistance, direct services for students with disabilities, distance-learning tools, 75 new special classes, supports to stay at home, tutoring, mental health services) • Emergency measures within specific regions and municipalities continue to affect post-secondary schools (in effect until 9 May 2021) including Communauté métropolitaine de Québec and the entire Chaudière-Appalaches, Outaouais regions, and in the Bas-Saint-Laurent region
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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Government of Québec strongly recommends distance learning unless the student’s education requires in-person evaluation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ McGill University and Concordia University have scheduled summer courses to be offered primarily through distance learning with potential in-person teaching activities ○ Les CEGEPs du Québec provides detailed up-to-date frequently asked questions and answers related to COVID-19 (last updated 22 April 2021) • Travel between regions is highly discouraged • Student residences and common spaces within them are closed (with certain exceptions) • The Government of Québec invested a total of \$135 million to improve student access and support (e.g., psychosocial support, new pedagogical methods, material support) <p>New Brunswick</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The provincial government of New Brunswick announced that high-school students will not return to full-time in-person learning this school year <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ It is expected that in-person classes will resume for all students in September 2021 • The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development’s return-to-school plan outlines expectations and standards for the safe operation of public schools • Each public school will develop a COVID-19 operational plan in consultation with the school district occupational health and safety coordinators • A guide for school districts and schools provides direction for schools that have previously returned in September 2020, and will continue to evolve and change as new information becomes available • Information on changes in directive is provided when a school or early learning and childcare facility in an area has shifted between orange and yellow alert zones
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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An operational plan guide has been developed to help educational institutions develop their COVID-19 operational plan outlining management of daily operations (e.g., physical distancing, hand and respiratory hygiene, screening and testing) <p>Nova Scotia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As of 27 April 2021, all public schools in the Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM) and surrounding areas closed, and as of 29 April 2021 were moved to at-home learning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ This includes all pre-primary children and primary to Grade 12 for public and private schools • The Government of Nova Scotia released an updated back to school plan that outlines operations when students return to school in September 2021: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Preparation of schools for staff and students ○ Plans for school activities and protocols ○ Plans for maintaining respiratory, hand hygiene, and environmental cleaning • The back-to-school plan outlines three separate scenarios for the 2021-2022 school year: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ September 2021 full opening with additional measures in place ○ Partial or blended opening in which many measures within this plan align with the full opening plan, with additional protocols. This plan includes that pre-primary to Grade 8 students will receive in-class instruction in smaller class sizes, and Grades 9 to 12 will be supported to learn from home ○ At-home learning in which schools will close and at-home learning will be applied provincially • Due to the return of public-health restrictions after an increase in COVID-19 cases in Nova Scotia, local universities have adapted their plans for their summer offerings, operations and work • Put into effect as of 2 June 2021, phase one of the provincewide reopening plan consists of reopening public, pre-primary and private schools and to follow the
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			<p>current 2020 back to school plan that has been updated for the 2021-2022 school year</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nova Scotia’s Dalhousie University released its multi-level Fall 2021 safety plan aligned with provincial public-health requirements and Dalhousie’s health and safety protocols <p>Prince Edward Island</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post circuit-breaker measures indicate that full-time classroom learning for kindergarten to Grade 12 will resume with public-health measures in place and schools to develop contingency plans for remote learning • Post circuit-breaker measures indicate that post-secondary education and training will resume either online or in-person with public-health measures in place • Guidelines for return to school in September 2020 include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Public-health measures for students, staff, parents and visitors ○ Public-health measures for facilities ○ Programming and instruction ○ Student transitions and movement throughout the facility ○ Transportation ○ Access to buildings • University of Prince Edward Island announced plans to return to a normal academic experience in September 2021 • As part of Prince Edward Island’s five-step reopening plan, step one includes measures to open full-time classroom learning in kindergarten to Grade 12 and includes measures to have online and/or classroom (with physical distancing) learning in post-secondary institutions <p>Newfoundland and Labrador</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Newfoundland and Labrador public-health guidance for K-12 schools was updated on 7 April 2021 and addresses public-health measures, environmental measures, administrative measures, personal measures, and
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			<p>personal protective equipment (including masks), including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Providing education for children about hand hygiene, cough and sneeze etiquette ○ Considering different classroom and learning-environment configurations to allow distance ○ Implementing mitigation measures for bus transportation, cafeterias and food services, and music programs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Guidance about a safe return to school was updated on 26 February 2021 and includes a framework that describes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Stakeholder consultation: engaging in dialogue with educational partners ○ Preparation of schools and work sites for the return of staff and students ○ Preparation of staff for school reopening with enhanced professional learning, understanding of possible re-entry scenarios, and human resources considerations ○ Preparation of students for the return to school ○ Planning for school operations: planning for school activities and protocols ○ Planning for hygiene and cleaning procedures for schools and work sites ● Three separate scenarios for the 2020-21 school year were identified: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Scenario 1: in-school classes resume (near normal with health measures) when the risk of COVID-19 transmission is very low ○ Scenario 2: in-school classes partially resume (with additional health measures) when the risk of COVID-19 transmission is low to moderate ○ Scenario 3: at-home learning continues (in-school classes are suspended/cancelled) when there is moderate to widespread transmission of COVID-19 ● Guidance about online learning was developed
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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resources are available for parents and students to prepare for the new school year • All College of the North Atlantic (CNA) campuses remain closed to the public and only employees and students directly involved in the delivery of practical training components are permitted on campus until further notice • As of 30 May 2021, most schools in the Western Region would be open for in-class instruction on 31 May 2021 • As of 26 May 2021, all schools in the Central Region would return to in-class instruction on 27 May 2021 • Memorial University of Newfoundland and Labrador provides clear protocols for locations, activities and personnel in different levels on the COVID-19 impact scale • As of 1 June 2021, all Memorial employees are expected to return to work on campus by 13 July 2021 to support the return to primarily in-person teaching and learning for fall semester 2021 <p>Yukon</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each school is following its own school-specific operational plans in the 2020–21 school year, which are approved by public-health officials and school superintendents <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ In Whitehorse, Grades 10 to 12 students at F.H. Collins, Porter Creek and Vanier Catholic secondary schools returned to full-time, in-class learning on 19 April 2021; kindergarten to Grade 9 students should be in school for full-day in-class instruction (five days per week) ○ In rural communities, kindergarten to Grade 12 students should be in school for full-day in-class instruction (five days per week) • School operations during the pandemic are as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ When the pandemic risk is low and the school capacity is 100%, kindergarten to Grade 12 students should be in classes in schools full-time for the
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			<p>maximum instructional time possible (five days per week) and be provided with flexible learning programs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ When the pandemic risk is low and the school capacity is 50%, school full-time should be provided for essential groups and part-time rotating schedules for other students (flexible learning programs for all students) ○ When the pandemic risk is low and the school capacity is 20%, only essential groups (e.g., students with disabilities or diverse learning needs, students in need of additional support) could be in school; and the majority of students should be arranged for distance learning ○ When the pandemic risk is high and the school capacity is 0%, face-to-face learning should be suspended; and distance learning should be arranged for all students ● Temporary school programming relocation was arranged to support safe spacing at school during the 2020–21 school year ● Guidance was developed about continuing learning at home for students and families, including short- and long-term plans ● Guidance was developed about student learning in the 2020–21 school year during the COVID-19 pandemic, which includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Guiding the delivery of blended learning in Yukon schools ○ Meeting all students where they are at in their learning ○ Adapting school programming and instruction ● Guidance was developed for post-secondary studies and apprenticeships during COVID-19 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Students can continue to apply online for student funding and grant programs ○ The federal government is rolling out supports for students ○ Some in-school technical training and examinations were suspended in Yukon (e.g., all monthly
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			<p>apprenticeship and trade certification level exams and interprovincial exams at the Department of Education building)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ All scheduled trade qualification exam sessions were cancelled ● The guidance for Yukon licensed childcare centres, school-age programs and family day homes during the COVID-19 pandemic was developed based on the best evidence and will be updated as new evidence arises or the COVID-19 epidemiology in Yukon significantly changes ● Yukon University is working with the Government of Yukon to prepare a return to in-class learning for the Fall 2021 semester <p>Northwest Territories</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● When planning for the 2020-21 school year, the Government of Northwest Territories released guidance for reopening schools wisely that emphasized the importance of prioritizing in-person learning ● Schools in the Northwest Territories are implementing various strategies including in-person learning for students who are well, remote learning for students who are self-isolating, and home schooling for students placed on an approved Home-Schooling Program by a parent ● The Northwest Territories have a list of learning resources, which include supports for distance learning and learning on-the-land ● The Government of Northwest Territories updated its JK-12 School Information on 7 June 2021 that covers information for students and parents, information for school staff, and learning resources related to school operation during COVID-19 <p>Nunavut</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● As of 28 April 2021, Nunavut announced that Schools in Kinngait and Iqaluit continue to be closed for in-person learning as stage 4 continues to be in effect, and other
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			<p>schools alter their learning strategies according to the four-tier stage system</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nunavut provides supports for remote learning for parents of children who are learning at home
	<p>Operation of residences in post-secondary schools</p>	<p>China</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The updated guideline recommends elementary and high schools should strengthen boarding management, including implementing strict leave procedures, conducting temperature screening at the entrance, strengthening room disinfection and ventilation <p>New Zealand</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under Alert Level 1, student accommodations may operate with no COVID-19 restrictions and students may travel domestically as normal • Under Alert Level 2, student accommodations can be open to all students and no documentation is required for domestic travel within Alert Level 2 areas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Social events with external visitors should not be held in student residences, but visits of close family and friends may occur when managed by TEOs • Under Alert Level 3, strict physical-distancing ‘bubbles’ should be maintained at all times and on-campus food retail venues should be open only to residents of student accommodations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Students may move into new accommodations if relocating on a permanent or long-term basis and if they need to travel into, out of, or through an Alert Level 3 area • Under Alert Level 4, student accommodations may remain open to allow residents to self-isolate, and strict physical distancing, infection-prevention measures, and ‘bubbles’ should be maintained at all times <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ On-campus food retail venues should be open only to residents of student accommodations • As of 10 June 2021, student accommodations in New Zealand may operate with no COVID-19 restrictions and students may travel domestically as normal 	<p>Canada</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post-secondary institutions should ensure that workers providing support to individuals living in residences are aware of the government’s guidance for infection prevention and control for homecare workers • Health Canada recommends that in cases where there is more than one individual sharing housing, institutions may consider treating them as a family unit with corresponding terms for scheduling activities and physical-distancing expectations • Student supports and services should be offered online or by telephone when possible <p>British Columbia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The COVID-19 Go Forward Guidelines for B.C.’s Post-Secondary Sector outlines protocols for housing and student residence operations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Students in shared accommodations should be separated if one student becomes ill ○ Stagger move-in dates ○ Reduce furniture in common-room areas ○ Residence-life programming should be provided virtually or outdoors in line with public-health guidelines • For the Fall 2021 semester, post-secondary schools in B.C. are being advised that on-campus student housing can operate at full or close-to-full occupancy, with the recommendation that 1-2% of total student housing be set aside for student isolation or quarantine in the case of an outbreak <p>Alberta</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff, students, visitors and volunteers who access residences should screen for symptoms before they enter the residence using the Alberta Health Daily Checklist

		<p>U.S.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The guidance for IHEs where not everyone is fully vaccinated in the CDC's update on 4 June 2021 includes guidance on housing and communal spaces 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guidance from the province advises that residences should consider having rooms dedicated for symptomatic residents and residents with COVID-19, develop plans for reopening that support physical distancing, keep current contact information for contact tracing, and adopt enhanced cleaning and disinfection schedules for residences <p>Ontario</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To guide local partners and post-secondary institutions in the community, Toronto Public Health developed COVID-19 guidance with related checklists and decision tools <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students who fall ill may be isolated in specified rooms (e.g., rooms at one end of the hall, designated wing, or floor) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff and students must wear appropriate PPE Students should have access to food, water and medications, and washrooms and common areas that are cleaned regularly Policies and procedures should be in place for continued delivery of services and supports such as mental health Universities and colleges may decide to keep campus residences open for out-of-province students Residences should impose restrictions that allow for physical distancing in common living areas and washrooms Students should limit their mobility into and/or between rooms and residences Only residents, essential staff, and visitors should be permitted into residences Visible signage should be posted throughout the residences
Engagement in extracurricular activities		<p>Australia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> With low infection rates of COVID-19 in New South Wales (NSW), restrictions to singing-based activities have been removed, social events which include dancing can proceed in a COVID-safe way, and 	<p>Canada</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health Canada's recommendations for engagement in extracurricular activities in child/youth settings include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Postponing assemblies, team sports or extracurricular activities where physical separation cannot be

		<p>sporting activities can resume in accordance with community sporting guidelines</p> <p>China</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The updated guidelines recommend the population intensity should be controlled and gathering activities are not encouraged <p>New Zealand</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under Alert Level 1, there are no limits on gatherings, playgrounds are open, and all extracurricular activities are allowed • Under Alert Levels 2 and 3, gatherings without physical distancing for school-related activities are allowed, but once the activity involves bringing people onsite who are not there for education purposes, distancing is required (e.g., sporting event) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Hygiene practices should be observed before and after playing with equipment, and there should be extra emphasis on hand hygiene and cleaning equipment for extracurricular activities where physical distancing is not possible • Under Alert Level 3, extracurricular activities that cannot maintain a two-metre distance or where the same equipment must be touched by different students are not allowed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Playgrounds are closed • Under Alert Level 4, all educational facilities are closed, and gatherings for extracurricular activities are not allowed <p>U.S.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To minimize the risk of transmission in schools and protect in-person learning, in-person instruction should be prioritized over extracurricular activities • For low and moderate transmission levels, sports and extracurricular activities should occur with at least six feet of physical distance • It is suggested that schools limit spectators and attendees for sports and extracurricular activities to 	<p>maintained or touching common equipment cannot be avoided</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Limiting or cancelling activities that bring children together from multiple groups or classrooms <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When considering if and how extracurricular activities will occur on- and off-campus, post-secondary institutions are encouraged to use a risk-based approach • A risk-mitigation tool for gatherings and events during the pandemic has been provided by Health Canada <p>British Columbia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The province is following recommendations released by the British Columbia Music Educators' Association and the Coalition for Music Education in British Columbia, which provide guidance for implementing music classes during COVID-19 aligned with each stage of the 5 Stage Framework for K-12 Education <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Guidelines are provided for room configurations, cleaning and disinfecting musical instruments and hand hygiene, models for curriculum delivery including online, hybrid and in-person classes, and physical-distancing requirements for learning groups ○ No in-person inter-school competitions, performances or events should occur • The Government of British Columbia's current recommendations for school sports include physical distancing, cleaning and disinfecting, and indoor and outdoor considerations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Sports including intramurals, team practices, and games can take place if they do not include prolonged physical contact, and masks must be worn by all staff and other adults when indoors ○ Stationary high-intensity physical activities should occur two metres apart if taking place indoors, or should be moved outdoors, otherwise the activity must not take place ○ Students from the same learning group are not required to maintain physical distancing during high-intensity physical activities that involve movement,
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		<p>ensure six feet of physical distance and require the use of masks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schools should also consider screening and testing for student athletes and adults (e.g., coaches and trainers) who support these activities • For substantial and high transmission levels, sports and extracurricular activities should only occur if they can be held outdoors with more than six feet of physical distancing • The general considerations for all IHEs in the CDC's update on 4 June 2021 includes guidance on sports 	<p>but students from different learning groups must maintain two metres of distance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Students are required to wear masks indoors when participating in low-intensity sport activities ○ Sporting activities should take place outdoors whenever possible <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of performing arts activities should follow the protocols for performing arts created by WorkSafe BC • Post-secondary schools should adhere to the Government of British Columbia's guidelines for sports and other athletic activities <p>Alberta</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schools must follow the province's Guidance for Sport, Fitness and Recreation when extracurricular activities occur, which requires facilities to implement practices to minimize the risk of transmission, have rapid-response plans in the event of potential exposure to attendees, and ensures proper infection-control practices • Post-secondary institutions must follow the province's Guidance for Sport, Fitness and Recreation that requires facilities to implement practices to minimize the risk of transmission, have rapid-response plans in the event of potential exposure to attendees, and ensures proper infection-control practices <p>Saskatchewan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restarting extracurricular activities should be in accordance with applicable Re-Open Saskatchewan Guidelines, which outline phases for which different activities may be implemented with public-health measures <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Extracurricular sports programs and activities can continue in groups of eight ○ Activities should occur outdoors whenever possible, and contact must be avoided in any sports ○ Spectator maximum capacity is 30 people within facilities with physical distancing to be maintained
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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As of May 30, 2021 Saskatchewan is operating under Step One of the Saskatchewan Re-Opening Roadmap, which permits outdoor sports and activities <p>Manitoba</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All activities that involve movement should occur outside, with indoor or outdoor non-contact sports permitted with physical-distancing restrictions in place • Schools should follow the Manitoba High Schools Athletic Association’s Return to School Sport Plan when considering re-instating extracurricular sports, which outlines the maximum number of players for football activities, and guidelines for spectators, tournaments and championships • Under the Critical (Red) Response Level in the Restart Manitoba Pandemic Response System, all extracurricular activities, organized sports, and off-site activities are to be suspended, and no indoor singing or use of wind instruments may be permitted <p>Ontario</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Government of Ontario released guidance to reopening schools for the 2020/2021 school year <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A range of low-risk delivery options are encouraged for music and arts curriculum such as in-school instruction in larger spaces, restrictions in type of instrument, or in-person instruction with no live performance ○ Additional guidance is provided by the Ontario Music Educators’ Association ○ Students cannot engage in moderate to vigorous physical activity indoors and must maintain physical distancing when they take place outdoors ○ School gymnasiums are restricted to moderate physical activity where physical distancing and masking is feasible ○ Organized sports can take place as long as physical distancing and proper cleaning measures are in place ○ Field trips and school assemblies are highly discouraged
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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To guide local partners and post-secondary institutions in the community, Toronto Public Health developed COVID-19 guidance with related checklists and decision tools <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Indoor and outdoor organized sports must comply with provincial orders and local directives and bylaws <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Outdoor activities are highly encouraged, and gymnasiums should only be used if physical distancing is allowed ▪ Shared equipment should be disinfected between cohort use and students must practise hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette ○ Music education such as in-person choir and band practices should be cancelled <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ If necessary, persons singing or playing brass/wind instruments should be separated with physical barriers (e.g., plexiglass) ▪ Instruments should not be shared between individuals ○ In-person teaching and instruction could occur if it is low-risk (e.g., larger spaces, restricting the type of instrument) <p>Québec</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Government of Québec routinely updates guidelines specific to education (last updated 29 April 2021) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ As of 12 April 2021, extracurricular activities are prohibited in red zones and some activities are permitted in orange zones with prevention measures ○ Specific projects (e.g., sports-études, arts-études, concentrations) have continued within cohorted groups (“stable class groups”), otherwise individuals outside of these cohorted groups must maintain two-metres distance at all times ○ When activities are allowed, secondary school students can remove their masks during physical activities and extracurricular activities (e.g., exercise,
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			<p>band) as long as physical distance is available (at least two metres)</p> <p>Prince Edward Island Planned events that typically take place at school (e.g., parent-teacher conferences) will follow the multiple gatherings guidance</p> <p>Newfoundland and Labrador</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School administrators should determine the composition of the cohorts, which should remain consistent for all activities that occur in school including, but not limited to, learning and breaks (lunch, recess, classroom changes, etc.) • Gatherings should occur within the class cohort and not exceed the maximum gathering size established by the Chief Medical Officer of Health <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Schools should seek virtual alternatives for larger gatherings and assemblies • All large-scale gatherings outside of regular program-related activities/curriculum and office-related duties at the College of the North Atlantic will be postponed until a later date, or they will be cancelled depending on their nature <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Employees and students are encouraged to utilize online services to conduct meetings and group conversations <p>Yukon</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The following programs and services have been identified as requiring program specific guidance and should still observe the general public-health guidance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Music, arts and drama ○ Physical education class ○ Recess/playgrounds ○ Cooking class ○ Outdoor/on-the-land education, field trips and overnight trips ○ Libraries ○ Computer labs and IT equipment
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<p>Accompanying infection-prevention measures</p>	<p>Australia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appropriate hand hygiene, disinfecting, and ventilation measures are still enforced • As of 15 April 2021, grade schools in NSW permit the entry of parents/guardians and the mixing of cohorts and years for school-related activities • As of 9 April 2021, schools in Victoria have relaxed their face-masks measures and they are now only recommended when physical distancing cannot be maintained • From term 1 2021 (February 2021), all New South Wales (NSW) public schools use the COVID Safe Check-In tool to assist with community contact tracing by NSW Health <p>China</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The updated guidelines recommend that infection-prevention measures should be implemented in kindergarten and elementary/high schools, including hand hygiene, physical distancing, wearing masks (if necessary) <p>New Zealand</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under Alert Level 2, children under 12 years old are exempt from wearing face coverings on public transport and aircrafts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Face coverings are also not required on school buses • Under Alert Levels 1, 2 and 3, schools will close for cleaning and contact tracing if there is a confirmed case who was infectious while at school • Under Alert Level 1, regular cleaning of surfaces in schools is recommended • Under Alert Levels 2 and 3, all surfaces must be cleaned and disinfected daily, and hand sanitizer should be provided at the entry to classrooms and in shared spaces • Under Alert Levels 2 and 3, contact-tracing information must be collected for students, staff and 	<p>Canada</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personal protective measures, such as frequent hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette, should be promoted and facilitated within child/youth settings according to Health Canada • Health Canada also recommends that non-medical masks or face coverings should be considered for children over the age of two, as long as the masks can be worn correctly in settings where consistent physical distancing cannot be maintained • Physical-barrier mitigation measures should also be increased <p>British Columbia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Government of British Columbia’s provincial guidelines for K-12 settings includes recommendations for hand hygiene standards and frequency, respiratory etiquette, personal protective equipment use for both students and staff • Learning groups and staggered recess, snack, lunch, and class transition times should be implemented • Physical-distancing requirements vary depending on the stage of the province’s 5 Stage Framework for K-12 Education • Environmental measures including general ventilation and air circulation considerations, the use of floor markings and posters to direct traffic flow with designated entrance and exit doors, and barriers made of transparent materials are recommended • On 30 March 2021, the B.C. Centre for Disease Control updated its guidance on the use of masks for all staff, adults, visitors and Grades 4 to 12 students, now requiring the use of a non-medical mask or face covering at all times while indoors at school and on a bus, except for those in which exemptions apply • Post-secondary institutions should adhere to the COVID-19 Go Forward Guidelines for B.C.’s Post-Secondary Sector for cleaning and sanitation protocols,
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		<p>any on-site visitors who have been in controlled learning environments and residential accommodations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As of 10 June 2021, students and staff in New Zealand schools are not required to wear face coverings when in school or when on school transport buses <p>U.K.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • U.K. guidance on the use of face coverings for schools outlines that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ In schools and colleges for students in year 7 and above, face coverings are recommended to be worn when moving around the premises, outside of classrooms and in communal areas ○ Face coverings do not need to be worn by students when outdoors on the premises ○ Children in primary school and early-years settings should not wear face coverings • This is subject to change based on the U.K.'s roadmap process' step 3 in which these cautionary measures will no longer be recommended, no earlier than 17 May 2021 • The U.K.'s operational guide on returning to school outlines that schools must maintain hygiene, cleaning and ventilation measures, and mitigations • The U.K. government is working with higher-education providers to offer twice weekly asymptomatic testing to all staff and students residing in their term accommodation or accessing university facilities, using lateral flow devices • A higher-education operational guide outlines maintaining two metres apart for people, and for universities and colleges to conduct risk assessments to understand the number of students and staff likely to be within a learning space • In cases in which social distancing or good ventilation is difficult to maintain, such as in workshops, laboratories and teaching rooms, face masks should still be worn by education providers 	<p>faculty, staff and student hygiene standards, and the use of personal protective equipment and non-medical masks</p> <p>Alberta</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alberta Health Services provides several resources for schools and teachers to guide infection-prevention measures in schools that are open, including resources on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cleaning guidance ○ Hygiene ○ Physical distancing ○ Visitors ○ Supporting physical activity at school • The Alberta Government's Guidance for Post-Secondary Institutions provides recommendations on infection-prevention measures, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Physical distancing (e.g., staggering start and end times for classes, using signage, limiting bathroom occupancy) ○ Cleaning and sanitation ○ Planning for rapid response to illness ○ Risk-mitigation at dorm residences and food services <p>Saskatchewan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under level 2 of the Saskatchewan Safe Schools Plan, staff and students in Grades 9 through 12 may be required to wear masks in classrooms where physical distancing is not possible, or if a student is attending a class outside of their cohort • On 11 August 2020, the Chief Medical Officer of Health provided additional guidance on level 2 protocols for the province, where school staff and students in Grades 4 to 12 are required to wear masks in hallways and on buses • The Saskatchewan Safe Schools Plan outlines cohorting requirements for staff and students <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Schools should focus on cohorting teachers to a limited number of students ○ In elementary schools, cohorts will include the entire classroom
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As of 17 May 2021, in line with Step 3 of the U.K. government’s roadmap out of lockdown, face coverings will no longer be recommended for students in classrooms or communal areas in all schools, and face coverings will also no longer be recommended for staff in classrooms <p>U.S.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All schools should engage in universal and correct use of masks, physical distancing, handwashing and respiratory etiquette, and cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities • Testing strategies in partnership with schools should be part of a comprehensive prevention approach • The CDC provides recommendations as part of a tiered approach of diagnostic testing for COVID-19, and testing recommendations by level of community transmission • The U.S. CDC’s guidance on Considerations for Institutions of Higher Education includes hygiene practices, using masks, how and when to disinfect facilities, and physical-distancing practices for communal spaces, travel and transit, and food services • The general considerations for all IHEs in the CDC’s update on 4 June 2021 includes guidance on gatherings, events and visitors, studying abroad and travel, and international students 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schools are to follow the Primary and Secondary Educational Institution Guidelines which include protocols for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Hygiene ○ Physical distancing with staggered snack, lunch, and class transition times, and staggered entry and exists, limited pickup and drop-offs, and separate group entrances <p>Manitoba</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student cohorts with a maximum cohort size of 75 students should be implemented, and physical distancing should be maintained within the cohort through a minimum one-metre separation between student desks and tables • The COVID-19 K-12 School Settings Practice Guidance and Protocols include recommendations for ventilation, hygiene practices, and cleaning and disinfecting best practices • Students in Grades 4 to 12, staff, and visitors are required to wear non-medical masks in schools when two-metre physical-distancing requirements are not possible <p>Ontario</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Government of Ontario released guidance to reopening schools for the 2020/2021 school year <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Secondary schools are required to create cohorts (15 students in each class) in order to limit contacts to 100 students in the entire school and keep students in a maximum of two in-person class cohorts ○ Secondary schools developed new timetable formats (e.g., “quadmester”, in-person attendance for at least 50% of instructional days, and “study hall model”) ○ All students and staff are required to self-screen for symptoms before attending school ○ Students may decide to attend school remotely on a full-time basis
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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Schools were responsible for developing hand hygiene training and educational materials, and scheduling appropriate hand hygiene throughout the day ○ Grade 1 to 12 students are required to wear non-medical or cloth masks indoors (including common areas, classes, and on school transportation) and outdoors where physical distancing cannot be maintained (kindergarten students are encouraged but not required) ○ Staff are provided medical masks, eye protection, and other PPE by the Ontario government ○ Schools are responsible for limiting or prohibiting visitors, including parents ○ Schools are encouraged to review cleaning protocols and reinforce them based on current public-health requirements ● Public Health Ontario developed a checklist for COVID-19 preparedness and prevention in elementary and secondary schools with additional tools and resources available on its website ● To guide local partners and post-secondary institutions in the community, Toronto Public Health developed COVID-19 guidance with related checklists and decision tools <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Staff and students are encouraged to learn proper hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette ○ Physical-distancing strategies could include maintaining a distance of two metres at all times, limiting the total number of students permitted in each instructional space, limiting mixing of different groups of students, staggering schedules, designating single entry and exit points, and implementing structural barriers ○ Masks are mandatory in all public indoor settings across the province ○ Post-secondary settings must develop or update infection-prevention and control policies and procedures including: screening, attendance
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			<p>management for contact tracing, cohorting, isolation and quarantine for students with COVID-19 (e.g., transportation, meals, accommodations), physical distancing, hand hygiene, mask requirements, return to work for symptomatic staff and students, enhanced cleaning and disinfection, food safety practices, use of PPEs, communication plans, management of cases and outbreaks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Students and staff should be trained on signs and symptoms of COVID-19 ○ Students and staff should be screened before coming on campus every day ○ Ventilation systems must be adequately maintained ○ Further guidance is available for on-campus dining, student placements, access to campus amenities, libraries, water fountains, campus clubs, communities with special needs, mental health and well-being, and international staff and students <p>Québec</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Government of Québec routinely updates guidelines specific to education (last updated 29 April 2021) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Preschool, elementary, and high school students are cohorting into smaller groups (“stable class groups”), where students in the same cohort groups do not have to comply with physical-distancing guidelines ○ Preschool, elementary, and high school students must comply with a two-metre distance between different cohort groups and while moving during common areas (including hallways) ○ As of 8 March 2021, elementary Grades 1 to 6 must wear pediatric masks instead of a face covering (in classrooms, in common areas in the school, and during school transportation) ○ High school teachers move between classes when they are teaching and students remain in the same room ○ As of 12 April 2021, secondary students in Secondary III, IV and V are required to alternate between in-
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			<p>person and remote attendance (one out of two days) and must wear masks at all times (in class, in common areas inside and outside of school, and during school transportation)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The government hired additional maintenance staff for more frequent cleaning and disinfection ○ The government conducted rigorous air-quality testing in all schools ● The Québec National Institute of Public Health (INSPQ) released preventive-measures recommendations for staff members in educational settings (published 25 August 2020): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Adjust work schedules and modality (e.g., teleworking and allow flexible hours, where possible) ○ Triage symptomatic workers (e.g., conduct a symptom-based questionnaire, self-monitor) ○ Promote and practise hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette (e.g., wash stations entering and leaving work, clean frequently touched surfaces) ○ Promote physical distancing (e.g., pick up children at the front door of the building, stagger breaks, recesses, and schedules for phased arrivals/departures, limit visitors, maintain two-metre distance, physical barriers installed if two metres is not possible) ○ Avoid sharing utensils, dishes or glasses ○ Wear quality medical procedure masks when interacting with individuals for more than 15 minutes in a day ○ Disinfect locations where a confirmed case of COVID-19 was detected ● McGill University and Concordia University have detailed directives that outline safety and prevention measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 on campus <p>New Brunswick</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The province’s return to school guide for parents and the public outlines health and safety protocols, including:
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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Staff will frequently screen themselves and monitor their students for illness or symptoms ● Staff must have signed a declaration form at the beginning of the school year indicating that they are free of COVID-19 symptoms, have not travelled outside the country, and are not required to self-isolate ● Staff will track their attendance using an internal provincewide online system in case contact tracing is required ● Based on guidelines for return to school, schools will implement hand hygiene, physical-distancing practices, class cohorts, and staggering of movement in and out of buildings ● School transportation services have implemented the following strategies to mitigate COVID-19 risks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Re-routing buses where necessary to minimize ridership ○ Encourage students to wash hands before and immediately upon disembarking ○ All students and drivers to wear masks while riding the bus <p>Newfoundland and Labrador</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Environmental measures recommended for K-12 schools include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Regular cleaning and disinfection ○ Using floor markings and posters to address traffic flow throughout the school ○ Installing barriers for physical distance ○ Increasing ventilation ● Cohorts and physical distancing should be implemented in K-12 school settings as administrative measures ● Some personal measures recommended for K-12 schools include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Practising hand hygiene ○ Respiratory etiquette ○ Wearing masks
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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Memorial employees should follow public-health guidelines for public locations and take necessary precautions while on campus <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Completing the daily self-assessment before coming to campus ○ Wearing a mask in all public spaces and common areas, or any time two metres of physical distance cannot be maintained ○ Reviewing and following all posted signage ○ Maintaining physical distancing ○ Washing or sanitizing hands on a regular basis ○ Staying home when sick <p>Yukon</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health and safety guidelines for K-12 school settings were developed to help teachers, administrative staff, students and families prepare for a safe return to school, and addresses the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Wearing masks ○ Physical distancing ○ Handwashing and personal hygiene ○ Cleaning and disinfecting ○ Food or meals at school ○ Limits on sharing school supplies and learning materials ○ Physical education and school sports ○ Singing and music ○ School field trips • School bus services for the 2020–21 school year have been adapted based on the health and safety guidelines for school bus operations, which include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Requiring bus drivers and children 5 years and older to use non-medical masks ○ Supporting physical distancing by organizing how students enter and exit the bus, seating students at a two-metre (six-foot) distance from school bus drivers, seating two students per seat if they are in high school and three students per seat if they are in elementary
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			<p>school or they are from the same household, and assigning seating when appropriate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Requiring students and bus drivers to stay home when sick ○ Ensuring students and bus drivers wash or sanitize their hands before and after boarding the school bus ○ Cleaning and disinfecting buses after each trip, including high-touch areas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● As of 25 May 2021, the next phase in Yukon will consider relaxing physical distancing, masking and other requirements for approved plans for some or all education and childcare facilities when supported by high vaccination rates and improved understanding of variants <p>Northwest Territories</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Students attending in-person education in the Northwest Territories must monitor for COVID-19 symptoms and parents are to keep their children at home if they are showing one major or two minor COVID-19 symptoms, if they have been outside the territory or in contact with someone who is ill, or if they have a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19 ● Parents in the Northwest Territories should model safe physical distancing and handwashing for students ● The updated JK-12 School Information provided by the Government of Northwest Territories includes a Daily Symptom Screening Tool for Students and Staff (published 21 May 2021) and fact sheet about what parents should do if their child has symptoms of COVID-19 <p>Nunavut</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Health and Safety Guidelines for Nunavut Schools provides guidance for preventing COVID-19 from entering schools, including hygiene, the use of personal protective equipment (PPE), cleaning, classroom structure, physical distancing and changes to transport and student drop-off and pick-up
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	<p>Accompanying infection-control measures</p>	<p>Australia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students and staff are to continue to remain at home if they are feeling unwell (and are highly encouraged to get tested) <p>China</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • China’s updated guidelines require kindergarten and elementary/high schools to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Conduct screening for COVID-19 symptoms at the entrance ○ Register all visitors ○ Set up observation rooms or temporary isolation rooms for people who have suspected symptoms when entering the campus ○ Implement monitoring, registering and reporting systems <p>New Zealand</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under Alert Levels 1, 2 and 3, any child or staff member who develops cold or flu-like symptoms should stay home and seek advice about getting tested • All schools must record student attendance and visitors coming on-site • Visitor registers must be kept for at least two months • Schools are asked to encourage parents to check in to the New Zealand COVID Tracer App • Under Alert Level 1, schools will close for cleaning and contact tracing if there is a confirmed case at school, and if an education facility has a link to a confirmed or probable case of COVID-19, the facility must close for 72 hours to allow for cleaning and contact tracing <p>United States</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All schools should engage in contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine measures • The U.S. CDC guidance also covers contact tracing and protocols for when a positive case is identified 	<p>Canada</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As part of a “layered” approach to mitigating the risks of COVID-19 spread, infection-control measures recommended by Health Canada for child/youth settings include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Prohibiting individuals who have symptoms of or have been exposed to COVID-19 from entering the setting ○ Following directions of local public-health units about entry screening for symptoms or exposure ○ Implementing absenteeism/attendance policies that support staff, volunteers and children to stay home if exhibiting symptoms or if in self-isolation due to exposure • As of 25 March 2020, all travellers incoming to Canada, including international students, are subject to mandatory 14-day quarantine (self-isolation) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Schools must implement policies and procedures to ensure that students who have arrived in Canada follow government orders for quarantining • The Government of Canada promotes the use of its COVID Alert app that notifies Canadian residents using the app, including parents of school children, if they have been exposed to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 <p>British Columbia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents and caregivers are recommended to conduct a daily health check for their child before sending them to school using the K to 12 Health Check App • Staff are required to complete a daily health check before entering the school using the BC Centre for Disease Control’s Self-Assessment Tools, with school and district administrators responsible for verifying staff health checks • Students and staff who 1) have been confirmed by the health authority as testing positive for COVID-19, or 2) have been confirmed by the health authority as having been in close contact of a confirmed case of COVID-19.
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			<p>or 3) have travelled outside of Canada in the last 14 days, are required to stay home and self-isolate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Ministry of Education released a guidance document on management of illness and confirmed cases for schools and district administrators, which outlines protocols for when students or staff develop symptoms at school, when there is a confirmed case of COVID-19 in the school, and when students or staff can return to school • Staff and students who show symptoms while at school and who cannot be picked up immediately should wait in a designated space separated from others and be provided with a non-medical mask, with supervising staff must wear a non-medical mask and face shield when engaging with the isolated individual • All staff and students should complete a daily COVID-19 symptom assessment before coming to campus, with some institutions requiring individuals to provide self-reporting declarations <p>Alberta</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schools in Alberta are required to implement practices to minimize the risk of transmission of infection, provide rapid-response procedures for attendees who fall ill, ensure high levels of sanitation and personal hygiene are maintained by attendees, and comply with all provincial health guidance • All students in Alberta who attend kindergarten to Grade 12 must complete the Alberta Health Daily Checklist for children under 18 before attending school • In the next few weeks, rapid testing in schools will be expanded in Alberta and 440,000 rapid test kits will be distributed to schools <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Students and staff who do not have symptoms can get tested while attending school ○ The number of schools where testing is offered may vary based on school size and the time required to administer the tests
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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each post-secondary institution has developed processes or procedures to respond to COVID-19 based on the province's public-health measures and recommendations for infection control <p>Saskatchewan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Government of Saskatchewan has developed a school testing plan which includes testing of students with parental consent, monitoring and reporting of COVID-19 cases, and priority testing for teachers and staff <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ On 22 March 2021, the Ministry of Health shipped 100,000 rapid testing kits to school divisions, high schools, and qualified independent schools ○ Schools participating in rapid testing are determined based on population density and specific grade levels, with communities experiencing high infection rates prioritized for testing <p>Manitoba</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff should self-administer symptom screening daily before arriving at school, with staff who display symptoms to stay home and self-isolate • In the case of an outbreak, schools are to close off areas used by the infected individual and follow cleaning and disinfecting protocols <p>Ontario</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Government of Ontario released guidance to reopening schools for the 2020/2021 school year <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Students who are symptomatic and/or test positive for COVID-19 may not return until they are cleared ○ Schools are expected to maintain records of classes (including seating charts, bus cohorts, daily records) for contact-tracing purposes ○ Schools are expected to immediately report cases to their local public-health unit • Additional guidance is provided for COVID-19 management in schools by the Ontario government, such as exposures, management, confirmed cases, and returning to school
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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To guide local partners and post-secondary institutions in the community, Toronto Public Health developed COVID-19 guidance with related checklists and decision tools <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Daily records of all staff, students and visitors entering the campus should be recorded (e.g., name, contact information, date, time of arrival/departure, reason for visit, rooms/areas visited, completion of screening) and retained for at least one month ○ Individuals who fall ill should immediately return home or to their dormitory and follow protocols such as getting tested and self-isolating for 14 days <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ensure physical distancing can be maintained, wear masks, have a handwashing sink, provide tissues, designate washrooms separate from other students, open windows, clean and disinfect areas ○ If any individual tested positive for COVID-19, they must self-isolate for 10 days and cannot return until they are cleared by public health ○ Post-secondary settings must immediately report laboratory-confirmed cases to Toronto Public Health ○ Post-secondary settings can request on-site COVID-19 testing (e.g., for suspected outbreaks in residences) <p>Prince Edward Island</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The public-health department will lead the response and provide guidance to schools in the circumstance of a confirmed case of COVID-19, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Contact tracing will be conducted ○ Offer testing to staff and students who may have been exposed to a positive case • Public-health department will assess the need for partial or full school closure based on the following criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Sporadic cases or clusters in the local community ○ Sporadic cases in school ○ Clear clusters in school across cohorts ○ Widespread local community transmission • Students or staff members exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms at school must be picked up or leave school
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			<p>immediately, asked to wear a mask and self-isolate in an isolated room, get tested for COVID-19</p> <p>Newfoundland and Labrador</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any student, staff or other person within the school must stay home, self-isolate, and follow the advice of public health if they: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have symptoms of COVID-19, or Have travelled outside the province or outside the communities along the Labrador-Quebec border in the last 14 days, or Were identified as a close contact of a confirmed case or outbreak Parents, students and school staff must review the self-screening questionnaire each day before going to a school building, and visitors must also use this questionnaire to determine if they may enter a school <p>Yukon</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students and staff must stay home when they are sick or showing symptoms, and guidance was developed for children aged six months to five years old, and children six years and older <p>Northwest Territories</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Schools in the Northwest Territories will contain a dedicated room where a student can safety isolate in the event that they show symptoms of COVID-19 while at school Students asked to self-isolate in the Northwest Territories can return to in-person learning once a healthcare practitioner indicates to the parents/guardians and school that it is safe <p>Nunavut</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Health and Safety Guidelines for Nunavut Schools provides guidance for controlling infection of COVID-19 in schools, including cohorting and isolation protocols for students
Reported challenges implementing any of the measures above	Australia	Canada	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grade school teachers are not currently prioritized to receive the COVID-19 vaccine and students under the age of 18 are not recommended to be vaccinated under the national vaccine distribution roll-out plan <p>Israel</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Health Ministry Director of Israel stated that 20% of teachers have not yet been vaccinated, and there are risks given that students aged 16 years and under are not able to get the vaccine until next month <p>U.K.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The U.K. government has not yet included school and childcare workers in the COVID-19 vaccination priority groups Teachers expressed frustration and asked the U.K. government to provide decisive guidance on face masks in secondary schools <p>U.S.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> According to Executive Order 14000, Supporting the Reopening and Continuing Operation of Schools and Early Childhood Education Providers, every student in America deserves a high-quality education in a safe environment Some students, including students from low-income backgrounds, students of colour, LGBTQ+ students, English learners, students with disabilities, American-Indian and Alaska-Native students, students who are migratory, students in foster care, students in correctional facilities, and students experiencing homelessness, are less likely to have access to the broadband, resources and other supports necessary to participate in high-quality remote education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Government of Canada has offered supports for provinces and territories throughout the pandemic, but they have not always been fully used <ul style="list-style-type: none"> According to the federal government, it has shipped more than 41 million rapid tests to Canadian provinces, but only 1.7 million tests have actually been used The Government of Canada also continues to offer Statistics Canada operators to make contact tracing calls during the pandemic, but the operators' services have not been used anywhere near their full capacity <p>Alberta</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> One day after requiring remote learning for students in Grades 7 to 12 in hotspot regions only, the Premier of Alberta announced that all schools and post-secondary institutions will have to move to remote learning after thousands of students and staff were found to be in isolation due to COVID-19 exposure <p>Ontario</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increasing rates of COVID-19 cases were reported in children and youth aged four to 17 years in addition to increased school outbreaks from mid-February to mid-March 2021 in Ontario, resulting in provincewide school closures after the April break Most universities in Ontario remain open with limited staff and students on campus, but some universities continue to face outbreaks on campus <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Select universities have asked students to move out of residences earlier due to rising case rate and variants of concern (VOCs) <p>Québec</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Despite public-health measures, a rise in positive active cases has been reported among students and staff, which may reflect the rise in VOCs and limited vaccinations for school-age groups in Québec There are concerns from students related to some CEGEP programs scheduling in-person exams
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Bain T, Bhuiya A, Al-Khateeb S, Wang Q, Mansilla C, Rintjema J, DeMaio P, Matthews M, Lavis JN, Wilson MG. COVID-19 living evidence profile #3 (version 3.3): What is known about how schools (K-12) and post-secondary institutions (colleges and universities) adjust COVID-19 transmission-mitigation measures as infection rates change and vaccination rates increase? Hamilton: McMaster Health Forum, 23 September 2021.

To help health- and social-system leaders as they respond to unprecedented challenges related to the COVID-19 pandemic, the McMaster Health Forum is preparing rapid evidence profiles like this one. This rapid evidence profile is funded by the Public Health Agency of Canada. The opinions, results, and conclusions are those of the McMaster Health Forum and are independent of the funder. No endorsement by the Public Health Agency of Canada is intended or should be inferred.



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