

HEALTHY SCHOOLS QUICK SCAN

Return to School for Students with Prevalent Medical Conditions

May 15 2020

Request from Jennifer Munro-Galloway, Ontario:

Q: Is your jurisdiction considering additional measures or guidance for bringing students who have prevalent-type medical conditions back into school?

August 28 2020


Request from Peggy Orbasli, Newfoundland and Labrador:

Q: I was wondering if a scan can be done (or has been done) through JCSH membership to see what guidance other jurisdictions are using to support back to school plans for immunocompromised students. For example, are there any documents created for schools to use or are there any forms created to be used by health care providers to guide safe return to school for this population?

A: Summary of Canadian P/T Responses

Jurisdiction	Additional measures or guidance?	Notes
BC	Yes	https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/education/administration/kindergarten-to-grade-12/safe-caring-orderly/k-12-covid-19-health-safety-guidlines.pdf Advice from the Provincial Health Officer and the BC Centre for Disease Control (from above document): *most children who are immunocompromised can return to in-class instruction when safety measures are in place. Protective self- isolation is only recommended for children who are severely immunocompromised, as determined on a case-by case basis. School districts and schools should be aware of BCCDC Guidelines for Children with Immune Suppression and BCCDC Guidance for Families of

		<p>Immunocompromised Children in School and Group Gatherings and share these documents with families of children with immune suppression.</p> <p>*for parents/caregivers of children with complex medical conditions or underlying risk factors, or parents/caregivers who are immunocompromised themselves: consult with their medical health care provider to determine the level of risk regarding their child’s return to in-class instruction.</p> <p>*Parents/caregivers seeking an alternative to in-class instruction, and who do not wish to register their child in a distributed learning program or homeschooling, will be required to obtain a doctor’s note indicating the need for accommodations due to health-related risks.</p>
AB	No	no return to school decisions have been made
SK	Yes	<p>In Saskatchewan considerations have been taken to safely support the learning needs of all students. Local health officials will be providing support to divisions for the implementation of these measures, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personal interactions with intensive needs/immune-compromised students’ conditions will be in place to allow for the provision of supports within a safe and secure environment, which may include in-school setting or other appropriate spaces for the delivery of education. • Medically fragile students will have supports in place to address their educational needs. • School divisions will work with their local medical health officer to address the unique needs of immunocompromised students, to prepare for the ongoing safety of students and staff in proactive and responsive measures, and will have alternative learning opportunities in place for students who are unable to attend school for medical reason. • \$10 million will be available to enhance non-classroom options like distance learning to help ensure immunocompromised and medically fragile students have continuous access to learning across school divisions, available on an application basis. <p>The Saskatchewan Safe Schools Plan can be found here.</p>
MB		
ON	No	

QC	Yes	Students and staff who have a condition that increases their risk for serious complications of COVID-19 are advised to stay home until September 2020.
NB		
NS	No	No return to school decisions made yet
PE	No	
NL	In the process of creating guidelines	(August 30) Back to school plan released with guidance for immunocompromised students currently being created. Some students may have a delayed start depending on their individual situation. Looking at creating forms for health care providers to fill in to assist in ensuring a safe school environment for students at higher risk.
NU	Yes	<p>(August 30) Parents/guardians schedule appointments with the child's health care providers and with school leaders for a return to school consultation to discuss/plan for a student's individual circumstances.</p>  <p>NU_Health and Safety Guidelines (E)</p>
NT		
YK	No	(August 31): Yukon has a Continuity of Learning document which outlines many return to school matters. Students/families and their home school have been asked and are asked, to have this conversation prior to a return to school. Families are asked to consult with their Administrator, Teacher and Student Support Services in order to identify and assess the needs as well as the plan that can be put into place for the safety of the student.

Q: Have any of the health condition associations provided/recommended additional measures or guidance for bringing students who have prevalent-type medical conditions back into school?

A: Summary of health condition associations.

Association/ Health Condition	Additional measures or guidance?	Notes
Asthma Canada / Asthma	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not enough information regarding risk of asthma exacerbation with COVID-19. • For now, we recommend continuing all currently prescribed daily asthma medications, calling your doctor’s office if you have had frequent symptoms or needed your rescue inhaler more often, and starting your asthma treatment plan as soon as possible if symptoms occur.
Diabetes Canada / Type 1 Diabetes	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COVID-19 can cause more severe symptoms and complications in some people living with diabetes, the elderly, and those with other chronic conditions such as heart disease & lung disease. • It is important to minimize this risk by being proactive with your prevention strategies.

Epilepsy Canada / Epilepsy	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuing to monitor how COVID-19 affects those living with epilepsy
Food Allergy Canada / Anaphylaxis	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not specific to children/youth in schools, however, to reduce the burden on hospital emergency departments, and to reduce the spread of the virus, national allergy societies have suggested that allergists could advise that in some cases, food-related allergic reactions could be managed without going to emergency. This approach would only be considered for people whose symptoms immediately and completely resolve after one dose of epinephrine (i.e., within the five-minute window of time before a second dose is given to address a lack of improvement in symptoms). If not, calling 911 and a trip to the ED is warranted. To determine if temporarily changing the management advice for food allergic reactions is appropriate, patients are to discuss with their physician prior to a reaction.