

School Hours

8:00 - First Bell
9:30-9:45 - Recess
11:27-11:55 - Recess
11:55-12:15 - Lunch
2:40 - Dismissal

ECDP/Kindergarten

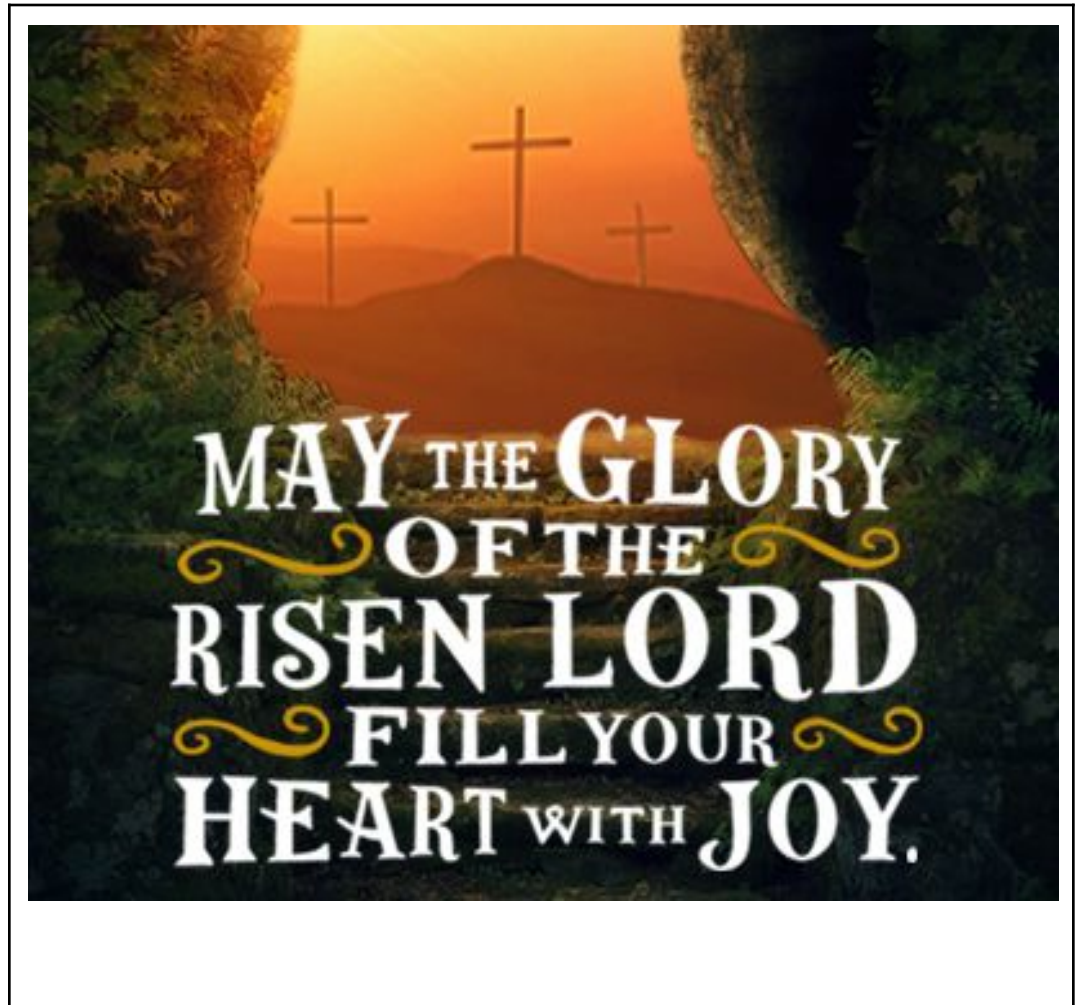
8:05 - 10:51

To ensure the safety of all, students should not arrive at school before 7:45 and should leave school grounds immediately after dismissal unless involved in an after-school activity.



A reminder to parents/guardians: It is mandatory to wear a mask if you are entering the building for an appointment, or to visit the office.

Parents/guardians are also encouraged to wear masks when dropping off and picking up students



Student Absences

Please notify the office if your child is going to be late, absent, or (specifically for online learning) if there is a technology issue causing your child to be unable to join their virtual class by calling or emailing with “absent”, “late”, or “tech issue” and your child’s name in the subject line.

780.743.1079 kayla.dalley@fmpsdschools.ca or sorina.saayman@fmpsdschools.ca

**THY WORD IS A LAMP UNTO MY FEET AND A LIGHT UNTO MY PATH.
(PSALM 119:105 KJV)**

<https://christian.fmpsdschools.ca/>

A Royal Message From Administration

April brings Spring and thoughts of warmer temperatures, sunny days, spending time outside, splashing in puddles...and this year it brings us Easter. Easter marks the death and resurrection of Jesus. This is a time when we recognize the sacrifice He made for us, and the hope of eternal life. Easter is also a celebration of God's love for us.

There's a lot happening at FMCS including Science Fairs, Open Houses, Digital Photography, Watershed Projects, an Easter (virtual, pre-recorded) presentation/concert, and community service projects in every grade (FLEx). Most recently we hosted a Junior High Open House to highlight our academics, sports, options and Christian programming. Did you know that on our province's annual Accountability Pillar, FMCS ranks amongst the highest of schools in Alberta in the following categories: academic programming, safe and caring, and continuous improvement? Below is a summary of our 2020 results. As an example, did you also know that grade two has fundraised for water wells for the third consecutive year (see specific information further along in the newsletter)? This month we are highlighting our Junior High and grade two classes.

Accountability Pillar Overall Summary- 2020

Measure Category	Measure	Fort McMurray Christian School			Alberta			Measure Evaluation		
		Current Result	Prev Year Result	Prev 3 Year Average	Current Result	Prev Year Result	Prev 3 Year Average	Achievement	Improvement	Overall
Safe and Caring Schools	Safe and Caring	84.3	88.2	90.7	89.4	89.0	89.2	Very High	Improved	Excellent
Student Learning Opportunities	Program of Studies	81.8	82.1	80.0	82.4	82.2	82.0	Very High	Maintained	Excellent
	Education Quality	83.3	87.0	90.6	90.3	90.2	90.1	Very High	Maintained	Excellent
	Drop Out Rate	0.0	*	n/a	2.7	2.6	2.7	Very High	n/a	n/a
Preparation for Lifelong Learning, World of Work, Citizenship	Transition Rate (6 yr)	n/a	n/a	n/a	60.1	59.0	58.5	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Work Preparation	86.4	80.4	84.4	84.1	83.0	82.7	Very High	Improved	Excellent
	Citizenship	91.6	83.7	87.7	83.3	82.9	83.2	Very High	Improved	Excellent
Parental Involvement	Parental Involvement	84.4	78.3	80.7	81.8	81.3	81.2	Very High	Improved	Excellent
Continuous Improvement	School Improvement	90.2	75.3	77.3	81.5	81.0	80.9	Very High	Improved Significantly	Excellent

God is on the move at Fort McMurray Christian School, and we are excited to highlight examples of our programming this month and in our May and June newsletters. If you have any questions or would like to find out more, we invite you to reach out to our school team.

Blessings,

Admin. Team -
 Bobbi Compton, Principal
 Dan Baseley, Vice Principal



THY WORD IS A LAMP UNTO MY FEET AND A LIGHT UNTO MY PATH.

(PSALM 119:105 KJV)

<https://christian.fmpsdschools.ca/>

School Council



My job involves helping people look below a text to find the sub-text. Asking hard questions. Pushing back on people's ideas to help refine them. Asking them to support their arguments with evidence. Pointing out the weaknesses in their reasoning. My goal is to help people sharpen their thinking, probe ideas deeply and communicate their ideas effectively.

It's possible I bring my work home.

Knowing my son is shaped by the influences around him, I have always taught him to question what he hears. To identify underlying assumptions. To step back from a situation to consider its context. To consider ideas and experiences through the lens of scripture, and to assess their truth. Then to apply that same lens to himself.

It's a work in progress.

As Christians who are bombarded by the influences of a secular culture on every hand, it is vital that we learn to exercise those critical reasoning skills as we live out our faith in a society that increasingly views the Christian worldview as foreign.



But I am thankful that my children are able to mature and develop these thinking skills within the context of a Christian school environment.

When my grade 1 son comes home and quotes his teacher -- with the same certitude that his brother once announced, "Santa Claus is real," on the drive home from daycare -- I am glad that the ideas he brings home are likely to coincide with scripture, rather than contradicting it.

In another school, that may well not be the case.

See you on the playground,

Lisa Podor, Chair
School Council

Join the School Council conversation Tuesday, April 20 at 7 pm on Google Meet [here](#)

Hosanna!



THY WORD IS A LAMP UNTO MY FEET AND A LIGHT UNTO MY PATH.

(PSALM 119:105 KJV)

<https://christian.fmpsdschools.ca/>

Fort McMurray Christian School Society



A big thank you to all of those who volunteered and donated bottles during last month's bottle drive. We collected so many bottles that the depot staff are still counting them all! If you missed out on the bottle drive and want to get in on the fun, don't worry! Due the success of this fundraiser we will be planning additional bottle drives throughout the year. Stay tuned!

Part of the Society's mandate is to promote the school in our community. We have been working closely with Teachers and Staff on a number of things and we expect to be rolling them out this month. Follow the school's social media posts to hear how you and your family can be involved.

As always, if you have any questions or comments for your Society Executive, we would love to hear from you. Email society.fmcs@gmail.com and we will be sure to follow up with you.

On behalf of your Society Executive,
Dennis



To the members of Fort McMurray Christian School Society (dated March 25, 2021),

There are great things happening within our school this year and we hope that you and your child(ren) feel that way as well! Starting this spring/summer there will be exciting new developments taking place to the exterior of our school! The goal is to make our school building look, and hopefully feel, more like a place of its own, for us to call home.

These upcoming exterior renovations provide the opportunity to improve building signage and the Society Executive would like to invite you to a General Meeting on Thursday, April 15th at 7pm to hear more about these opportunities. This meeting will be done online and further information regarding the platform will be given closer to the night.

There are two motions to be discussed and voted upon on April 15.

1. 5.5' high x 9.5' wide digital LED sign to be installed on the east side (main entrance) of the building.

Society Motion from March 18, 2021: That Fort McMurray Christian School Society Executive bring to its

**THY WORD IS A LAMP UNTO MY FEET AND A LIGHT UNTO MY PATH.
(PSALM 119:105 KJV)**

<https://christian.fmpsdschools.ca/>

membership the request to spend up to \$35k for the purchase and installation of a digital sign. Funds will be withdrawn from our current investments and will be coded against the value allocated on our balance sheet as Capital Reserves.

2. 13" tall aluminum letters, with overhead lighting stating "Fort McMurray Christian School" to be installed on the south side (facing Brett Drive).

Society Motion from March 18, 2021: At the upcoming meeting to discuss signage we add illuminated sign to Brett as an additional sign to discuss.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact one of the Society Executive Members, listed below.

Sincerely,
Christine Gogolinski
Chair of Fort McMurray Christian School Society

Current Members of the 2020/2021 Society Executive:

Clementina Okoro: tinaokoro2001@yahoo.com

Lisa Podor: lmvpodor@hotmail.com

Dennis Vroom: dennisvroom1@gmail.com

Christine Gogolinski: christine@uncontainedphotography.com

A Message from our TfT Program Coordinator



Teaching For Transformation

April marks the start of something special for many of us. The seasons are starting to change and the ideas of gardens are starting to bloom. In April, we are going to focus our worship on Earth Keeping; God's call to be stewards of all creation. We see this come alive in our hallways as many classes embark on new projects such as grade 7 Science study of plants, junior high plant science option class and life cycles in grade 3. As you watch new life come from God's earth, we challenge you to think about ways that your family can reclaim and relearn how to demonstrate His love for all parts of life.



Lois Ann Emberley
TfT Coordinator
loisann.emberley@fmpsds.ab.ca

 Fort McMurray Christian School

 @ChristianFMPSD

 fm_christian_school

From Our Classrooms...

From Grade Two



Grade Two - Community Project (FLEx)

Our grade two students are “happy campers” who aim to serve those in need. For the past three years, they have met their annual goal of raising \$2800 for the Legacy Water Foundation. This organization has used these funds to repair two community wells in South Sudan. Despite COVID-19 restrictions, our grade twos raised \$3,040 this year! They sold ornaments and jewellery they made themselves, completed chores, and recycled bottles.

Check out the good works that came from last year’s efforts.

<https://legacywaterfoundation.com/southsudan/kunyuk-village/>



From Junior High



FMCS Junior High

The phrase “Small but Mighty” comes to mind for some of us, in reference to our Junior High program. We have always been mighty in academics - with Grade 9 PAT results that are often above provincial and city averages. Our smaller classes facilitate more individual student-teacher contact. It is largely this, and our more communal environment, that have led to such positive outcomes.

Our program is also mighty in athletics, and our small size allows us to extend more opportunities for students to participate. We have yet to “cut” a player from any of our teams, and are proud to have won multiple city championships nonetheless.

Our electives or option courses are unique, and largely based on discussions with students. This is also possible because of our smaller size. Aside from the Worship Arts program, our other Junior High options have included various languages, textiles, digital photography, as well as plant science. We also look forward to the arrival of our school division’s Space Program next year - further enhancing the variety of what we have to offer.

THY WORD IS A LAMP UNTO MY FEET AND A LIGHT UNTO MY PATH.
(PSALM 119:105 KJV)

<https://christian.fmpsdschools.ca/>



We hope that you will consider our Junior High program, when determining where to educate your adolescent children. Truly, we are “Small but Mighty!”

Our Junior High team would like to sincerely thank everyone - parents, students, as well as our Division Superintendent - who attended our recent Open House. Please do not hesitate to contact us, if you have any further questions about our program.

We would love to see you in September, 2021!



Mrs. Gillies, Mrs. Emberley, and our grade 8/9s have done a great job this month. They participated in a student environmental competition called “Caring for our Watersheds.” Contestants were required to identify an environmental concern, devise a solution, and submit an essay proposal to a panel of judges. Students from all over central and northern Alberta submitted entries.

Of our five student submissions, three were chosen to compete in the finals! These students will orally present their work live, online, and are eligible to win cash prizes.

Way to go, kids, and good luck in the finals!

THY WORD IS A LAMP UNTO MY FEET AND A LIGHT UNTO MY PATH.

(PSALM 119:105 KJV)

<https://christian.fmpsdschools.ca/>



CARING FOR OUR
Watersheds[®]
Central Alberta

2021 Finalists

School	Student Name(s)	Proposal Idea
Bishop Lloyd Middle School, Lloydminster	Maheen Mangla	1.Save 2.Compost 3.Plant 4.Donate 5.Care
Ecole McTavish High School, Fort McMurray	Brooklyn Gordon, Bianca Smith	Colouring and Activity Book
Fort McMurray Christian School	Esther Okorie, Lydia O'Byrne, Onyinyechi Okoro	Switch to LEDs
Fort McMurray Christian School	Heidi Oxford, Abigail Friend, Selah Huygen	Composting and the Benefits to the Environment
Fort McMurray Christian School	Tino Kwatara, Edrey Jhun Albances, Fernando Rodrigues	The Importance of Removing Dog feces
Lacombe Composite High School	Harish Guggilapu, Hailey Ash, Harika Guggilapu, Jazmine Toews	The EPICCC Garden
Lillian Osborne High School, Edmonton	Tracy Cui	A Garden for the Community, by the Community
M.E. LaZerte High School, Edmonton	Sarah Esmail	A Cure To The Plastic Pandemic
New Myrnam School, Myrnam	Samantha O'Reilly, Jaeanna Saskiw, Kalla Morrill	Backyard Poultry Project
Ross Sheppard High School, Edmonton	Ousila-Lee Trang	Become Cleaner Inhabitants with Thyme Disinfectants

These students are invited to compete in the Final Competition
Saturday April 24th, 2021.

Apple School Memo



A Bite of Health



As an APPLE School, we strive to build a healthy school community, focusing on improving students' healthy eating, physical activity, and mental health habits.

The Power of Positivity

This month, students are learning about supporting their mental health through a campaign called The Power of Positivity. Here is a summary of the learnings and how you can support your child's health.

The body and mind connection

Caring for your health includes caring for your mind. Enjoying physical activity, eating healthy foods, practicing gratitude, and having fun are all small steps that can improve your mental health and reduce stress¹.

So much of our day-to-day involves things we cannot control, but maintaining a positive attitude and feeling grateful helps to manage daily mental health.



5 ways to practice gratitude

1. **Make a gratitude Jar** – have friends and family fill it with short notes of gratitude, like “I’m thankful my daughter enjoys soccer.” Pick times to pull them out and share with friends and family.²
2. **Make it stick** – leave sticky notes for each family member, thanking them for something you appreciate or leave a positive note in your child’s lunchbox.²
3. **Reflection** – reflect through mindfulness, meditation, or relaxation. Take time to be still and calm, and focus on the present moment.³
4. **Small gestures** – sometimes all it takes is a smile, handshake, or wave to express your thanks.³
5. **Give back** – return kindness that someone extended to you.³

Good-mood food

Some foods are rumored to increase your serotonin level! Serotonin is a “happy hormone” in your body that can put you in a good mood. Eggs, cheese, tofu, and pineapples are just a few examples!

References

¹ <http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/info/Page13618.aspx>

² <http://www.today.com/news/get-grateful-20-ways-teach-kids-gratitude-tots-teens-1D80297963>

³ <http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/assets/info/amh/if-amh-ways-to-wellness-gratitude.pdf>



For more information about APPLE Schools, visit
www.appleschools.ca





Prayer Corner

Parents, friends, churches and community partners, please remember us in prayer.

- Stronger connections with our church communities
- Continued safety for everyone amid a global pandemic
- Calming of anxieties for our students and clear their minds so they can focus and learn
- Increased enrolment/growth for our school

From Our FMCS Prayer Group!

Let's pray together to discern God's will for our school, and the needs of our school community.

We meet virtually every other Tuesday. All are welcome. Come to pray, or send us your prayer requests!

"FMCS Prayer Group" on Facebook

Or prayer.fmcs@gmail.com

Or reach out to Laura Blake or Lacey Miller for more info.



Month	Hymn of the Month
September	Shout to the Lord! Link
October (Thanksgiving)	Take my Life and Let it Be
November	One Step at a Time
December (Christmas)	He is Here
January	Majesty
February (Valentine's)	The love of God Praise Him Praise him all Ye Little Children
March	Christ Arose
April (Easter)	For the Beauty of the Earth All Creatures of our God and King
May	Shine Jesus Shine
June	What a Friend We Have In Jesus

THY WORD IS A LAMP UNTO MY FEET AND A LIGHT UNTO MY PATH.
(PSALM 119:105 KJV)

<https://christian.fmpsdschools.ca/>

Bus Late?

Check out the schedule myschoolbusmonitor.ca

My School Bus Monitor

LIVE SCHOOL BUS UPDATES -- STAY INFORMED!



What's Happening at FMCS?

April

- 2 - Good Friday
- 2-9 - Easter Break
- 20- Monthly School Council Meeting
- 15 - 7pm Special Society Meeting
- 16 - Nature day
- 20 - School Council Meeting
- 22 - Society Meeting
- 23 - PLF
- 27- Kindergarten Grad photos
- 27- Spring photos
- 30 - Wacky/Crazy Hair Day for National Hairstyle day

May

- 7 - PLF
- 14 - Each class will dress in a different colour for FMCS rainbow day
 - ECDP - Red
 - K - Indigo
 - 1 - Orange
 - 2 - Green
 - 3 - Blue
 - 4 - Pink
 - 5 - Green
 - 6 - Red
 - 7 - Yellow
 - 8 - Purple
 - 9 - Blue
 - Office Staff - Yellow
- 21 - No school for students
- 28 - Future Friday, show us what you would like to be in the future
- 29 - Bottle Drive

June

- 4 - Super Hero Day (dress as a fictional, or real hero!)
- 11 - Dress like a teacher
- 18 - Nerd Day
- 24 - Last Day of School

THY WORD IS A LAMP UNTO MY FEET AND A LIGHT UNTO MY PATH.
(PSALM 119:105 KJV)

<https://christian.fmpsdschools.ca/>

Easter Happens – An Easter Sermon On Matthew 28:1-10

Easter Sunday – [Matthew 28:1-10](#) by Reverend Michael K. Marsh

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

It echoes in here when I say that, like it might in an empty tomb.

Most everyone is at home, keeping to themselves. There are no overflowing crowds celebrating Jesus' resurrection. People are not showing up dressed in their Easter finest. There are no fancy dresses or hats. There are no "eggstravaganzas" for kids gathered with Easter baskets. Friends and family will not be sitting down together for a big Easter feast. It's been a time of turmoil, chaos, and loss. Anxiety is in the air. People are shaken, as if by an earthquake. The future is unknown and uncertain.

You know what I am talking about, right? Yes, I'm sure you do.

You know that I am talking about that very first Easter day. I am talking about that "great earthquake" that happened "as the first day of the week was dawning." I am talking about that day the stone was rolled back from Jesus' tomb. I am talking about that day only two women showed up for Easter, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary.

That is what you were thinking, right?

Our Easter Sunday isn't much different from that first one, is it? Regardless of what's going on around us, how many people show up, the ways in which it is or is not celebrated, or whether it happens how or where we want or think it should – Easter happens. God is faithful and Easter happens in whatever the circumstances of our life and world might be. It did back then and it does now. Easter happens.

Jesus' Easter message is pretty simple and straight forward. "Greetings! Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers [and sisters] to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

That's what he told the two women that day. And it's what he tells us today whether we are by ourselves, with another person, or with our family. It's the same Easter message we heard last year when the church was packed and overflowing.

"Greetings! Do not be afraid.... Go to Galilee; there [you] will see me."



THY WORD IS A LAMP UNTO MY FEET AND A LIGHT UNTO MY PATH.

(PSALM 119:105 KJV)

<https://christian.fmpsdschools.ca/>

“Go to Galilee.” That’s where the disciples were from. It’s their hometown. He could just as well have said, “Go home; there you will see me.”

So let me ask you this: where might you see Jesus today, tomorrow, the next day, and the day after that?

In the people who are most familiar to you? In a stranger standing six feet away? In a masked face? In a meal shared with only two or three? In the turmoil of your life? In the familiarity of your own home? In your marriage? In your parenting? In your caregiving for a parent? In your suffering and sickness? In your fear of death? In those moments of love when you risk intimacy and vulnerability? In your loneliness and isolation? In the hell of a broken heart? In the struggle to turn your life in a new direction? In your hopes and dreams? In your successes and failures? In the beauty of creation? In the wonder of life? In your gratuities and thanksgivings?

Yes. Yes to all of those and the thousands of others places where you will see him.

Easter is happening, and if we can’t see Jesus in our ordinary everyday life we surely won’t see him among overflowing crowds, fancy dresses, and Easter egg hunts; and neither will we find him in the alleluias, lilies, hymns, icons, shiny brass, the paschal candle, the bread and the wine, or the beauty of our church. Easter always happens in the ordinary and everyday stuff of life.

Do not be afraid. Go to Galilee. There you will see him. That’s the Easter promise to you and me. Easter happens, and it is already happening in the Galilee of your lives.

Alleluia! Christ is risen! Let those words echo through your life and home, like they might in an empty tomb.

Easter is happening

Taken from

(<https://interruptingthesilence.com/2020/04/12/easter-happens-an-easter-sermon-on-matthew-281-10/>)

Updated Division Re-entry Plan

Updated COVID Information **New** Daily Healthy Checklist for Children Under 18

COVID-19 INFORMATION

HOW LONG TO STAY HOME FROM SCHOOL

The amount of time a student needs to stay home from school depends on the type of symptoms.
For more details: [Isolation requirements](#)

If a student has these symptoms

What to do

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Loss of sense of smell or taste

- Isolate at home for a minimum of 10 days from when symptoms started or until symptoms resolve, whichever is longer.
- COVID-19 testing is recommended.
- Can return to school before 10 days only if a COVID-19 test is negative, symptoms are gone, and the student was not a close contact of someone with COVID-19.
- Do not enter any long-term care settings for 10 days and until symptoms have resolved.
- If test results are positive, isolate at home for at least 10 days and follow instructions received from Alberta Health Services.

One of the following symptoms:

- Chills
- Sore throat/painful swallowing
- Runny nose/congestion
- Headache
- Muscle or joint aches
- Feeling unwell/fatigued
- Nausea, vomiting or diarrhea
- Unexplained loss of appetite
- Muscle/joint aches
- Headache
- Pink eye (conjunctivitis)

- Stay home from school and monitor for 24 hours. If after 24 hours your symptoms improve, you may return to school when you are feeling better.
- A COVID-19 test is not required but is available.
- Do not enter any long-term care settings for 10 days and until symptoms have resolved.

If a child has any two of these symptoms, or after 24 hours, their condition gets worse or they develop a second symptom:

- COVID-19 test recommended.
- May return to school after symptoms are gone, even without a COVID-19 test or results.
- Do not enter any long-term care settings for 10 days and until symptoms have resolved.
- If test results are positive, isolate at home for at least 10 days and follow instructions received from Alberta Health Services.