

Three Key Findings (November 23 to 27)

1) COVID-19 Quarantines/Isolations 2) Curriculum Concerns 3) Mental Health Indicators
Reporting from 1,590 Alberta Teachers and School Leaders

1 COVID-19 Quarantines/Isolations

75%



of Alberta classrooms have had students moved into **quarantine and/or isolation** due to COVID-19.



“At times I had lost about half of all my students in my three classes. Recently we had to send home all of our grade ten and elevens.”
– Alberta teacher

Teachers are **moderately to extremely concerned** about:

73%



student mental health

60%

student academic performance

“Huge impact on the quality and quantity of learning that has been difficult to catch up.” – Alberta central office

1 in 3 Teachers

have been **quarantined** and/or **isolated** due to COVID-19 infections or exposures.



1 in 4 School Leaders

have been **quarantined** and/or **isolated** due to COVID-19 infections or exposures.

HALF

of Alberta **school leaders** have had to directly **contact families** in their communities due to **COVID-19** exposure(s).

77%

of **school leaders** indicate some level of **discomfort** at being asked to take on **contact tracing** activities.

“I'm not a public health official. I cannot rectify their concerns, expedite the process, share what I don't know, respect privacy already violated by social media while being open and transparent. These are unrealistic expectations and our admin team has worked countless evenings, weekends and statutory holidays doing this [contact tracing] aspect of working during COVID-19.” – Alberta school principal

2

Curriculum Concerns

64%

of teachers state that **many students** in their **classes** are **struggling** with **learning**.

82%

of teachers state that student **assessment practices** are a **challenge** in the pandemic. Online teachers--> strong agreement (91%).



9 in 10 Teachers

...**do not** think that Alberta schools will be ready to **implement** new programs of study in September 2021.

...have **no confidence** in the new processes for **curriculum development** just introduced by the Minister of Education.

3

Mental Health Indicators



92%

of respondents reporting **fatigue**



91%

of respondents reporting **stress**



62%

of respondents 'extremely' concerned about **teacher mental health**

“I feel exhausted, depleted and discouraged every day. The toll this is taking on teacher mental health and wellness is a detriment and completely unsustainable. I love my students and want to be a positive light for them; that's why I go to school everyday. I am considering leaving this system and profession...this could have been avoided by better planning, funding, resources, prioritizing and support.” – Alberta teacher

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

Measuring Teacher & School Leader Mental Health
More than half the days, or nearly every day, this past week...

52%

...feeling **nervous, anxious** or on edge

35%

...feeling **down, depressed** or hopeless

“The current scenario is not sustainable. We don't have enough drivers for busses, teachers for classrooms, custodians for schools, administrative assistants to answer phones. I'm exhausted and hopeless.”
– Alberta school principal

1,590 Alberta teachers and school leaders. Alberta Pandemic Pulse Survey (November 23 to 27, 2020). Random stratified sample and longitudinal chain-referral sample.

Margin of Error +/- 2.5% on all questions (19 times out of 20).

Further information about the Association's research is available from Dr Philip McRae at the Alberta Teachers' Association; e-mail: research@ata.ab.ca.



The Alberta Teachers' Association