

November 25, 2020

Re: Update Regarding Provincial COVID-19 Measures and Mandatory Shifts in Learning

Dear CRPS Families:

Late yesterday afternoon, Alberta's government introduced a new series of COVID-19 measures that impact various sectors throughout Alberta. Some of these mandatory measures impact education.

The impact to K-12 education is as follows:

- All diploma exams that were scheduled to be written in January, April and June will be optional until August 2021. Students, in conjunction with their parents, will make the decision to write or not to write the diploma exams. If a student chooses *not* to write the exam, they will be given an exemption by the province. Please note that CRPS students who choose *not* to write a diploma examination will be required to write a school based cumulative examination.
- CRPS Grades 7-12 students (and Grade 7-12 students province wide) will move to At-Home Learning, [Scenario 3](#), effective Monday, November 30th through Friday, December 18, which is the last day of classes before winter break.
- The first week back to school for all CRPS Grade 7-12 students, January 4th - 8th, will also be in Scenario 3 with At-Home Learning.
- CRPS Grades K-6 students will remain in school from now through December 18th which is the last day of classes before winter break.
- The first week back to school for all CRPS K-6 students, January 4th - 8th, will be in Scenario 3 with At-Home Learning.
- Please remember that school dismissal on December 18th is at 12:00 PM.
- Grades K-12 students will return to in-school learning, on January 11th, except for those students who are currently opting for At-Home Learning for the remainder of the school year.

The province was clear that regardless of how a school is configured (e.g. Grades 4 - 8 middle schools), Grades K-6 will remain in school and Grades 7 - 12 will switch to At-Home Learning. The province outlined that this was not about grade configuration, but rather about the ages of students and other relative considerations.

The Minister of Education conveyed that these decisions were made after careful consideration and are based on the advice of Alberta's Chief Medical Officer of Health. While in-school transmissions appear to be occurring at relatively low levels over the past three months, the temporary shift to At-Home Learning for Grades 7 - 12 will help limit the spread of COVID-19, as well as alleviate operational and learning challenges. Requiring all students to stay home from school following the break is also intended to help reduce the impact of any exposures over the holidays.

Detailed information will be sent directly to parents of Grade 7-12 students from their school by Friday, November 27th at 12:00 pm. We are requesting that you do not contact your child/children's school or district office with questions about the aforementioned information at this time. Please wait until you have received the communication from your child's school and if you still have questions, contact your child's school at that time.

Information regarding At-Home Learning from January 4th - 8th will be communicated to parents by December 11th. We want to reiterate that *all* students from Grades K-12 will be engaged in At-Home Learning from January 4th - 8th.

We understand that the shift to At-Home Learning on Monday for families of Grades 7-12 students may create additional challenges for students and families. Please remember that students and families can still access school staff members who provide mental health support when they are learning from home, whether via email, phone, google meet, etc. Please reach out as needed to these individuals in your child's school.

We greatly appreciate your cooperation and your efforts in supporting these changes to ensure continuity of learning for all of our students.

Sincerely,



Christopher MacPhee
Superintendent of Schools