

Canadian Rockies School Division 618 – 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue Canmore, AB T1W 2H5

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August 5, 2020

Re. Update for Parents – At-home Learning and Personal Protective Equipment

Families of Canadian Rockies Public Schools.

As a followup to my letter on July 22, 2020, I want to provide you with a brief summary of the latest information (click here for the Alberta Government website) that we received from the province with regard to PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) as we prepare for the 2020/2021 school year. I also want to let you know about an important survey that we need CRPS families to complete by August 12th or earlier. This survey will help us meet the needs of families who are interested in choosing an "at-home learning" option for their child/children.

Yesterday, the province announced that mask use for students in Grades 4 to 12, as well as all school staff, has been mandated. Staff will be required to wear masks in all settings where physical distancing cannot be maintained, and students will be required to wear masks (click here for how to wear a mask - Alberta Government website) in all shared and common areas, such as hallways and on buses. If students are sitting at their desks, as far apart as possible (even if slightly less than 2 meters apart), in rows not facing each other and are quietly working, mask wearing is optional and will be the decision of the classroom teacher. Mask use for kindergarten to Grade 3 students will continue to be optional and will be the decision of parents. The province will provide every kindergarten to Grade 12 student with two reusable masks that will be available through their school. This will ensure that students who are required to wear masks will have them, and will allow for kindergarten to Grade 3 students to have masks should they wish to wear them. Teachers, school staff, and bus drivers will also be provided with two reusable masks. Additional single-use masks will be available at schools, if required. All teachers and staff will receive one reusable face shield for their use in schools.

We want to assure you that providing continuity of education for all our students is a high priority, should parents choose to keep their child/ren at home for safety reasons related to the COVID-19 pandemic. We are asking all families to complete the survey choosing "face-to-face" learning or "at-home" learning for your child/ren. The results will be collected on a quarterly basis so that the district can allocate appropriate staffing that will meet the needs of our families.

<u>You will find the survey link for the first quarter here</u>. The survey link can also be accessed via the <u>CRPS website</u>. Please complete the survey no later than August 12, 2020 in order to provide our district administration time to make these important staffing plans and decisions.

Our district administration is currently incorporating the new provincial information, that was received yesterday, into our divisional re-entry guidelines and we want to remind you of the timelines that we have already shared.

On August 14th, an email will be sent to all families with our divisional re-entry guidelines for schools. Following this, you can expect that school principals will share their respective, more detailed, re-entry guidelines with you directly on August 24th.

A reminder that if you have any questions regarding your child's program or re-entry plans for the fall, we ask that you wait until you have received your child/ren's school re-entry plan(s) on August 24th and that you contact the school/s on or after August 25th.

Thank you again for your cooperation and your patience as we work through this unprecedented time.

Sincerely,

Christopher MacPhee

Superintendent of Schools

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