



Canadian Rockies School Division
618 – 7th Avenue
Canmore, AB T1W 2H5

Tel: 403-609-6072
Fax: 403-609-6071
www.crps.ca

October 2, 2020

Re: Re-entry adjustments

Families of Canadian Rockies Public Schools,

We have our first successful month of school behind us. It has been a school start-up that none of us have experienced before. We continue to appreciate student, staff, parent and community efforts as we collectively navigate K-12 schooling in this unprecedented, new reality.

As the pandemic continues to evolve, we will continue to change and refine our guidance for schools as per directives from our provincial government. Additionally, as we have continued to communicate, our overall approach was to have rigorous structures in place for re-entry with a plan to gradually ease up on these restrictions as soon as the situation allows. Yesterday, we met with our school administrators to begin to discuss areas where we may be able to ease up on current restrictions with regard to physical activity and school sports. We will be taking a phased-in approach over the course of this school year.

For our first phase, beginning October 5th, schools will allow cohorts to use playgrounds with a limit of one cohort per day to start. Students and staff will begin to use sports equipment during physical education classes, as well as during physical activities at recess and lunch breaks. Each cohort will have designated equipment for their use. Further details will come in updates to school plans next week.

In preparation for cooler weather this fall, we have begun discussions about cohorts being able to safely use gymnasiums as part of phase 2. Phase 3 will include a review of school athletics beginning with sport specific training within cohorts. Phase 4 will see further consideration of school athletics including inter-school games with a potential progression to mini-leagues. Finally, Phase 5 will look at community use of our schools, after school hours. We cannot assign timelines to these phases at this time, as each phase will be dependent on our local situation, as well as directives from the province in response to the status of the COVID-19 pandemic.

As we consider these adjustments, we are ever mindful of the importance of prioritizing student and staff safety through mitigating the spread of COVID-19. We want our schools to remain open and to be places where students can get an education and feel safe and well, both physically and mentally.

A critical strategy in keeping students safe is the completion of the [COVID-19 ALBERTA HEALTH DAILY CHECKLIST](#) by each and every family before children are sent to school each day. As we move into the flu season, this will become even more vital. If students present with symptoms on this checklist while at school they will be sent home as per AHS guidelines. By taking the proactive step of completing this questionnaire with your child or youth, you can assist our staff in keeping our schools safe for all students.

It is important to note that families will have a one-time opportunity to switch from either at-home learning or face-to-face learning. A Google Form will be shared on October 9th for families to indicate their choice. Should families choose to make a switch in the method of learning delivery for their child/ren, this change will occur on November 9th, for the remainder of the year.

Lastly, to assist you with navigating some of the health aspects of our current situation, we have created *Quick Facts for Parents* that can be found [here](#) and also on our division website.

Many people are beginning to consider plans for the Thanksgiving long weekend. We hope that you enjoy your time with family and friends that weekend and continue to keep AHS guidelines at the forefront to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 both in our schools and in the community at large.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Christopher MacPhee". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "C".

Christopher MacPhee
Superintendent of Schools