

August 21, 2020

Re: Update for Parents, School Re-Entry

Families of Canadian Rockies Public Schools,

CRPS staff have been working hard since our last update to prepare for the safe re-entry of staff and students to our schools. Yesterday, senior and school administrators spent the day working together on finalizing school re-entry plans to be shared with you on Monday.

We are committed to supporting all of our CRPS families no matter what learning option they choose. If you are choosing not to send your child to school right now, for health related reasons or other unique circumstances, we want to remind you that we are offering “at-home learning” for all families that choose this option for their child. Initial plans for “at-home learning” can be found in our division re-entry plan. Further detailed plans will be shared with those families who register for “at-home learning” (registration form to be emailed on Monday). Please note that updates to our division re-entry plan will be ongoing and will be indicated in blue font within the document itself, so please check the division plan on our website regularly for updates. We will notify you *directly* of any significant changes to the plan.

Please note the following important information being sent to families next week:

- **Monday, August 24th - School re-entry plans**
- **Monday, August 24th - Updated demographic form:** Our Annual School Demographic Update/Verification 2020/2021 has additional sections this year that are very important for school planning and safety. Beyond the usual demographic information that schools require within the update, we are also asking families to respond to three COVID-19 related sections. These areas include a walking field trip permission request, medical information about your child explaining any pre-existing medical conditions that may present as COVID-19 like symptoms, and also a permission selection should a family wish to have their child leave campus at lunch to eat at home (only) as part of the closed campus cohorting requirements. We thank all of our families for completing this very important school-based information on a yearly basis.
- **Monday, August 24th - Registration for “At-Home Learning”:** The registration form will be sent to all families on Monday. This registration form will ask you to indicate your choice of “at-home learning” or attending in-person classes for your children for this quarter (August 31-November 6). It is critically important that parents make this commitment for an entire quarter so that student support can be maintained. Students will

be supported through teacher-led instruction provided to students while choosing to learn at home during the pandemic.

- **Next week, August 24th - 28th: Parent Question and Answer:** We have created a quick facts question and answer document for families. We understand that the Chief Medical Officer for Alberta will be providing new information next week, so we are awaiting this information to add to our document.
- **Tuesday, August 25th:** Schools will be available for questions regarding re-entry. Please email your child's school administrator with any questions.
- **Wednesday, August 26th:** Teachers return to work and will begin preparing to welcome your children back to school!

As you prepare to send your child/children back to school, we recommend that you make yourself familiar with the daily [Self-Screening Questionnaire](#) and that you take some time at home to allow your child to become familiar with wearing a mask, in the event that they begin to display symptoms at school and/or if they are in Grades 4-12.

Our overall approach will be to have rigorous structures in place for initial re-entry, to ensure safety, with a plan to ease up on these restrictions if the situation allows. One of these "rigorous" structures will be operating closed campuses. Closed campuses are essential in maintaining cohorts - a critical provincial re-entry strategy to limit and/or contain the spread of the virus. Please familiarize yourself with these sections in our [Division Re-entry Plan](#) on pages 3 and 7.

We appreciate the questions and comments that families have been sending our way. We are doing our best to provide answers to the wide array of questions that we have been receiving, albeit there will be some questions that we cannot answer at this time, as this is a new reality for everyone. Please know that our staff and our board have the best interests of students at the heart of all of these decisions.

We recognize and understand that parents will make the decisions they deem appropriate for their family and we respect whatever decision families choose to make with regard to their child's schooling. CRPS *must* follow provincial guidelines for re-entry. As Dr. Hinshaw has indicated in so many words, our schools will be a reflection of our community and re-entry will only be as successful as our community is in following guidelines to control the spread of COVID-19.

Thank you again for your understanding and your patience as we prepare for a successful start to the 2020/2021 school year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Christopher MacPhee". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Christopher MacPhee
Superintendent of Schools