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Exshaw School Re-entry Plan 2020/2021



August 24, 2020

Families of Exshaw School Students,

Our Canadian Rockies Public Schools Division office has just received new provincial information regarding school re-entry. We wanted to send our plans to you today to ensure that you had your child/children's school re-entry information in a timely manner, but please be aware that an update to school plans may occur later this week. Thank you for your understanding.

Exshaw School is committed to ensuring the health and safety of students and staff is at the forefront of our daily practices. This manual has been developed to support the safe re-entry of students and staff for the 2020/21 school year within Scenario 1, near-normal operations with health measures.

Updates done in magenta were completed on October 31st, 2020.

Near Normal:

Regular operations means that:

- All students will have access to school every student day on the district calendar;
- CRPS assumes delivery of all curriculum;
- Public health measures for student learning and extracurricular activities will be followed;
- Additional hygiene and cleaning protocols will be implemented in the school

Exshaw School will continue to support a safe, caring and welcoming environment as we re-launch this fall. As we enter the new school year we will continue to operate based on the following principles:

- Student and staff health and safety are a priority
- All schools will follow the guidelines from Alberta Education and the Chief Medical Officer of Alberta
- Student Learning will continue and students will continue to be provided with high quality learning experiences
- Risk of exposure will be mitigated, not eliminated
- Ongoing communication will be a priority
- A collective effort from all stakeholders will be required to keep schools open and to keep everyone as safe as possible

We are very excited to welcome back our students. We have missed them incredibly so! Our school will look different how we function but the same warmth and care remains the same! Since it has been a very long time that we have come together in person, a large portion of our programming for the first while will focus on the schools continuum of supports and services arounds student wellness. The students will be learning about proper hand hygiene, sanitization, good respiratory hygiene, how to avoid touching your face, as well as mental well being, to name a few of the many topics, we will be coverine! We want our Exshaw students and staff to be safe, healthy and well!

Exshaw School

Health Measures

Daily Self Screening Practices

Each day before coming to school, staff and students and parents that will be coming into the school for either work or education must complete the [Self-Screening Questionnaire](#). If they answer “yes” to any of the questions, the individual should not come to school. Parents/Guardians who must be on school property must also do the Self Screening Questionnaire before arriving at Exshaw School. NO PERSON shall be allowed to enter the school if they are exhibiting symptoms, even if the symptoms resemble a mild cold. Anyone that reports symptoms (student or staff) will be directed to stay home, seek health care advice as appropriate (e.g., call Health Link 811, or their primary health care practitioner, 911 for emergency response) and fill out the [AHS Online Self-Assessment Tool](#) to determine if they should be tested.

After Filling Out the Self-Assessment Tool, You Do Not Have to Isolate If:

- you have no symptoms of illness, and you have not been exposed to someone known to have COVID-19 and you have not travelled outside of Canada within the last 14 days
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- you are waiting for results and you did not have symptoms when you were tested and do not have any now;
- you have symptoms of illness that are related to a pre-existing illness or health condition, and are not new;
- you have tested negative for COVID-19 and have no symptoms of illness and have had no contact with someone with COVID-19;
- you have tested negative for COVID-19 and have a cough, fever, shortness of breath, runny nose, or sore throat that is related to a pre-existing illness or health condition.

Closed Campus

Exshaw School will maintain a “Closed Campus”. This means that students are expected to remain at the school for the duration of the day. If students leave Exshaw during the school day, it is recommended that they come back the next day after they complete the self-assessment tool. If a student must go home for lunch, parents will be required to ensure that their child completes the self-assessment tool before returning to the school after lunch. At the beginning of the school year, parents will be asked at Exshaw School whether their child will be going home for lunch on an ongoing basis and will be asked to sign a self-assessment commitment.

Masks

All students that will be attending Exshaw School and will be riding Nakoda Bus Lines will be provided with two reusable masks. These masks must be worn while on the bus. As mandated by the province, mask use of students in Grades 4 to 8, as well as all school staff, will be mandatory **unless there is a mask exemption that has been discussed with school administration**. If students bring masks, the **masks must be school appropriate**. Students are not allowed to have masks that have reference to drugs and/or gangs. Each student and staff will be provided with two reusable masks.

All students attending Grades 4 through 8, staff members and visitors must wear a non-medical face mask that covers their mouth and nose while attending an indoor location within a school, unless the student, staff member or visitor

- a. is unable to place, use or remove a non-medical face mask without assistance
- b. is unable to wear a non-medical face mask due to a mental or physical concern or limitation
- c. is consuming food or drink in a designated area;
- d. is engaging in physical exercise;
- e. is seated at a desk or table
 - i. within a classroom or place where the instruction, course or program of study is taking place, and
 - ii. where the desks, tables, and chairs are arranged in a manner
 - A. to prevent persons who are seated from facing each other, and
 - B. to allow the greatest possible distance between seated person;
- f. is providing or receiving care or assistance where a non-medical face mask would hinder that caregiving or assistance; or
- g. is separated from every other person by a physical barrier.

Families need to talk to the principal about an exemption and should follow all other public health measures. It is important that any student, staff member or visitor who is not required to wear a non-medical face mask complies with other personal preventative practices such as frequent hand hygiene and physical distancing as much as possible. Face shields are not considered to be an equivalent to non-medical face masks.

Staff will teach students proper mask etiquette using the Circle of Courage language.

Mask use for kindergarten to Grade 3 students will continue to be optional and will be the decision of parents.

Daily Practices at Exshaw School

Sanitizing and Handwashing

Everyone who enters Exshaw School will be required to use hand sanitizer or wash their hands immediately. All students and staff will be supplied with their own hand sanitizer that they will carry with them at all times that will be refilled when required. Students and staff will be required to wash and/or sanitize their hands throughout the day, including:

- When they arrive at school and before they go home
- Before and after any transitions within the school setting (e.g. indoor-outdoor transitions)
- Before they enter classrooms
- Before eating and drinking
- After using the toilet
- After playing outside
- After sneezing or coughing into hands
- Whenever hands are visibly dirty

- After touching communal surfaces

Exshaw School and the province will provide hand sanitizer throughout the building to support these requirements. Exshaw School staff will also promote proper hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette with verbal reminders and posters throughout the school.

Canadian Rockies Public Schools has developed COVID-19 cleaning standards that align with the provincial directives around cleaning and disinfecting. These measures include:

- additional training for custodial staff
- removing any soft furnishings and area rugs from classrooms and common areas that cannot be cleaned to provincial standards
- frequently cleaning and disinfecting high-touch surfaces such as water fountains and door handles
- more frequent cleaning and disinfecting throughout the school, with specific attention to washrooms, high-traffic areas and classrooms

Students with Pre-Existing Conditions

All parents must provide updated information on children's pre-existing conditions on the CRPS demographic form at the beginning of the school year. Individuals who have allergies or ongoing health issues and who are exhibiting COVID-like symptoms must be tested at least once according to Alberta Health Services Guidelines. [Please call or email your child's school, prior to the first day of classes to let them know that this testing has been completed and to notify them of the results if they are negative. A formal document does not need to be provided.](#) This will establish a baseline for the individual. If symptoms change (worsen, additional symptoms, change in baseline) the individual must stay home and be tested and cleared.

What Happens When A Child Becomes Sick While At School?

If a student presents with symptoms during the school day, [as per the Government of Alberta Screening Questionnaire and as determined by school staff](#), parents will be contacted immediately to pick up their child. Parents are to ensure that their telephone numbers are working and that their emergency contacts are available, if required, to pick up a sick child. The child will be placed in the school's infirmary until they are picked up which must be within **one** hour. [If there is more than 1 student in the infirmary, the students must stay more than 2 meters apart.](#) Students **cannot** be placed on the bus. Within the Alberta's Government's pandemic response, this is a responsibility that families must adhere to.

* In extenuating circumstances, where a parent cannot pick up their child by the end of the day, [AP 386](#) will be enacted.

When the child is brought down to the infirmary, the temperature of the child will be taken by the administration using an infrared thermometer [\(an acceptable temperature range is 36.6 -38.0 degrees Celsius\)](#). The child will be taken care of by only one adult who will enter the isolation area to attend to the needs of the student/s which is the principal or the designate if the principal is unavailable. The child will be provided with a mask [that they must wear \(unless exempt\)](#) until they are picked up. Physical distancing will be maintained as much as possible. If the child requires close contact while awaiting pick up administration will provide the care. Administration will wear personal protective equipment (gloves, facemask, face shield, lab coat) while

providing the care. Strict hand washing will be used before and after the use of personal protective equipment by administration. All personal belongings of the student will be handed to the parent/caregiver in a plastic bag.

Families should immediately seek health care advice as appropriate (e.g., call Health Link 811 or their primary health care practitioner) and fill out the [AHS Online Self-Assessment Tool](#) to determine if their child should be tested.

After the child is picked up, a sign will be posted indicating that the room must not be entered until it can be disinfected by custodial staff. All items that the child touched must be cleaned and disinfected. Items that cannot be disinfected must be placed in a sealed container for **72 hours**, e.g. paper, books, etc.

Classroom-based learning may continue and students/staff with no symptoms do not need to be sent home or quarantined if there was a symptomatic-only individual in the classroom, NOT a confirmed case of COVID-19.

How Long Should Students Isolate After Having Symptoms?

Following the directives from Alberta Health Services, students are legally required to isolate for a minimum of **10 days** if they have a cough, fever, shortness of breath, runny nose, or sore throat that is not related to a pre-existing illness or health condition.

The mandatory isolation period is 10 days from the start of symptoms, or until symptoms resolve, whichever takes longer.

What Happens If There Is a Case of COVID-19?

If health officials confirm a case of COVID-19 at Exshaw School, Alberta Health Services will take the following step, [Alberta Health Services will notify Exshaw School administration and close contacts of the confirmed case will be contacted and provided with clear direction.](#)

What Could Happen If My Child Is In a Class Where There Is a Case of COVID-19?

Alberta Health Services may request that the school close a classroom or an entire school for in-person classes to allow a public health investigation to take place. Parents will be notified if a case of COVID-19 is confirmed at school and public health officials will contact those who were in close contact with the person. The decision to send a cohort/class home or close a school will be made by the local Medical Officer of Health. If this were to occur, Exshaw School would support students and staff to learn or work at home if they are required to self-isolate.

What happens If My Child Is a Close Contacts Of A Confirmed Case of COVID-19?

According to Alberta Health Services, they are legally required to isolate for **10 days** and monitor for symptoms if you are a close contact of a person who tested positive for COVID-19 (provides care, lives with or has close physical contact without appropriate use of personal protective equipment, or comes into direct contact with infectious body fluids). [Please use the COVID-19 Self-Assessment Tool to determine whether your child needs to be tested for COVID-19.](#) If your child has tested positive for COVID-19, you or your child [will not be](#)

required to provide a formal document that shows evidence of a negative test result. You are legally required to isolate for a minimum of **10 days** if you have tested positive for COVID-19. The isolation period is for 10 days from the start of symptoms, or until symptoms resolve, whichever takes longer. Students can return to school when they have followed the Alberta government's requirement related to isolation.

If the student, or any family member, becomes sick with cough, fever, shortness of breath, runny nose or sore throat during this time, they must isolate for an additional **10 days** from the beginning of symptoms or until they are feeling well, whichever takes longer.

What happens If My Child Has Symptoms of COVID-19 but Tested Negative?

If a student **tested negative** and **has had known exposure** to COVID-19, the student is legally required to isolate for **10 days**.

If a student **tested negative** and has **no known exposure** to COVID-19, the student is **NOT** required to isolate. However, it is important to stay home until your symptoms resolve so that you do not infect others.

What happens If My Child Tests Positive for COVID-19?

Alberta Health Services states that you are legally required to isolate for a minimum of **10 days** if they have tested positive for COVID-19. Isolation period is for 10 days from the **start** of symptoms, or until symptoms resolve, whichever takes longer. As of October 1st, parents/guardians can use their My Health Records account to access their child's COVID-19. Students can return to school when they have followed the Alberta government's requirement related to isolation

Snacketeria

The snacketeria will have a modified lunch program for September of sandwiches, granola bars and fruit for the months of September, October, November, December, and January. Families will need to supplement lunches if they would like more for their children to have for lunch. Please do not send items that need to be microwaved as we do not have access to microwaves presently. Breakfast will not be provided. Microwaves will not be available for use. Once Exshaw School determines the number of students that have chosen face to face learning, we will look at safe re-entry of a modified snacketeria program. We want to ensure safety of all students and to be able to do this in a very planned manner that supports Exshaw School students and staff in the safest way possible.

Physical Distancing

Exshaw School staff will maintain physical distancing whenever possible; however, we are not able to maintain two metres of physical separation between students at all times. This is why it is critical that anyone showing symptoms needs to follow Alberta Health Services protocols. Staff will teach students about the importance of physical distancing using the circle of courage language. Staff will be required to wear masks in all settings where physical distancing cannot be maintained, and students in grades four through eight will be required to wear them in all shared and common areas, such as hallways and on buses. Students in kindergarten through grade through three will have optional mask use as per parent/guardian choice. In situations where physical distancing may not be possible (e.g. buses, classrooms) extra emphasis will be placed on hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette, not attending when sick, and cleaning and disinfecting on a regular basis.

Travel Around the Building

To ensure that students and staff have the safest journey possible around Exshaw School, floor tape will indicate the correct directional travel in the hallways and round yellow floor signage will promote physical distancing. Entrances will be designated for certain grades. Signs will be posted at each of the doors detailing which grades are using the doors. Each entrance will be supervised by a staff member when the doors are unlocked during drop off/pick up. Foot traffic flow through entrances and hallways will be guided by using floor tape on the floor. Parents and guests are to use the main entrance.

To help with physical distancing, Exshaw School will have two recesses one from 9:55 - 10:10 for Kindergarten to Grade four and one from 10:35 - 10:50 a.m. for grades five through eight. This will ensure that the students will be able to physically distance themselves during their assigned recess break.

During recess play, students will be allowed as of October 5, 2020, to play on the big toy as per our divisional directive. One cohort per day will be allowed to play on the big toy equipment to start. Students and staff will begin to use sports equipment during physical education classes, as well as during physical education activities at recess and lunch breaks. Each cohort will have designated equipment for their use.

Students will be directed to play in a specific zone for their recess break to minimize contact with other cohorts.

As well, students will continue with their staggered lunch hour where students are physically distanced. Students will no longer be eating in the snacketeria. Students will be eating in their classrooms. Exshaw School will continue to have a staggered lunch break. It will be a 50-minute break. It will be from 12:10 - 1:00 p.m. **As of November 9th, students in grades five through eight will eat in their homerooms from 12:10 - 12:20 p.m. while the students in kindergarten through grade four play outside. At 12:30 p.m. students in kindergarten through grade four will eat in their classrooms while students in grades four through eight will play outside. If a student must go home for lunch, parents will be required to ensure that their child completes the self-assessment tool before returning to the school after lunch. At the beginning of the school year, parents will be asked by Exshaw School to indicate if their child will need to go home for lunch on an ongoing basis and will be asked to sign a self-assessment commitment.**

Drop off/Pick Up

When students arrive at school, they must go directly to their classrooms, except under extenuating circumstances. Students who arrive by bus will be taught how to physically distance as they walk into the school with school staff using their assigned door. If a parent/guardian needs to pick up their child, they must wait outside the school to do so. Parents/guardians must phone the office 403-673-3656 to make arrangements to sign their child out of school. All school doors will be locked throughout the school day except during drop off times. A wireless doorbell has been installed at the front entrance of Exshaw School. Please make sure to use it when parents are dropping off students who are late arriving at school. If dropping off a student, the self screening questionnaire must be completed and if any of the answers to the questions is “yes”, the student should not come to school.

If parents/guardians are picking up students, they must phone the school to make arrangements. The administrative assistant will then walk the student to the main entrance. **Parents shall not enter the building without an appointment made 24 hours in advance**, except in emergencies, so that the number of additional adults in the building can be minimized at any given time. Parents will wait outside of the building to pick up their child.

When multiple buses arrive at school, the drivers will stagger the release of students from their buses to control the number of students entering the school at one time. Where applicable, students who are getting picked up from school will be dismissed earlier than students who take the bus.

Classroom Setup

Where it is possible, there will be 2 metres of physical space between student desks. [Where 2 metres is not possible between desks, the greatest possible spacing is recommended. If 2 metres cannot be arranged between desks or tables, students should be arranged so that they are not facing each other.](#) Desks will be arranged in vertical rows so that students are not facing each other. Students desks need to remain in place as per the seating plan for tracking purposes. There will only be one cohort of students in one instructional space at any one time. Teachers will ensure that extra items are removed from the classroom to ensure for the maximum ability to physically distance within the classroom space. Floor tape will be used to help younger students understand personal space.

Student Groupings/Cohorting

The Chief Medical Officer of Health for Alberta has directed schools that cohorts of students must be maintained at all times where possible. This means that classrooms will not be working with other classrooms. Activities such as buddy reading between classrooms will not be occurring this year as this would not maintain the cohort. Cohorting is a critical strategy as it allows for quick contact tracing to limit the spread of COVID-19. It also limits the number of individuals who may be exposed, for example, only one group of students may need to self-isolate and/or be tested, rather than closing an entire school. This is why students at Exshaw School will remain with their classmates and homeroom teacher as much as possible.

Currently Postponed Events

At this time, school assemblies, welcome back bbq, holiday events, performances and other large gatherings will be cancelled. Exshaw School will not be open for sporting events.

At Exshaw School we do want to continue to celebrate the successes of our students and will continue to broadcast virtually for families to see the many fantastic milestones their children are doing. As well, literacy week will be virtual readers.

Water Fountains and Water Bottles

Students and staff are encouraged to bring their own filled water bottle each and every day. Fountains and water bottle filling stations, where available, can be used to refill personal water bottles. Fountains should not be used for the purpose of direct drinking. To maintain the highest level of safety, every time a student refills a water bottle, they are expected to use hand sanitizer before and after filling their bottle.

Shared School Spaces

The physical playground structures will not be used during school hours by students. As well, Exshaw School will not be used by the community at this time. The snacketeria will no longer be used as an eating area for students. In order to maintain the cohort, students will not be able to eat with other students from another class. Students will be eating with their classmates in the classroom which will then be cleaned right after by the custodian.

Students will be encouraged to bring books from home. As well, students will be using electronic devices to access books online. These devices will not be shared among students.

Students will not be entering the library/learning commons; rather, the protocol to access library materials and resources will be as follows, based on provincial recommendations:

- Students and staff will not access directly.
- Staff will submit a request for the resources.
- A library staff member wearing a mask and gloves will pull the resources.
- The resources will be disinfected and then delivered to the classroom.
- After the resources are returned to the library, they will sit for 3 days and then be put into circulation.

The school infirmary will be designated for COVID-19 quarantining and not for other injuries.

At Exshaw School we are continuing to encourage outdoor play as much as possible. **As of November 9, 2020, the division is now within phase two. The gymnasium will be opened for instructional use during school hours. Exshaw School will create a gymnasium schedule that students will use either the gymnasium or the snacketeria that will maintain individual student cohorts. Rotation schedules for use will balance safety as well as adequate use by students to support positive mental and physical well being. Sanitization of hands before and after students enter the gym and the use of cohorted equipment will be additional measures to ensure student safety.**

Visitors/Parents/Volunteers

To minimize the number of additional adults in the building at any given time, parents shall not enter the building without an appointment made 24 hours in advance, except in emergencies.

At this time, no non-essential visitors will be allowed in the school to limit the number of adults in the building. This means that we will not be able to welcome our Elders, knowledge keepers, reading volunteers, district board employees or guest speakers.

For the **months of September, October and November**, there will be no essential providers entering the school. Essential providers will include speech language pathologists, occupational therapists, etc. **Only essential visitors will be allowed into Exshaw School. Essential visitors at this time include parents, delivery personnel, CRPS staff, RCMP, SCFS and AHS.** When essential service providers and visitors enter the school, they must complete the **Self Screening Questionnaire** before potentially entering the school. If they answer YES to any of the questions, the individual will not be admitted to the school and should not attempt to enter the school. The administrative assistant will sign-in the essential service providers and/or parents and will provide the contact tracing information.

Safety is our primary concern. All permitted visitors will remain in Exshaw School for as limited time as possible and will be required to wear a **non-medical mask that covers their nose and mouth at all times (except in the case of an exemption as per the Mask section above sections a, b, f, and g), as well as be required to follow all other safety protocols at Exshaw School.**

As of November 9, 2020, Knowledge Keepers and Elders are permitted outside only in physically distanced spaces while students, staff, Knowledge Keepers and Elders are wearing masks.

Food/Eating Lunch

The snacketeria has been providing free lunches from September 17, 2020, and will do so for the entire month of October. With the support of Canadian Rockies School Division and the Nutrition Grant, we will continue to offer free lunches to all students for the months of November, December and January. If a family chooses to send a bagged lunch, it needs to be one that does not need to be microwaved as microwaves will not be available for student use. Food cannot be shared among students or staff. Students will be eating within their classrooms with their classmates and there will be no common shared food items such as salt and pepper or utensils. Once the students are finished eating, their desk areas will be cleaned and disinfected by the custodian.

Extra-curricular

To maintain physical distancing and cohorting guidelines, extra-curricular activities such as beading club, running club, volleyball, basketball, etc, will be postponed. CRPS is monitoring guidelines from Alberta Education and Alberta Health and education partners, including the Alberta School Athletics Association, to explore possibilities for athletic activities and events within the context of current health measures. CRPS will review plans for school sports in Phase 3 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. Timelines cannot be assigned to each phase because it will be dependent on our location situation, as well as directives from the province in response to the status of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Field trips

Walking field trips and travel via school bus to field trip locations within the boundaries of CRPS are permitted. Routine supervision and safety protocols remain in place for all CRPS off-site activities. Activities will be held outdoors as much as possible. Individual classroom cohorts should be maintained during transportation to and from any field trip site, as well as at the location of the field trip site.

A host location must share their protocols in advance of a field trip and protocols must align with the CRPS COVID-19 protocols for a field trip to be approved by school administration. Field trips/off-site activities must also follow any sector-specific guide relevant to the location of the field trip, including physical distancing, use of non-medical face masks, cohorting, hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette and enhanced cleaning and disinfection.

An organization or facility should only host one classroom cohort at a time, or should take clear steps to separate multiple groups to ensure they do not use shared areas. Staff at the off-site activity must maintain physical distancing of at least 2 meters from the students and staff in the classroom cohort.

Outdoor curricula experiences led by a Canadian Rockies Outdoor Learning Centre staff member(s) or a Nature Explorers Leader will take place with only one cohort per day. Physical distancing, mask usage and daily screening will be used as per AHS protocols.

Lockers, Changerooms, Bootrooms

At this time, lockers, change rooms and boot rooms will not be used. All personal belongings will be kept within the classroom of each student.

Washrooms

Regular washroom access is maintained for all students. Students will be taught to physically distance and not to have more than two students in the bathrooms at one time. There will be physically distance stickers on the floor for students to wait on and staff will teach the students how to use the new routines in the washrooms. Signage will be placed about washing hands and physically distancing. Washrooms will be a priority for cleaning regularly. Students will be assigned to use certain washrooms.

Cell Phone Policy

Exshaw School understands that cell phones are needed for communication on the bus. However, cell phones are not to be used during school hours. As soon as students enter the school, cell phones must be turned off and put away in their backpacks.

Exshaw School has devices for learning so a student does not require their phone.

Staff will remind students of the policy at the beginning of our school year. If a student chooses to bring out their phone during their school day, it will result in the cell phone being held in the office for the remainder of the day. The phone will be returned to the student at the end of the day. The second time this happens, the office will notify the family and ask that the phone not return to school.

Students in grades 7 and 8 will continue to have the privilege of using their cell phones at recess breaks.

If a parent needs a message to their child, they can phone the office 403 673 3656 and we can ensure they receive it.

Class Transitions

The junior high students will no longer be transitioning between classrooms; rather, the classes will be staying in each classroom.

Soft Surface Furniture and Equipment

Within the classrooms, all rugs and soft surface furniture have been removed from Exshaw School.

Shared Equipment/Resources

At Exshaw School, all classroom teachers will be teaching their own physical education and will be taking the students outside as much as possible. We are very lucky to have a wonderful environment for our students to enjoy.

We are very lucky at Exshaw School to have learning devices for students from grades three and up. Each device is signed out to an individual student and is not shared with anyone else. These devices are kept at the school and placed in a designated slot in a charging station.

In grades seven and eight, our students have CTF courses. For this school year, students will be with their homeroom teacher. Students will not share equipment and all courses will meet the health directives.

Students in kindergarten through grade eight will not share learning equipment. Each student will use their own tools.

Each classroom will have equipment that stays within the classroom cohort to go outside with them. This equipment will be labelled for the class and stored in the classroom. The students will sanitize their hands before and after using the equipment. For physical education, students and staff will use sports equipment that will be cohorted within the classroom following proper protocols around health and safety protocols.

With regard to handing to handling paper, library books, and other items that cannot be disinfected, items can be stored in a sealed container for 24 hours. Hard cover books can be cleaned and disinfected between uses if it does not ruin the books.

Staff at Exshaw school are following AHS recommendations for proper handling of paper tests, paper assignments, etc by ensuring good hand hygiene before and after touching the paper. As well, staff avoids touching the face prior to performing hand hygiene. Paper tests and assignments can be stored for 24 hours prior to handling.

With regards to handling play clothes, if used, staff assigns outfits to a single student at a time and either launders clothing between uses or stores clothing for 24 hours between uses.

Learning

At Exshaw School, we want our students to feel very comfortable in the learning environment. Our priority is to ensure safety as we welcome everyone back by teaching consistent lessons around the following topics:

- proper use of masks
- hand hygiene
- proper use of hand sanitizer
- how to maintain physical distancing
- respiratory hygiene

Parents who have questions or concerns about their child using alcohol-based hand sanitizer should contact the principal to discuss potential alternatives.

In addition to a consistent set of plans and resources for teachers to teach students, Exshaw School will ensure intensive wellness programming that will access our school family liaison worker and success teacher. Teachers will use the circle of courage language to discuss how the aforementioned topics support wellness.

Exshaw School will continue to provide physical education instruction. The change will be that each homeroom teacher will deliver their own physical education. Each class will go outside as much as possible for their physical education. The province's plan indicates that delivery of programming outside is most desirable, and activities

that support physical distancing, such as badminton, are recommended. Sharing equipment is discouraged. Equipment that is used must be cleaned and disinfected before and after each use. Students must wash or sanitize their hands before and after using equipment. **School gymnasiums will open for student use and teachers should, where possible, choose activities or sports that support physical distancing (e.g. badminton over wrestling) (AHS)**

Music instruction will continue, but it will look different. Cheering or shouting, and playing wind instruments is postponed at this time. **Singing and playing wind instruments in close proximity to others are considered as higher-risk activities. As of November 9, 2020, singing will be allowed outside only while wearing masks and physically distancing for grades 4 -12. Students in grades K-3 will not be required to wear masks while singing outside, but must maintain physical distancing. There will be no singing or projecting of voices within an enclosed environment.** Instruction will focus on music appreciation, theory and playing percussion or string

instruments. Learning experiences in an enclosed environment involving unprotected (without a mask or physical barrier) in person singing, cheering or shouting will be postponed at this time. If these learning experiences occur outside physical distancing must be strictly adhered to.

Teachers at Exshaw School are ensuring that students are moving throughout their days at school. They are not expect to sit at their desks for the duration of the day. We recognize the need for movement.

Parents must register their children for face-to-face learning or at-home learning through our divisional survey. Parents will have two entry points:

August 31st - November 6th

November 9th - June 30th

The option will be delivered for caring, committed teachers of our Canadian Rockies Public Schools staff.

At- Home Learning While Self-Isolating or Ill

If a student must be at home to self-isolate and/or is ill, Exshaw School will ensure learning continues. If a student in kindergarten through grade two, a paper package will be developed for the student. If the student has a sibling in the school, the principal will deliver it to the sibling to take home to the child to complete. If the student does not have a sibling in the school, the family will need to come to the school to pick up a package. When the family arrives at the school, they will phone the office and the office will arrange for contactless pickup of the materials.

If a student must be at home to self-isolate and/or is ill and is in grade three or up, the student can access their learning through google classroom. If the student requires a chromebook, the family can contact the school to rent a chromebook and sign the rental agreement.

Teachers will support students to work from home as required.

Choosing “At-Home” Learning

Continuity of education will be provided by Exshaw School and will be provided to all students if parents choose to keep their children at home for reasons of safety related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Families need to make the commitment to complete the learning as it will be used for assessment practices.

Parents of Exshaw School need to respond to the registration form that Canadian Rockies Public Schools puts out to opt into face-to-face learning or “at-home” learning so that the district can determine appropriate staffing to meet student needs. It is very important that parents make this commitment for an entire section 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. Students in kindergarten through grade six that choose at home learning will most likely be assigned to a different teacher for at home learning. Students in grades seven and eight will have the learning delivered through google classroom.

At-home learning will formally begin on September 8th, 2020.

It is important to note that if a student is enrolled in at-home learning, they will not receive instruction from their designated in-school learning teacher. They will be assigned an at-home learning teacher who will be responsible for a specific group of students that have chosen at-home learning. Also, depending on the numbers and resources in both in-school learning and at-home learning for K to 8 students, it is highly unlikely that Canadian Rockies Public Schools will be able to accommodate transfers between the learning options during the first quarter (August 31st-November 6th).

Provincial Assessments

Exshaw School, as well as the other other schools in Canadian Rockies Public Schools, will not be participating in the Grade 3 Student Learning Assessment or the Grade 6 Provincial Assessment Tests.

Supporting Students Who Require Individual/Specialized Support and/or Medically Fragile Students

Exshaw School will maintain the learning opportunities specific to their Individualized Program Plan (IPP) using a variety of approaches. Exshaw School will ensure that students with exceptional learning needs will continue to be intentionally included in the whole classroom with support. To minimize contact with cohorts as much as possible, educational assistants, learning support teachers and others providing learning support will work with a designated cohort of students.

In situations where physical contact is required to support students with exceptional learning needs, staff must wear protective eyewear (e.g. faceshield) and a non-medical mask. Staff must follow recommended hygiene procedures. An exception may occur in an emergency situation.

If a child must leave their class for the purpose of self-regulating they will remain with their designated staff member and the staff member will make every effort to ensure that the student will not be in contact with other cohorts.

In situations where staff are working with medically fragile students or students who are immunocompromised, staff must wear eye protection (eg. faceshield), a non-medical mask, gloves and a lab coat which is provided by Canadian Rockies Public Schools. Staff must follow recommended hygiene procedures. [Students/family members should consult with their primary care provider to consider their personal risk and make a decision on what supports may be needed or what is the best option for learning. In addition to consulting a physician, Albertans can assess the risk of experiencing severe health outcomes from COVID-19 using the COVID-19 personal risk severity assessment.](#)

For the month of September, service provider support with learning support teachers and/or classroom teachers must be done via Google Meets. Wherever possible, service providers will engage in student supports using Google Meets or another district approved tool. If face-to-face support is required and physical distancing cannot be maintained, the service provider will be required to wear PPE provided by the division and must follow personal hygiene recommendations and directives from Exshaw School.

Student Transportation

Parents are encouraged to drive their children to school or to encourage their children to ride their bike or walk if possible.

Students from Morley will be following the policies from Nakoda Bus Lines. Nakoda Bus Lines will be checking temperatures before pick up and if a child presents with a fever at pick up they will not be allowed on the bus.

If possible, students in a class cohort will travel on the same bus and should be seated together on the bus to maximize bus capacity. Students will be assigned seats and a record of the seating plan will be kept in order to assist with contact tracing. If possible, the first bench seat behind the driver will remain empty. A log of student riders will be kept each day.. All students from Exshaw School will be given and are required to wear a mask while riding the bus. Bus drivers will wear a non-medical mask, face shield, lab coats and gloves during unloading and loading due to the inability to implement physical distancing.

The transportation department will develop procedures for student loading and unloading that support physical distancing and may include, where possible:

- students loading from the back seats to the front of the bus,
- students unloading from the front seats to the back of the bus, where possible and practical;
- limiting the number of students per bench unless from the same household (preferable) or cohort.

Parents will not be permitted to enter or ride on the bus. Students may ONLY ride on their assigned bus and will not be allowed on any bus other than their assigned bus.

Children/students should not be in the pick-up area or enter the bus if they have symptoms of COVID-19. If a child becomes symptomatic at pick up or during a bus trip, a mask will be made available. The driver will contact the transportation office immediately who will then contact the school to inform the school of which child is ill. The child will remain on the bus until they reach their school. The school will then isolate the student upon arrival and call parents to pick up as soon as possible.

When multiple buses arrive at a school, the drivers will stagger the release of students from their buses to control the number of students entering the school at one time. There will be increased frequency of cleaning and disinfection of high-touch surfaces, such as door handles, window areas, rails.

Exshaw School looks forward to welcoming your children back to learning! We are excited to see our students either face-to-face or in the form of at-home learning. If you have questions about the re-entry plan, please contact the principal, Nadine Dack-Doi.

Yours in Education,

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