



June 26, 2020

Re. School Re-Entry Information for 2020-21 based on current Public Health and Ministry of Education Directives

Families of Canadian Rockies Public Schools,

As you know, there have been many new developments related to the COVID 19 crisis since our last district communication to you in April. We appreciate that the ongoing changes and challenges related to this crisis have been difficult for our families and for families across our province.

We would like to provide a short review of what has occurred over the past few months:

- On March 15, 2020 Alberta's K-12 schools were indefinitely closed for in-school classes due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- On April 30, 2020, the Alberta government announced the Alberta relaunch strategy.
 - On April 30, Premier Kenny stated that in-school classes will not resume for the 2019-2020 school year.
 - Planning for the 2020-21 school year commenced.
- On May 20, 2020 the Alberta government shared the draft 2020-21 School Re-Entry Plan with all school authorities and partners and requested feedback. Movement between these scenarios will occur based on the identified Alberta Health criteria and triggers. Alberta Health will make all decisions concerning the movement amongst scenarios.
 - **The provincial re-entry plan for K-12 schools considers three scenarios:**
 - A. In-school classes resume (near normal with health measures restrictions)
 - B. In-school classes partially resume (with additional health restrictions)
 - C. At home learning continues (in-school classes are suspended/cancelled)
- In a provincial town hall meeting held on Friday, June 12th Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Hinshaw indicated that school districts cannot ensure 100% safety for all students and staff in a face to face environment (scenario 1 and scenario 2). There may be exposure to COVID 19 even if all Alberta Health Services measures are followed. By bringing many people together in a closed setting, such as a school, there is a realization that cases and even outbreaks of COVID-19 will occur in some locations within Alberta. Public health officials will be monitoring the situation closely and be ready with a plan that enables a rapid response to cases of COVID-19 in a school.

If any of CRPS' schools are connected to a confirmed or probable case of COVID-19, CRPS will be contacted by Alberta Health Services (AHS) and may be required to close in person classes to allow the

public health investigation to take place. The decision to send a cohort/class home or to close a school will be made in consultation with the local MOH.

School and district planning for school re-entry in the fall will be based on Alberta Education Guidelines and directions. School administrators have already begun to create their school re-entry plans based on the aforementioned three scenarios. Three Alberta Health Services tenets for maintaining safety of students and staff will be:

- a. Cohorting: A group of students and staff who remain together. The size of the cohort may depend on the physical space of the classroom or learning setting.
- b. Physical distancing of at least 2 meters whenever possible.
- c. Proper hygiene and cleaning in a COVID 19 environment.

School administrators will be communicating the details of re-entry for their school directly with parents in the fall prior to school start up. There will be some common measures between schools and some measures that are specific to each school's context.

Based on the current recommendations from Alberta Health Services and Alberta Education, we would like to share some of our district recommendations for ALL schools for the fall. The recommendations from the province may change based on the evolving COVID 19 situation which would necessitate a change to these district recommendations for schools.

- Schools are to give consideration to staggered entry to support the establishment of new safety routines for students and staff;
- Teachers will be provided with a common set of lesson plans and resources that will include the following topics, but will not be limited to:
 - Hand hygiene
 - Proper use of hand sanitizer
 - Respiratory hygiene
 - How to maintain physical distancing
- Parents will be required to provide updated information on children's pre-existing conditions on the CRPS demographic form at the beginning of the school year;
- NO PERSON, including staff and students, shall enter the school if they are exhibiting COVID 19 symptoms, even if symptoms resemble a mild cold;
- Daily cleaning will be arranged for all areas of the school. Washrooms and high-touch surfaces will be cleaned several times a day. Regularly scheduled deep cleaning will take place when students are not present;
- Before leaving home, staff and children/students who will access the school for work or education, must self-screen for symptoms each day that they enter the school using the screening questionnaire from Alberta Education. If they answer YES to any of the questions, the individual should not come to the school;
- Parents must wait outside the school to pick up their children;
- Parents shall not enter the building without an appointment made 24 hours in advance, except in emergency situations, so that the number of additional adults in the building can be minimized at any given time;
- All school doors will be locked throughout the school day except during drop off times;
- Students will leave immediately after school so that cleaning can begin as soon as possible;

- Physical playground structures will not be used during school hours by students;
- Schools will not be open for community use;
- Children will be required to bring a lunch/snack that does not require a lot of preparation as microwaves will not be available for student use;
- If a class cannot be staffed, children may be sent home until a substitute can be secured. If this occurs during the school year the school will contact parents as soon as possible;
- If a student presents with symptoms during the school day, parents will be contacted immediately to pick up their child. The student will be placed in the isolation/sick room until they are picked up. Students cannot be placed on the bus;
- Parents are encouraged to drive their children to school or to encourage their children to ride their bike or walk when possible;
- 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 and the school will isolate the student upon arrival and call parents to pick up as soon as possible;
- In the unlikely event that too many bus drivers become ill with COVID 19, some bus routes may need to be cancelled
- Field trips requiring bus transportation are suspended at this time
- Sport teams are suspended at this time

We wish all of you the very best this summer and look forward to welcoming your children back to school in the fall, whatever the scenario may be. Take care.

Sincerely,



Christopher MacPhee
Superintendent of Schools