

July 22, 2020

Re. School Re-Entry Information for 2020-21 School Year - Update for Parents

Families of Canadian Rockies Public Schools,

As a followup to my letter on June 26th, I wanted to make you aware of the latest information that we have received as we prepare for the 2020/2021 school year. As I shared in June, the province was considering the following three scenarios for the 2020/2021 school year.

- 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)

Yesterday, the government announced that we will be returning to near normal, in-school classes, this fall. We are very excited about the prospect of once again working with our students in a face-to-face environment. Now that we have the government announcement that we were waiting for, we can move forward with finalizing our re-entry plans. On August 14th, we will email you directly with our district 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. There will be some common measures between schools and some measures that are specific to each school's context.

A reminder that 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.

Alberta Education has posted a toolkit and resources for parents [here](#). Please be aware that, at this time, the Minister of Education and the Chief Medical Officer have not mandated the use of masks for your children. This decision will be left up to individuals and families who may choose to wear a mask to protect others. Guidelines for wearing non-medical face masks can be found [here](#).

As we have shared, CRPS has made a number of plans and taken proactive steps to ensure that our schools are as safe as possible for students and staff. To reiterate:

- 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 instructional 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 at any time 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 or are not at work due to displaying COVID 19 symptoms, 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.

I have every confidence that our schools will be ready to move forward on August 31st and that they will serve the needs of your child in the best way possible. That being said, we realize that some families may opt out of sending their children to school this fall due to the pandemic. If this is the case for your family, we encourage you to contact the school/s on or after August 25th to discuss at home learning arrangements.

Additionally, 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 for your cooperation and your patience as we navigate the development of our school re-entry plans.

Sincerely,



Christopher MacPhee
Superintendent of Schools