

## Parent Update

July 21, 2020



Hello everyone,

As a follow up to my letter on June 25th, I wanted to make you aware of the latest information that we have as we prepare for students to resume regular classes on Tuesday, September 1st.

First, as I mentioned in June, we are very excited about the prospect of working with our students in a face to face learning environment. We are convinced this is the best way for students to learn and to develop their social and emotional strengths.

Second, as I mentioned in June, we have taken a number of proactive steps to ensure that our schools are safe places to learn during this time of COVID-19. Now that we have the government announcement we were waiting for, we will soon be sharing our re-entry guidelines that will clarify how we plan to do our best to meet or exceed all of the expectations from Alberta Education and Alberta Health Services. Just prior to Friday, August 14th we will email you directly with our re-entry guidelines. They will also be published on our website. As we outlined in June, we have:

- 1) Made plans to add significant custodial time in every school across the division so that the elevated need for daily cleaning can easily be met or exceeded.
- 2) Made plans for schools to educate students upon re-entry regarding hand hygiene and coughing/sneezing etiquette expectations.
- 3) Provided schools with a significant amount of hand sanitizer.
- 4) Installed signage to promote handwashing that is visible throughout our schools.
- 5) Ensured that the floors of our schools have large stickers and directional arrows that encourage physical distancing wherever possible.
- 6) Removed or blocked the use of soft-surface furniture and carpeting.
- 7) Made plans to install plexi-glass partitions in all school reception areas over the summer.
- 8) Created strict protocols that will ensure students and staff who are sick stay at home.

For those of you who rely on our transportation system, I want to let you know that we are still waiting for guidelines from Alberta Education in this particular area. Once those are announced we plan to provide those families impacted with the information they need no later than August 14th.

As part of their July 21st announcement, the Minister of Education and the Chief Medical Officer of Health did not mandate the use of masks. They left the decision regarding the use of masks up to individuals and parents, and as such, we are supporting individual decisions regarding masks as we continue to follow guidelines during this evolving health situation.

I have every confidence that our schools will be ready to move forward on September 1st and serve the needs of your child in the best way possible. If you have any questions regarding your child's program or the re-entry guidelines when they are shared, we are asking you to wait until at least August 26th to contact your child's school.

Thanks so much for your continued patience through all of this. I sincerely hope you are having a fantastic summer.

Kurt Sacher  
Superintendent of Schools