

Students & COVID-19

Background

On June 9, 2020, the Government of Saskatchewan announced that in-classroom learning will resume for the 2020-21 school year. To help school divisions prepare for the return of students and staff, provincial guidelines have been developed to inform local planning. This procedure has been created to ensure a safe return to school for all students. These protocols will continue to be adjusted as necessary following the direction of the Chief Medical Health Officer of Saskatchewan.

Procedures

1. General Guidelines

- 1.1 Proper hand hygiene is expected from all students. Practices include using soap and water when hands are soiled and hand sanitizer when visibly clean. Cough and sneeze into your elbow and avoid touching your face, mouth, nose and eyes.
- 1.2 Students are encouraged to bring their own hand sanitizer to supplement what the school division will be providing.
- 1.3 Mask usage will be in accordance with school division protocols.
- 1.4 Students shall limit physical contact throughout the school day (i.e. during instruction, recess, nutrition programs, extracurricular) and avoid close greetings such as handshakes, hugs and high fives.
- 1.5 Students shall avoid bringing unnecessary personal possessions to school and are expected to keep cubbies, lockers and desks clean and free from clutter.
- 1.6 Students are expected to keep their own space clean and sanitized. Disinfectants will be provided by the school division.
- 1.7 Sharing food, drinks or other personal items is to be avoided.

2. Guidelines for Illness

- 2.1 All students are expected to self-monitor for COVID-19 symptoms. Common symptoms include:

- Fever
- Cough
- Headache
- Muscle and/or joint aches and pains
- Sore throat
- Chills
- Runny nose
- Nasal congestion
- Conjunctivitis
- Dizziness
- Fatigue
- Nausea/vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Loss of appetite
- Loss of sense of taste or smell
- Shortness of breath
- Difficulty breathing

- 2.2 If a student has symptoms of COVID-19 illness they are to stay home and call Healthline 811. The student shall follow the recommendations and directions provided.
- 2.3 The student should stay home for 48 hours after symptoms have resolved or stabilized.
- 2.4 If a student starts displaying symptoms of COVID-19 illness while at school, the student will be isolated from other students and the parent or guardian will be notified to pick up the student immediately.
- 2.4.1 In all interactions with the student, staff members shall:
- 2.4.1.1 Maintain physical distancing from the student as much as possible;
- 2.4.1.2 Wear a mask and face shield;
- 2.4.1.3 Avoid contact with the student's respiratory secretions;
- 2.4.1.4 Provide the student with a face mask, if the student is not wearing one, and request the student wear it provided the student is not in respiratory distress;
- 2.4.1.5 Wash their hands adequately with soap and water or use hand sanitizer before and after attending to the student; and,
- 2.4.1.6 Dispose of disposable PPE and arrange for non-disposable PPE (i.e., face shield) to be cleaned and disinfected.
- 2.4.2 The principal or designate shall, as soon as reasonably possible:
- 2.4.2.1 Call parents or caregivers to pick up and remove their child from the school to a location where the child may self-isolate, and instruct them to call Healthline 811 as soon as possible;
- 2.4.2.2 Arrange for the cleaning and disinfection of the isolation room as soon as reasonably possible, the student's classroom and, in particular, the student's desk and surrounding desks and any other common touch items in the classroom and/or school facility (i.e., washroom) to which the student would have had access that school day; and,
- 2.4.2.3 Advise the Superintendent of School Operations.
- 2.5 Any and all communications regarding the student or further action that might need to be taken by the staff, students or school must be done only by or with the

approval of the Superintendent of School Operations in consultation with Public Health.

- 2.6 Parents or guardians shall follow the direction of the Saskatchewan Health Authority following the use of the Saskatchewan COVID-19 Self-Assessment Tool before the student returns to school.

3. Public Health Order

- 3.1 All students will follow the directives outlined in the most recent Public Health Order available at www.saskatchewan.ca/coronavirus:
 - 3.1.1 Students that have been identified by a Medical Health Officer as **having COVID-19** shall immediately go into mandatory self-isolation until such time as the Medical Health Officer determines that they no longer pose a public health threat;
 - 3.1.2 Students that have been identified by a Medical Health Officer as a **close contact of a person or persons with COVID-19** shall go into mandatory self-isolation for 14 days from the date of last having been exposed to COVID-19;
 - 3.1.3 Students that have **traveled internationally** shall go into mandatory self-isolation for 14 days from date of arrival back into Canada;
 - 3.1.4 Students **who are household members or contacts of a person with COVID-19** and who become symptomatic shall immediately go into self-isolation for 14 days and call Healthline 811.

4 Additional Health Supports

- 4.1 Healthline 811

Reference: Re-Open Saskatchewan: A plan to re-open the provincial economy
Primary and Secondary Educational Institution Guidelines June 18, 2020
AP 159 Health and Safety
AP 160 Student and Staff Safety
AP 164 Communicable Diseases

August 24, 2020