

Response Planning Team Update – June 9, 2020

Intended for use and distribution to school division personnel

Phase 3 of the Re-Open Saskatchewan Plan

As many of you know, this week is the beginning of Phase 3 of the province's *Re-Open Saskatchewan Plan*. As part of Phase 3, the Chief Medical Health Officer has advised that limits on public and private gatherings have been increased to a maximum of 15 people indoors and 30 people outdoors.

With this in mind, the Chief Medical Health Officer has noted that plans for alternative or in-person graduation ceremonies is allowed to proceed, as long as the public health order guidelines are followed. We understand the importance of graduation celebrations to your schools, families and communities. We thank you for your continued efforts to mark these important occasions while ensuring the safety of all involved.

The Government of Saskatchewan has also announced that outdoor playgrounds can re-open starting on Friday, June 12. Families visiting parks or outdoor playgrounds are reminded that they must still follow the public health orders in place and frequent hand washing is recommended.

More information on the guidelines for parks is available here:

<https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/health-care-administration-and-provider-resources/treatment-procedures-and-guidelines/emerging-public-health-issues/2019-novel-coronavirus/re-open-saskatchewan-plan/guidelines/parks-and-outdoor-playgrounds-guidelines>.

The Corporate Services Committee of the Education Response Planning Team is also working on further guidelines for schools related to playgrounds, which is expected to be sent out in the coming days.

School in the Fall

As of today, [Education Minister Gordon Wyant and the Chief Medical Health Officer announced](#) that we are planning for a return to in-classroom learning in the fall, for the 2020-21 school year. The school year will begin as early as September 1, based on your local school division calendars.

The Education Response Planning Team (RPT) is working on finalizing the framework that divisions and schools can use to begin planning for what school will look like in the fall to ensure the ongoing safety of students and staff. Next week, you can expect to receive this framework, including information on public health guidelines that are being developed in concert with the province's Chief Medical Health Officer.

While a return to the classroom in the fall is part of our planning focus, the RPT is also working on parameters for contingency plans to be put in place in case there is an elevated risk of transmission where in-class learning cannot resume as planned, either regionally or provincially.

The RPT encourages school divisions to share the information regarding schools re-opening for in-classroom learning in the fall with your staff and school families, as part of your regular communications.

We recognize the dedication and work that school administrators, teachers and support staff have put in over the last few months to ensure our students and families are supported during these unrepresented times. We thank you for all your work and we look forward to continuing to support your work as we aim to return to in-classroom learning this fall.

As continually stated before, the safety of students and staff continues to be of the utmost importance. The Ministry of Education is working with SaskBuilds and following the guidance of the Chief Medical Health Officer to ensure all necessary materials and supplies are available to school divisions to ensure learning will occur in a safe environment in the fall. If PPE equipment is recommended for staff by the Chief Medical Health Officer, this will also be included.

The RPT remains committed to providing regular updates and keeping our education sector informed.

Thank you for your leadership during this challenging times.

Response Planning Team