

## Response Planning Team Update – August 27, 2020

### Intended for use and distribution to school division personnel

The Response Planning Team (RPT) recognizes planning for the reopening of school is unprecedented in our province’s history. As such, the RPT continues to work in consultation with the Chief Medical Health Officer, to prepare for the safe return to school for students and staff. Plans will continue to evolve, as required by emerging health risk assessments that may impact our communities over the school year.

#### Instructional Services Team Updates:

##### Resumption of Learning- Fall 2020

Please see the attached document.

##### Renewal of Accreditation

A one-year extension will be given to all teachers who are currently accredited.

##### Provincial Examinations Schedule

The dates for provincial examinations have been extended for all eight sessions in the 2020-21 school year. Transcripts will be generated as per the existing transcript schedule and registration for exams will follow the regular process.

##### Revised 2020-21 Examination Windows

|                                      |
|--------------------------------------|
| Window 1 – October 26 – November 13  |
| Window 2 – November 16 – December 23 |
| Window 3 – January 4 – January 29    |
| Window 4 – February 1 – March 12     |
| Window 5 – March 15 – April 30       |
| Window 6 – May 3 – June 11           |
| Window 7 – June 14 – June 30         |
| Window 8 – August 3 – August 6       |

##### Front-facing Instruction

As you are aware, in the Safe Schools Plan announcement on August 11, 2020, Saskatchewan’s Chief Medical Health Officer directed front-facing instruction for students, with any exceptions identified for approval by Public Health. To assist Public Health with these requests, the Instructional Services Team has created a list of general situations where front-facing instruction may be problematic. As always, teachers will continue to make daily decisions regarding instruction, based on the guidelines from the Chief Medical Health Officer and their school divisions.

The following are situations where front-facing instruction may be difficult to enforce, and have been reviewed as exemptions by Public Health, taking into consideration that all other safety conditions are in place (e.g., physical distancing, cohorts of students, etc.):

- Physical education
- Science labs
- Early years play-based environment
- Group instruction, such as guided reading
- Student supports and interventions done in groups

School divisions are encouraged to work closely with their local medical health officers and schools are encouraged to contact Public Health with health-related questions.

### **Forward Facing Instruction – Early Years**

Please see the attached document.

### **Corporate Services Team Updates:**

#### **Sample Staff COVID Operational Procedure**

Please see the attached document.

### **Suggested Considerations around Operation of Child Care/Before and After School/Pre-school Programs in Schools**

#### **Child Care Centres**

In addition to following the [Child Care Facilities Guidelines](#) for COVID-19:

- Staff must wear a mask at all times when leaving the dedicated child care spaces.
- Spray bottles of hand sanitizer and disinfectant must be available in each room.
- Operators must develop a plan in consultation with the principal to ensure parents are not required to enter the school when picking up or dropping off their children.
- Operators must keep a daily log of students and staff attending the program as well as the names of parents required to enter the school, retain the record for 30 days and securely destroy records after 45 days.

#### **Before and After School/School-age Care Programs**

- Students and staff should comply with a school division's mask usage guidelines.
- Classroom cohort groups should be maintained within the program if possible.
- Play equipment must be individually based and sanitized prior to sharing with another student
- Students and staff must use hand sanitizer (supplied by the school division) when arriving.
- Operators must develop a plan in consultation with the principal to ensure parents are not required to enter the school when picking up or dropping off their children.
- Operators must keep a daily log of students and staff attending the program as well as the names of parents required to enter the school, retain the record for 30 days and securely destroy records after 45 days.

## **Pre-schools**

- Staff must wear a mask at all times when leaving the dedicated classroom spaces. Children are encouraged to wear a mask when walking to and from the classroom.
- Spray bottles of hand sanitizer and disinfectant will be provided in each room.
- Operators must develop a plan in consultation with the principal to ensure parents are not required to enter the school when picking up or dropping off their children.
- Operators must keep a daily log of students and staff attending the program as well as the names of parents required to enter the school, retain the record for 30 days and securely destroy records after 45 days.

## **Other Division/school-specific considerations to think about:**

- Outline parameters around access to gym, resource centre, common areas within the school and play grounds.
- Advise operators to stay current with the school division's reopening plan.
- Advise operators to review the school's reopening plan.
- Encourage open communication with the school principal.
- Ask operators to become familiar with the school's plan/protocol for symptomatic students and how to access the school's COVID isolation room should a child develop symptoms while in the care of your program (for B&A and Pre-school programs; child care centres have their own protocol).
- Outline any disinfecting responsibilities in school spaces e.g., if rooms will be used during the school day, B&A and pre-school staff must apply Division-provided disinfectant after students leave the program in the morning and prior to them entering the program in the afternoon and record the date and time of disinfecting per the school's protocol.

## **Contingency Fund Application**

The application form and letter for the COVID-19 Contingency Fund has been sent to school divisions. You are reminded to please submit applications to Rory Jensen, Acting Assistant Deputy Minister at [rory.jensen@gov.sk.ca](mailto:rory.jensen@gov.sk.ca) by August 27.

Response Planning Team

Attachments (3)