

June 22, 2020

GSSD Parents/Guardians,

The Government of Saskatchewan released the Primary and Secondary Educational Institution Guidelines for the return to classroom learning in the fall of 2020 ([Ministry Announcement](#)).

GSSD is working earnestly to align the return to school plan with the details contained in the Re-open Saskatchewan Plan and the newly released guidelines.

As this is a highly evolving situation, the guidelines may be updated and adjusted depending on the impact of COVID-19 on our province over the course of the summer.

- The Government of Saskatchewan announced on June 9, 2020, that Prekindergarten to Grade 12 students and school staff would be returning to schools this September 2020.
- We know that everyone in the sector values the education of every child in the province. Their safety and well-being, as well as that of our educators and school staff, is paramount as we continue to navigate the impacts on education from the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Under the direction of Saskatchewan's Chief Medical Health Officer, and with the help of the Education Response Planning Team (RPT), the Ministry of Education announced on June 18, 2020, the Primary and Secondary Educational Institution Guidelines for the return to classroom learning.
- These guidelines are posted on Saskatchewan.ca and will ensure we are protecting our students, school staff, and families while also providing quality education to the future leaders of Saskatchewan.
- We ask that parents and caregivers please monitor their children for any signs or symptoms of illness. COVID-19 infections in children tend to be mild and similar to other viral respiratory infections. Symptoms such as dry cough, fever, and gastrointestinal concerns (e.g., nausea, vomiting, diarrhea) may be present. Skin changes and lesions are less common symptoms. If any of these symptoms are apparent, we ask that both students and school staff remain home.
- Schools will increase sanitation measures and continue to promote proper hygiene practices. This includes the availability of hand sanitizer wherever possible, establishing clear protocols for bringing supplementary school materials such as backpacks and school supplies in and out of schools, and planning for minimized contact among students as much as possible.

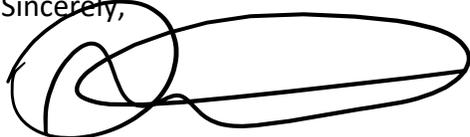
- As this situation evolves, the guidelines may be updated and adjusted depending on the impact of COVID-19 over the course of the summer.
- While a return to in-class learning is the goal for this upcoming fall, the RPT is continually working to ensure contingency plans are in place in the event of elevated risk of transmission, both regionally and provincially. School divisions are being encouraged to share their plans for re-opening with families and school staff to maintain constant support and communication.
- As we move through this global pandemic, our top priority continues to be the health and well-being of our children and communities. I can assure you the Ministry of Education, the Response Planning Team, and the Chief Medical Health Officer are working diligently to ensure that the return to the classroom this fall will occur in a safe yet comfortable environment for both students and school staff.

As soon as GSSD has the Fall 2020 Return to School Plan developed, the document will be shared with you. As mentioned above, this is a highly evolving situation; therefore, guidelines may be updated and adjusted depending on the impact of COVID-19 on our province over the course of the summer. If there are updates made to the plan, the revised guidelines will be communicated with you promptly.

Thank you for your patience during this extraordinary time.

Stay well and take care!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized loop followed by a long, horizontal stroke that tapers to the right.

Quintin Robertson
Director of Education/CEO
Good Spirit School Division