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July 30, 2020

Dear KPDSB Families,

Today, July 30, 2020, the Government of Ontario released their school reopening plans for the 2020-2021 school year. You can find the Guide to Reopening Ontario's Schools by [clicking here](#). We will release additional details specific to our schools in the coming weeks, but wanted to share the information that was released today with families.

We want to remind families that attending school in-person is voluntary. For students not attending in-person, remote/distance learning will be available, however, families should be aware that once they have selected remote instruction, should they wish to switch to in-person at a later date, they won't be able to do so until predetermined dates throughout the school year. Please watch for a survey next week that families can use to indicate if their child will be attending in-person, or remotely in September.

Elementary Schools (applies to students in Kindergarten to Grade 8):

- The government has announced all elementary schools in the province will open with conventional in-person delivery of teaching and instruction, five days a week, with enhanced health and safety protocols as outlined below under public health protocols.
- Parents will continue to have the option to opt their elementary children out of in-person delivery (a survey will be released next week for families to indicate if their child will be attending in-person).
- Nearly all programming will continue with special considerations as outlined below under public health protocols.
- Class sizes will not be reduced, however, students will remain with their classes and teacher(s) (also referred to as a cohort) all day with staggered lunches and recesses to ensure students interact with their teacher(s) and classmates only.

Secondary Schools (applies to students in Grades 9-12):

- The government has announced all secondary schools in Ontario have been divided into two groups, designated and non-designated. Our school board has been placed into the non-designated group, which means our secondary schools will open with in-person conventional delivery, but with cohort limitations and with enhanced health and safety protocols as outlined below under public health protocols.
- Parents will continue to have the option to opt their secondary children out of in-person delivery (a survey will be released next week for families to indicate if their child will be attending in-person).
- All school boards are expected to adopt timetabling methods that emphasize cohorting of students, particularly at the secondary level, as much as possible to limit the number of direct and indirect

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The Keewatin-Patricia District School Board puts students first by creating a culture of learning.

student-to-student contacts. Efforts to cohort secondary school students may impact the traditional four course delivery model in a semestered school.

- In order to reduce the risk of transmission and to support contact tracing, school boards are to develop timetables that limit indirect and direct student contacts to approximately 100 students in the school, and are encouraged to keep secondary school students in a maximum of two in-person class cohorts.
- There are different models available to support timetabling students in secondary schools to limit indirect and direct student contacts. As a Board, we will be discussing our proposed model with the Ministry of Education next week and will share additional information with secondary families following that meeting.

Enhanced Public Health Protocols for all Schools:

- Masks – Non-medical masks will be mandatory for all students in grades 4-12. Non-medical masks are not required but are encouraged for students in Kindergarten to Grade 3. Students may wear their own non-medical masks, and non-medical masks will also be made available for students through their school. Reasonable exceptions on the requirement to wear masks will apply.
- Physical Distancing – Physical distancing will be in place wherever possible inside of schools/offices.
- Hand Washing/Sanitizing - Hand sanitizing stations will be available throughout our schools and offices. School staff will support students in ensuring proper hand washing is occurring frequently.
- Cleaning and Disinfecting - Heightened cleaning practices will be in place in all schools and offices. Schools will have custodial staff in the building and available to support frequent cleaning and sanitizing throughout the school day.
- Shared spaces - Shared spaces like gymnasiums and cafeterias will remain open to students. Shared items will be sanitized before being used again.
- School Bus Transportation – Enhanced cleaning and use of personal protective equipment will be in place for drivers, as well as students (non-medical masks required for students in grades 4-12 and encouraged for students in Kindergarten to Grade 3). Students will have assigned seats. Active forms of travel (for example, walking and cycling) and private transportation by parents and caregivers, are encouraged where possible, to ease pressure on transportation demands.

As always, we are here to support you and your family. Please remember that our website has a [COVID-19 section](#) with supports for students and families during the pandemic, including Mental Health resources. You can also follow us on social media (search KPDSB on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram) for information and updates.

Sincerely,



Sherri-Lynne Pharand
Director of Education, Keewatin-Patricia District School Board