



Nicole Buchanan - Board Chair
Chad Erickson - Superintendent of Schools
Re-entry Update 5

August 7, 2020

Dear families,

We hope you are enjoying a safe and healthy summer break. We are looking forward to getting back to school on September 1 and in preparation, Red Deer Public Schools has been working diligently in planning for the next school year. We want to share those details and ask for your intentions in sending your child back to school this fall, so that we can be best prepared.

On July 21, **the Minister of Education announced that we will return to school under Scenario 1, near normal operations, with some restrictions. The key element to this scenario is that students will be back to attending our schools daily!** We recognize that depending on how the COVID-19 pandemic evolves, this could change throughout the school year.

It is important to note that these decisions are made by Alberta's Chief Medical Officer of Health and Alberta Education. Red Deer Public Schools will follow all guidelines set out by these authorities.

To prepare for September, we have developed a [2020-2021 Handbook for Students and Families](#), to assure you we are doing all we can to make return to school safe for our students and staff. **We encourage families to take some time to review this document before confirming their intentions on return to school. As provincial guidance changes, this document will continue to be updated, so please check back regularly.**

You will remember that we surveyed you in early June, asking for your intentions and what back to school might look like for you and your family. As we know this pandemic has continued to evolve, we need to survey you again to get **confirmation of your intentions** to assist us in being well prepared to best meet the needs of your children and family this September. **We request that you please respond by Friday, August 14, 2020.** But before we do that, we have some important details to share.

Red Deer Public Schools is committed to the following principles:

- The health and well-being of students and staff is a priority.
- Red Deer Public Schools will follow protocols established by Alberta Health Services (for example, we will be increasing daytime cleaning in our schools).
- Students and staff who are vulnerable will be accommodated to the best of our abilities.

It's going to be great to have students back in our classrooms, but we know that September will be different, and we want to provide you with the assurance that we will do everything we can to keep our students and staff healthy and well. We have



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developed a [video](#) which details what school will look like for our students this fall. We encourage you and your family to take a few minutes to watch it together before the first day of school.

We will continue to have more information as September 1 approaches. **Your child's school will be in contact with you on August 26.**

Until then, we encourage you to check out our dedicated [webpage](#) for school re-entry. This includes our re-entry Handbook for Students and Families. The webpage also includes an [FAQ section](#), which answers many questions we are receiving from families. We encourage families to ask any questions they have regarding re-entry in our [Parent Questions Google Form](#). Please note, we will not answer questions directly, but the answers will be included in our FAQ section. This webpage will be updated regularly and will serve as your go-to source on information and decisions regarding school re-entry.

The success of this year's re-entry will depend on the great partnership we have with our Red Deer Public families. We appreciate your continued support, patience and understanding as we move forward with our plans for re-entry and the 2020-2021 school year, and we can't wait to have our students and staff back in the classroom!

[CLICK HERE TO COMPLETE THE RE-ENTRY SURVEY CONFIRMING YOUR INTENTIONS BY FRIDAY, AUGUST 14, 2020](#)

Sincerely,

Nicole Buchanan
Board Chair

Chad Erickson
Superintendent of Schools