



# Reopen Chinook Update

August 12, 2020

Dear Chinook Staff and Families,

With the first day of classes just around the corner, students, staff and parents are anxiously looking forward to returning to school. Reopening our schools, as we know, is complicated because of COVID-19. Chinook teachers return to school on August 27th and students will return to school on Thursday, September 3rd.

On Monday, August 10th, the Government of Saskatchewan announced additional COVID-19 guidance for school divisions. Please review the details and recommended measures [in their release](#).

This week, we met with a team of local doctors from the Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA) to review and discuss our Reopen Chinook plan. They have provided additional insights on how we can collectively stay safe and keep students healthy and engaged in our schools. There is a balance we must find, during the pandemic, between living with the threat of a virus and the mental health and well being of our children.

In consultation with local SHA representatives, **Chinook School Division will be implementing additional safety measures where appropriate and will enhance provisions already in place to protect students and staff.** In schools with high density populations, measures such as masking, alternate day schedules, cohorting and alternate learning spaces are being considered and implemented.

Saskatchewan's Chief Medical Health Officer has recommended masking for students and staff, as they play a key role protecting the health of students, staff and families. In our highly populated schools in high traffic indoor areas, such as hallways or entrances where appropriate physical distancing is not possible, mask use will help limit the spread of the virus while in close proximity and confined spaces.

As such, Chinook will be implementing the following guidelines:

- Masks are **recommended** for:
  - all staff in Chinook schools; and
  - all Prekindergarten to Grade 12 students.
- Masks are **required** for:
  - staff and students (all grades) on school buses with high student numbers; and
  - staff and grades 4-12 students in highly populated schools, in areas where physical distancing cannot be achieved.

All staff members will receive 5 reusable cloth masks, and Chinook School Division will provide 2 reusable cloth masks for every student in the division. We also encourage parents and caregivers to purchase additional reusable cloth masks for their children.

Education and training on the proper use of masks will be ongoing through the use of posters, infographics and videos. Before the start of the school year, principals will communicate their school

specific plans with families. We will also be practicing these protocols with students in the first days of school and throughout the year as required.

While many families will choose to send their children back to school with the protective provisions we have outlined in the Reopen Chinook plan, we understand there are families whose children require accommodation due to diagnosed medical conditions; some families will choose home schooling to be provided by parents or caregivers; and there will be families who are just not comfortable having their children at school, even with all of the protective provisions, and will want some form of access to remote at-home learning. Based on this data, we will be working on learning delivery options for students for the 2020-2021 school year.

In order to plan for a safe and successful school year, we will be requiring a **pre-registration form to be completed for each student in Chinook's public schools. Further details on learning delivery options and an online form will be emailed on Friday, August 14th. Families will have until Thursday, August 20th to submit their forms.**

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact your school's principal, superintendent or our central information line at: 306-778-9200 or toll-free 1-877-321-9200.

Take care and stay safe!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'KM', is positioned above the typed name of the Director of Education.

Sincerely,  
Kyle McIntyre  
Director of Education