



August 12, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians:

We want to begin by thanking you for supporting your child's learning at home when in-person classes were cancelled March 15, 2020 until the end of June. Your efforts are appreciated as we know it is not easy to teach some of the concepts that students have to learn. We hope you have been able to relax, recharge and spend quality time with loved ones during this challenging time due to COVID-19.

On July 21, 2020, Jason Kenney, Premier, Adriana LaGrange, Minister of Education and Dr. Deena Hinshaw, Alberta's Chief Medical Officer of Health announced that in-person classes will resume under scenario 1, which is a complete return to school with health and safety measures to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission. Prior to the announcement, Alberta Education with support from Dr. Hinshaw, provided guidance documents to support school divisions with re-entry plans.

NSD values the partnerships we have with parents and guardians. This year will be no different and it is more important now, more than ever, that our families and schools work together to support our students and to model healthy practices. The current pandemic makes our work more complex, but this work remains as important as it has ever been. NSD's re-entry plan, developed by a committee of school principals, directors and senior administration—in consultation with the Board of Trustees of Northland School Division, Alberta Education, Alberta Health Services, Alberta Teachers' Association and the College of Alberta School Superintendents (CASS), outlines how schools are operating and expectations throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

- mandatory use of masks for all staff and students grades 4-12 and highly recommended for students K- grade 3;
- mandatory use of masks for all students riding the school bus.
- enhanced cleaning and hygiene protocols;
- daily screening requirements;
- strict stay at-home guidelines for individuals who feel unwell or have symptoms related to COVID-19;
- enforced public-health measures; and
- cohort and physical distancing strategies.

In addition, we created a shorter re-entry guide for parents and guardians.

- **NSD 2020-2021 Re-entry Plan** <https://www.nsd61.ca/download/291974>.
- **NSD Re-entry Parent/Guardian Guide** <https://www.nsd61.ca/download/291977>.

Schools will resume in-school classes on **September 8-11, 2020 with the added health measures**. Students will have a staggered entry in the first week, with parents being notified which days during the first week that their child will attend in person classes.

To support NSD's re-entry plan, we have developed a survey for parents and guardians <https://forms.gle/7wHDS2GNUAys2FHS6>. The survey is posted on our website [www.nsd61.ca](http://www.nsd61.ca) and on our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/TheNorthlandSchoolDivision>. We ask that you take a few minutes to complete the survey before **Wednesday, August 19, 2020**. It will help us understand if you are:

- comfortable with sending their child back to school with added health measures;
- comfortable with sending their child back on the school bus with added health measures;
- choosing the at-home learning option.

For families not yet ready to send their child, NSD will offer an at-home learning option. Both the in-school and at-home learning options allow students to stay connected to schools throughout their learning. Overall, NSD's re-entry plan ensures the transition back to school is smooth, and operations take place in the safest way possible. It's essential parents and students understand and adhere to the guidelines, so the risk of transmission remains low and students can continue learning in a safe classroom setting.

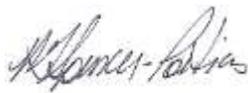
Thank you for your cooperation and support. We are looking forward to seeing NSD students once again. Our schools have felt very empty without the students and their positive energy! We have missed your children very much! Please remember to contact your school to register for the 2020-2021 school year, no matter if you are choosing to send your child to in person classes or the at-home learning option.

We will continue to provide you with any new information when it becomes available. Information will be posted on our website [www.nsd61.ca](http://www.nsd61.ca), and on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/TheNorthlandSchoolDivision>.

Sincerely,



Robin Guild  
Board Chair  
The Northland School Division



Dr. Nancy Spencer-Poitras  
Superintendent of Schools  
The Northland School Division

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cc: Board of Trustees of Northland School Division