



# Yellowknife Catholic Schools

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August 18, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians:

I hope that this letter finds you well as you prepare your child(ren) for returning to school. As you know, we received the final approval for our school reopening plans from the Office of the Chief Public Health Officer on August 14, 2020. As we implement these plans, we will continue to require the support of our many partners. We ask that parents and guardians pay particular attention to the following key information prior to schools reopening. We have done our very best to anticipate all the components of reopening schools safely, however, we do know that there will be changes as we move forward.

## **Screening**

All schools are required to have a screening process for students and staff in place as part of the reopening plan. We will be asking parents to monitor their child(ren) for symptoms on a daily basis before coming to school. It is imperative for the safety of all students and staff that if your child is displaying symptoms they are kept at home. Parents will be provided with information and a checklist to guide you in this process. The staff of YCS will also be expected to self-monitor.

## **Isolation Rooms**

As part of our return to school plans, each school has a designated space for isolation purposes. Students who present with any of the COVID19 symptoms will be placed in isolation and monitored by an adult supervisor. Parents/Guardians or emergency contact will be contacted immediately for pick-up. Please ensure that your child's school has **updated contact information** at all times. It is important to note that these rooms are meant to isolate children for a short period of time and therefore it is critical that arrangements are made for your child to be picked up without delay.

## **Masks**

YCS will provide each student with two non-medical masks for use within the school. These masks will be laundered daily by school staff. In the event that a mask is lost, forgotten, or misplaced, a disposable mask will be provided for the day. Parents are encouraged to help their child(ren) become comfortable wearing masks prior to school reopening. If your child already has a special mask they are comfortable with, they are more than welcome to continue wearing it as their primary mask.

## **Bussing**

The OCPHO requires non-medical masks or face coverings to be worn by all students on the school bus for the duration of their trip. Parents are responsible to ensure that their child's face can be appropriately covered while on the bus. Disposable masks will be available on the bus in the event that a child forgets their mask, however, First Transit will notify parents if this becomes a pattern. Non-medical masks can be replaced by scarves/neck warmers when traveling on the bus during colder months as long as the nose and mouth are covered. At this point in time, masks are not mandatory on public transit, however, this issue will be addressed by the City Council on August 24, 2020. We strongly encourage non-medical masks or face coverings when on public transit.

## **Parental Access to School**

In order to keep our buildings as safe as possible and prevent exposure to COVID19 parental access will be limited. When entering, parents will be asked to stop at the sanitation station, sign-in and will be required to wear a mask while in the building. We also ask that parents limit social contact if you need to be in the building. Schools will provide specific details to parents of children in JK - Grade 1, and those that will be following "curbside" drop-off and pick-up guidelines.

## **First Days of School**

The first few days of school will look slightly different as we continue to work together and learn how to follow the recommendations in our return to school plans. To keep everyone safe and to honor the physical distancing requirements in our plans, each school will be creating **a staggered entry** process and will share this next week. While we recognize that this may cause some initial inconvenience, we believe that it is crucial in preparing our students, meeting our return to school plan accommodations, and providing a continued safe environment.

## **Survey**

To assist in our planning, we ask all parents to please [complete this survey](#).

We are committed to providing the safest possible learning environment for students and staff and recognize that we can only do this with your assistance. We thank you once again for your incredible patience, understanding, and the support you have provided these past few months. Please stay in touch and keep informed through our multiple communication mediums.

God's Blessings,



Simone Gessler  
Superintendent