

Response Planning Team Update – March 27, 2020

Intended for use and distribution to school division personnel

While the education of our children and youth is our career, now is when we must recognize that humanity is our profession.

Our world isn't the same as it was a year ago, it isn't even the same as it was a week ago. The Response Planning Team has given the province a new framework in which to deliver education during the COVID-19 pandemic. We understand anxieties may be high, but please know everyone in the education sector is coming from a good place. We all want to do the absolute best for our students and see them achieve the amazing things of which they are capable.

As we approach our work collectively in the coming weeks let's start from a place of patience, compassion and collegiality. Thank you to everyone for your continued work and dedication during these unprecedented times. Our province is stronger because of it.

Corporate Service Team (CST) Update

Questions have been asked about school playgrounds. There have been no provincial orders to close playgrounds. The only provincial direction regarding playgrounds is they are to be avoided by anyone who is in 14-day self-isolation. It is important that all public orders be followed including following proper social distancing protocols and ensuring high touch areas are sanitized. We recognize that consistency between municipalities and school divisions would be valued. We understand some municipalities have taken the pro-active measure to close city-owned parks. Some school divisions have also pro-actively communicated to inform families and the local community that surfaces at playgrounds are not cleaned or sanitized.

The CST members are working on many different issues and has prioritized:

- Plans for staff to return to work starting March 30 with options including working from home, staggered physical presence in school buildings, etc. that meets the Chief Medical Health Officer's provincial guidelines, including:
 - Limiting the size of public and private gatherings to a maximum of 10 people in one room, effective March 26, 2020. Exceptions are provided where two-metre distancing between people can be maintained, such as; workplaces and meeting settings where people are distributed into multiple rooms or buildings, and retail locations deemed essential.
 - Access to tools and other resources for staff.

An email address (covid19questions@saskschoolboards.ca) and page on the SSBA website has been developed specifically for division senior staff and administration to submit and access Q and A's. Information specific to individual school divisions will be distributed in a different manner, e.g. direct email, Data Warehouse, etc.

Instructional Services Team Update

The Instructional Services Team (IST) met on March 26, 2020 to complete the supplementary instructional framework. The framework in its entirety is being compiled into a single document and will be sent to school divisions.

The IST is working on creating Q and A's regarding the instructional aspect of the framework. School divisions are asked to use the email address covid19questions@saskschoolboards.ca to ask their questions.

The IST team has put together a family friendly message (see attached word document) regarding the framework. Feel free to use this memo in whole or in part when communicating with your respective families and stakeholders. Please note that the ministry will be posting this letter on the Saskatchewan.ca website.

We thank you for your continued leadership during these challenging times.

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