



**Chad Erickson**  
Superintendent of Schools  
**COVID-19 PARENT LETTER #9**

November 26, 2020

Dear Families,

Further to the Alberta Government's Tuesday announcement of additional measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19, we want to update you on how Red Deer Public Schools will respond to the changes.

The measures will see **all Grade 7 to 12 students, province-wide, move to Temporary Online Learning, effective November 30. All students from Pre-Kindergarten to 12 will have a week of Temporary Online Learning following the Christmas Break from January 4 to 8.** Regular in-school classes are expected to resume on January 11, 2021.

With these changes, it is important to remember that Red Deer Public Schools is following directives and decisions that were made by the Government of Alberta.

For both of these changes, it is important for parents and students to know that the province-wide priority will be to have teaching and learning continue as normal as possible. Attendance, delivery of lessons, evaluation, etc. will continue as best we can under these circumstances. This will be noticeably different from at-home learning that occurred from March to June 2020.

Further details about the process will be sent from each school as there may be slight changes from the broader Division plan outlined below.

#### Students in Pre-Kindergarten to Grade 6:

- Students should see little change between now and the beginning of Christmas Break on December 18. Teaching and learning will continue much like it has since September.
- For the week of January 4 to 8, 2021, students will stay home to engage with **Temporary Online Learning**. More details will be provided to families closer to the Christmas break.

#### Students in Grades 7 to 12:

- Starting Monday, November 30, all students in Grades 7 to 12 will transition to **Temporary Online Learning**. This will continue until January 11, 2021 when in school learning is expected to resume.
- As noted, we will try to maintain teaching and learning as closely as possible to our operations since September. This means that attendance, content delivery through live Google Meet wherever possible, and student evaluation are still priorities.
- Teachers will continue to teach from school as near-normal as they can.
- Class schedules and times remain the same and will take place using Google Meet. Students should expect to continue learning as scheduled on their current timetable.
- Lesson materials will be posted on Google Classroom for student reference.
- Access to teacher support will take place during regularly scheduled class time.
- Our schools will support student learning with access to technology as best we can.

- Parents of students with disabilities are encouraged to work with their teacher and school principal on appropriate arrangements to continue to provide students with services and support they need.
- Attendance will be taken in all classes.
- All curricular outcomes will continue to be delivered.
- Students in specialized courses, such as CTS, may need to access specialized equipment at schools by appointment. Schools and teachers will confirm these special arrangements with students next week.
- Assessment and testing will continue and count towards final grades.
- Given disruptions, with a number of students needing to self-isolate, there will be no final exam week at the high schools as outlined in the calendar. Learning will continue until January 27, 2021, with a focus on teacher supported review of key concepts from the term. Final grades will be based on assessments and projects over the entire term. Semester Break will be January 28 and 29, 2021.
- Provincial Diploma Exams have been made optional by the Government. Students will be advised on the process to register should they wish to write these exams.
- Schools will remain open providing limited access, support and resources as needed.

We know the current pandemic has created an unprecedented change in all our lives and these new measures are yet another disruption. Again, we want to try and provide teaching and learning as *normal* as possible to maintain continuity and minimize disruption.

Our Division [website](#) will continue to provide the most current information and is updated regularly.

**KEEP YOUR FAMILIES HEALTHY AND STAY WELL...** These measures have been implemented to reduce the increase in cases of COVID-19 across Alberta. For this to happen, and in order to limit even stronger restrictions, we urge our students and families to follow all health guidelines. While in-school transmissions have been very limited across the province, social contact by children and youth has been identified as one of the issues resulting in these new measures. We recognize the importance of connections, but sincerely urge everyone to limit their contact with one another so we can have a real impact on the pandemic. Please do your part in following all health guidelines.

In closing I want to THANK OUR STAFF again for the great work they have been doing, and will continue to do, under these new measures. As challenging as these times have been, I have been touched by the many stories of staff doing their very best to support students. I also THANK OUR FAMILIES for supporting our students as well as your trust in us and the important work we are doing....we are all in this TOGETHER!

Sincerely,

Chad Erickson  
Superintendent of Schools