



# Park West School Division

Learners Today, Leaders Tomorrow

Stephen David  
Superintendent/CEO

Dorelle Fulton  
Secretary-Treasurer

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## MEMO

**Date:** Thursday, August 27, 2020

**Topic:** **Update to parents, guardians, and staff**

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The follow three page document provides information on the following items:

- Parent / guardian meeting on Tuesday
- Plans for sports and athletics
- Emergency measures in Prairie Mountain Health
- Mandatory masks for students and staff
- Responding to individuals with symptoms

### ***Parent / guardian meeting on Tuesday***

There will be a parent meeting on Tuesday, September 1 at 6:00 pm to discuss ongoing planning and preparation related to the re-opening of schools.

Topic: Meeting for parents and guardians

Time: Tuesday, Sep 1, 2020 6:00 PM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/91046155180?pwd=bWVJYWZlc0E0enpVY2p6QmdyMjNRdz09>

Meeting ID: 910 4615 5180

Passcode: 316450

### ***Plans for sports and athletics***

Park West School Division will pause all extracurricular activities including all Middle Years and High School sports and athletics for the start of the school year. This includes both practices and competition. We will review this decision by October 1 as more information emerges and we learn more about how to plan and program amid COVID-19.

The reasons for the pause in sports and athletics are as follows:

1. The current elevated measures in the Prairie Mountain Health Authority
2. A desire to focus our return to school on the classroom and the regular school day
3. The need for intensive cleaning of facilities and equipment at the end of each school day
4. The importance of mitigating risk and maximizing student and staff safety as we return to school.

We recognize that physical activity and athletics is extremely important to many students. We also know that this decision may not be ideal for some students, parents, and coaches. However, due to an abundance of caution we must delay sports and athletics at this time. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

### ***Emergency measures in Prairie Mountain Health***

On Thursday, August 20, the Chief Provincial Public Health Officer declared that the Prairie Mountain Health Region was moved to the Orange/Restricted level under the Province's new Pandemic Response System. School divisions been advised that the health orders under this new level are being applied in a focused manner and do not currently apply to schools. So this means that our school division is not at the Orange level and schools will re-open for students on September 8 in the manner that was previously communicated.

### ***Mandatory masks for students and staff***

Masks are mandatory for students in Grades 4 and up and for all staff. The province is developing a document which will provide direction for masks. We understand that it will explain when masks are required and when students and staff may have mask-free time. Once we receive this document we will distribute it to stakeholders.

### ***Responding to individual with symptoms***

There have been recent inquiries regarding how the school division will deal with students or staff displaying symptoms of COVID-19. In our divisional document regarding the re-opening of schools we noted that the province provided multiple guidelines for schools to follow. The province is also releasing a new document tomorrow entitled "COVID-19 Response in K-12 Schools" which will detail several scenarios and how schools will deal with them.

### *Responding to individuals with symptoms (continued)*

Here are some key protocols for students, parents/guardians and staff:

- If a child in a school becomes symptomatic:
  - The child should be isolated in a separate room. If a separate room is not immediately available, the child needs to be kept at least two metres or six feet away from other children and staff.
  - A medical mask will be provided to be worn by the sick student (over two years of age only), unless there are safety issues that prevent the student from wearing a mask.
  - The parent will be notified to come and pick up the child immediately. Parents or caregivers must pick up their child as soon as possible following notification.
  - Ask the parent or guardian to contact Health Links (204-788-8200 or 1-888-315-9257) or the child's health care provider for direction, if required.
  - If the child is young and requires close contact and care while isolated, caregivers can continue to care for the child until the parent is able to pick up the child. Caregivers should be mindful of hand hygiene and avoid contact with the respiratory secretions of the child. A medical mask should be worn by the staff person caring for the child.
  - If a parent/caregiver is unreachable to pick up a sick child, school staff should keep the child isolated in a separate room until the parent or caregiver arrives. If the medical condition requires urgent assessment, or if the parent cannot be located, they should follow standard procedures.
  - Anyone in close contact with the child while waiting should wear personal protective equipment, including a medical mask.
  - Once the student is picked up, the staff member should practice hand hygiene.
  - Additional environmental cleaning may be required. Focus should be on high-touch areas and areas where the child spent time. All items (e.g., bedding and toys) used by the child while isolated should be cleaned and disinfected after the child has been picked up.
  - A sick child can return to the school once it has been determined that it is safe to do so by their health care provider or public health. If that child has a positive test, further direction will be provided by public health. Public health typically follows up with contacts of cases within 24 to 48 hours of receipt of the laboratory report.
- If a staff member in a school becomes symptomatic, they will immediately isolate themselves from other staff and students, notify their administrator, and go home to monitor symptoms.
- In the event of confirmation of a case of COVID-19 connected with a school, public health will lead the response and provide guidance. Public health may:
  - Request records that identify cohorts/groups of staff, students, volunteers and visitors in the school for a specified timeframe
  - Offer testing following established guidelines to staff, students, volunteers and visitors that may have been exposed to a positive case
  - Assess the need for the school to be closed for a period of time.
  - Advise staff and students if they have been in close contact, if they need to self-isolate or self-monitor and when they can return to school.