

Date: August 20, 2020

To: Muir Lake Parents and Guardians

Fr: Murray Marran and Heather Brownlee

Re: Frequently Asked Questions for Muir Lake's Covid-19 Response

Naturally, as we progress closer to school entry, more questions are coming up regarding school entry, specific procedures, etc. What Mrs. Brownlee and I are doing is taking these questions and putting them in a FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions) document that you see below. This information is in conjunction with the [MLS Enhanced Protocols](#) document that was previously shared with parents. Please familiarize yourself with [Parkland School Division's 2020-2021 Plan For School Re-Entry](#) which is available on their website at <https://www.psd70.ab.ca>.

We are responding as quickly as possible to the information that we are receiving and we want you to have this as quickly as possible, so please be aware that some of these responses may change as new information comes to light.

Please take the time to read over these questions, as they may be useful in providing even more valuable information regarding the school and your child. We also encourage you to review the [Parkland School Division's Responding To Illness Protocol](#) document that is linked [HERE](#).

1. Are Kindergarten to Grade 3 students required to wear masks?

We strongly encourage children of all ages to wear masks and we appreciate all those parents out there who have decided to already practice this with their young ones. Ultimately, at this point in time, it is the parents' decision as to whether or not your younger child wears the mask but we will not discourage them from wearing it while at school in the common areas.

2. When are the grade 4 to 9 students required to wear masks?

As per the [mandate set out by The Minister of Education](#), all students in grades 4 to 12 wear masks outside the classroom in common areas (hallways, buses, etc.). Therefore, we will be asking these students to be vigilant about wearing their masks outside of the classroom. Information regarding this is also available on the [Parkland School Division website](#) linked [HERE](#). However, as a way to prevent the spread of Covid-19, we are encouraging all students to wear their masks at all times.

3. Do masks have to be worn on the playground?

Yes and No. If a child is with their cohort (outside) and are not coming in contact with other cohorts and the time outside is less than 15 minutes, masks do not have to be worn. This will be the case for our recess. However, if a child is outside for longer than 15 mins and is socializing with someone outside their cohort, they will have to don a mask. If children are outside for longer than 15 mins and do NOT mix someone outside their cohort, they do not need to don a mask. We anticipate this will be the case for the longer lunch recess we have.

4. My child has allergies and often has a runny nose. Does my child have to self-isolate after each time a runny nose is reported to the school?

Heather and I understand that parents know their children best. If your child has an underlying medical condition such as allergies, you have two options as a parent in order to ensure that your child's education is not interrupted due to self-isolation;

1. Get a COVID-19 test and test regularly to establish a baseline
2. Give the office a call. Please provide us with the medical condition, and as proof of a pre-existing condition, you could give us a copy of a prescription as a means of documentation.
3. Get a doctor's note that outlines the medical condition and what the symptoms typically are.

If your child then displays those symptoms (as outlined in the Dr.'s letter or that are congruent with pre-existing medical condition), Muir Lake School administration will contact you to ask you whether the displayed symptoms are due to the underlying medical condition or if the symptoms are atypical for your child. If your child is displaying atypical symptoms, we would then request self-isolation and a COVID-19 test in order to facilitate re-entry. Families will be required to provide proof of a negative COVID-19 test.

5. What if my child is not feeling well while at school?

If your child is not feeling well while at school, the teacher will send him/her to the office where the office staff will contact the family to see if we can take their temperature with a touchless thermometer. Then, we will ask the student to put on a mask (if they are not already wearing one), and have them sit in the infirmary. At that time, you as the parent, will be asked to come and pick him/her up immediately. If you cannot be reached, the office staff will contact the next name on your contact list in PowerSchool. You are asked to insure that you have at LEAST 2 names listed as potential contacts. Please check your PowerSchool Parent Portal at <https://powerschool.psd70.ab.ca/public/home.html> to update your contact list.

6. What happens if someone tests positive for COVID-19 in the school?

If a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19, Alberta Health Services will be informed and the school and the school division will take direction from the Chief Medical Officer's office. Both the school and school division will communicate with stakeholders if such an event were to occur.

7. How do I pick up my child's supplies that I ordered from Write-On Stationery?

Once we have received the orders in the school from Write-On Stationery, parents can pick them up. We will send out an email saying that they have arrived and we will have them outside the front door of the school during office hours (8 am to 3 pm), at which time you can pick them up. Each box will be labeled with your child's name.

8. Are parents/visitors allowed in the building?

Muir Lake School is requesting that parents that need to visit the school to please phone and make an appointment. Staff will meet you at the front door, COVID-19 screening will take place, a disposable mask will be provided if you do not have one, as well as hand sanitization will occur before entering the building. Once in the building, we kindly ask that parents refrain from entering classrooms and limit their time in the building to the hallways. Please see the Parkland School Division Visitor Entry Protocol document for Schools and PSD Sites linked [HERE](#)

9. Can I come into the school for first day of school?

We are asking that parents refrain from coming into the school on the first day of classes. Teachers will be at all doors on the first day to welcome children and direct them to the appropriate classrooms. Additionally, our Educational Assistants will be outside with the Administration Team to help direct children to the appropriate entry door. Please know that we understand the first day of school can be intimidating for some children. We will work with these children in order to have a smooth entry into the school and their cohort.

10. I want to help my child carry into the school their school supplies. How can I do this?

As mentioned earlier, we are requesting that parents refrain from entering the building as much as possible. Remember, lockers are not in use this year and each child is provided with a storage bin in the classroom (this includes junior high students as well). These bins are compact and storage space is limited. So, if your child is unable to carry all their supplies into school on the first day, please send items over a period of a few days so that your child will find the process manageable. First the first bit, if a child does not have a certain supply, we will provide them with it.

11. Where do I drop my child off in the morning?

As you are most likely aware, traffic congestion is a MAJOR concern at Muir Lake School. As we anticipate more parents dropping off students as opposed to them busing their children, we ask that you respect the drop-off area at the SOUTH CROSSWALK located at the south end of the parking lot.

Currently, the crosswalk at the main door is dangerous. So, if your child's designated entry door is the main entrance, we still ask that your child be dropped off at the south crosswalk, cross the bus lane, get onto the sidewalk and then walk to the main entrance.

Please understand, we are not doing this to make your life difficult or complicated! It is an attempt to manage extreme traffic flow at peak times and to avoid bottlenecks as much as possible. We have involved transportation services in this re-jigging of the parking lot and it is believed to be the best possible solution to alleviate some of our traffic concerns.

12. My child will not be riding the bus and I will be dropping him off at school. What are the steps for this?

If you are dropping your child off and picking them because they are not riding the bus, please ensure that drop-off is AFTER 7:50 a.m. and before 8 a.m. and that pick up is after 2:35 p.m. Drop off will be in the SOUTH cross walk to facilitate the number of vehicles and allow for safe, supervised arrivals.

13. I am dropping off my child after 8:01 a.m., where does he/she go?

If your child is arriving late to school after the 8:01 bell then they need to go to the office for a late slip. They will enter the building through the FRONT door, as the other student doors will be locked at 8:01. We ask that you as the parent, phone the office and explain the reason for them being late. We also remind you that if your child will be absent/late that you call the school attendance line at 780-963-3535 or email us at MuirLake@psd70.ab.ca ahead of time.

14. My child has an appointment and I have to pick him/her up early. What do I do?

If you have to pick up your child early, please call the front office once you arrive at the school parking lot. A staff member will retrieve your child, help collect their things and then escort

your child outside. Parents can wait for their child at the Parent Muster Area (inside the blue fence in between the school and the community hall), or if your child is able to identify your vehicle, they may proceed directly to your vehicle.

15. What do I do if my child forgets his/her lunch?

If your child forgets their lunch at home, we will provide a basic lunch for that child and inform parents of this. In order to decrease as many visitors possible to the school, we cannot allow drop off of lunches if they are forgotten.

16. What time is dismissal for students?

At the end of the day, students will be dismissed from their classrooms by bus number. This will help to control the number of students in the common areas at any given time. Students who are not taking the bus, their dismissal time is 2:35 p.m. If your child is walking to your car on their own, please park in the Community Hall parking lot and wait for your child there. Otherwise, please wait for your child in the Parent Muster Area.

17. Does my child require their own device (Chromebook/iPad) for this year?

It is strongly recommended all students in grades 4 to 9 bring their own device to school (chrome book or laptop). This reduces exposure to shared surfaces and decreases the potential spreading of germs. If your child needs to use a school provided device, please know that teachers will sanitize keyboards and tops of Chromebooks BEFORE and AFTER each use.

For students in grades K to 3, there are shared devices (I-PADS) in carts in their individual classrooms. Again, proper sanitization will occur before and after each use. However, it is recommended that students have their own devices (I-PADS) in these grades.

18. Can my child switch between Option 1 of In School Learning and Option 2 of Virtual Learning?

Once you have chosen your option, we ask that you stick with that choice until year end. This helps plan personnel deployment and resource allocation. To help facilitate consistency and tracking, if your child steps away from learning AT School, (whether they are sick or chooses to do virtual learning), and wishes to come back afterward, he/she must adhere to the Re-Entry dates that have been set out as follows:

- October 6, 2020
- November 16, 2020
- January 4, 2021
- February 16, 2021
- April 6, 2021

19. What does library services look like for my child?

This year we will be having library classes every second week. Students will be allowed to take 1 novel and two other books of their choice. It is requested that social distancing is practiced in the library and that masks be worn for those students in grades 4 to 9. All books being returned will be dropped off in the box outside of the library and every student or staff must sanitize their hands upon entering, this will help to keep the library environment clean. If a student wishes to renew their books they do not need to bring them to the library they can inform me when they arrive.

Textbooks will be available for those students who do not have devices and are in the Muir Lake virtual learning.

For those students who have any outstanding library materials or chromebooks we are requesting they be returned before new ones are issued upon their return. Any questions please feel free to contact Mrs. Schram at kschram@psd70.ab.ca

20. Will team sports be offered?

At this point, we are uncertain if sports teams will be running. We are currently awaiting a decision from the WCJHAA - West Central Junior High Athletic Association as to whether or not team sports will be offered on an extracurricular basis. We are anticipating a ruling by the end of September.

21. What disinfectants and hand sanitizers are supplied by PSD and being used at school?

The MSDS specifications for the disinfectants being used in Muir Lake School can be found by clicking on [THIS LINK](#).

The MSDS specifications for the Hand Sanitizers which are being supplied by PSD can be found by clicking on [THIS LINK](#).

22. What are the cleaning protocols set out for Muir Lake School?

Cleaning protocols have been set out by Parkland School Division and can be read by clicking on [THIS LINK](#).