

July 31, 2020

Dear families of Lethbridge School Division,

IMPORTANT SURVEY FOR PARENTS/GUARDIANS COMMITTING TO PROGRAM DELIVERY FOR YOUR CHILD(REN) IN SEPTEMBER COMPLETE BY AUGUST 10, 2020

As was communicated in my communication to parents/guardians on July 24, Premier Jason Kenney and Minister of Education, Adriana LaGrange, announced that schools in Alberta would reopen in September under Scenario 1 – Near Normal Operations with Health Measures in place in an effort to reduce the spread of COVID-19. The link to Lethbridge School Division 2020-2021 Re-entry Plan – Parent Guide is https://www.lethsd.ab.ca/download/280865

This decision by the government that school authorities are required to follow assumes that all students will be attending school in September. Lethbridge School Division has developed an "opt-out" of in-school instruction with an "at-home" delivery program. This at-home delivery was explained in my July 24th letter that is also on our website https://www.lethsd.ab.ca/our-district/pandemic-planning/division-communication

As you can appreciate, the school division and schools need at least two weeks to plan for instruction based on your response in the survey. We will need to put at-home learning students into cohorts based on your response, assign at-home learning teachers, and then reconfigure in-school assignments based on how many students will be in class at each school site.

It is very important that you fill out the survey that will function as confirmation of attendance with scenario one reentry for <u>each</u> of your children by noon, Monday August 10th. We need to know if your child(ren) will be assigned to an at-home learning cohort or be at school assigned to a class cohort. The survey is also critical for us to organize transportation. For those students who qualify for transportation, it is extremely helpful if some parents/guardians are in a position to transport their children rather than have them ride the school bus. We can finalize routes once we know the students who will be on the school buses.

The survey INCLUDES children registered in Lethbridge School Division Early Education Programs (EEP).

Update regarding cohorting: I have had some parents inquire about cohorting, especially at the secondary level. Elementary school structures (students are in home rooms with one teacher) are somewhat easier to maintain the integrity of cohorting. Middle Schools are structuring their homerooms and delivery of options with minimal movement of students (students remain in cohorts for all core delivery and cohorts for options). Cohorting at the high school level is the most complex because unlike elementary and middle school levels, students do not stay together for the delivery of different classes. The high school administrators have met and developed a structure that puts health first with cohorting students in half day groupings and scheduling built in breaks by cohort group. High schools will be sending you more detailed information in time to review it before filling out the survey.

For a link to the survey, please click here: SURVEY

Superintendent



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