

Dear EIPS families,

On Wednesday, Alberta's Minister of Education and Chief Medical Officer of Health announced the government's intention for in-school classes to resume in September—with near-normal operations and health measures in place. As part of that announcement, it also released details on the re-entry plan and guidelines:

- [2020-21 School Re-Entry Plan](#)
- [Guidance for School Re-Entry: Scenario 1](#)

We encourage you to read both documents as they offer insight into a wide range of operational issues and address mental health and psychological supports for students and staff.

Recently, Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) struck a school re-entry committee consisting of principals, directors and other senior leaders. Through the lens of the province's guiding documents, the committee will review all the feedback compiled from families—from both emails and survey responses—and will develop an implementation plan focused on a return to classroom learning and protecting the health, safety and well-being of students and staff.

The plan is complex and multifaceted. It will take time to determine how to move forward regarding general building safety and cleanliness, health screening, class configuration, physical distancing, transportation, dismissal times and many other key considerations. Like all aspects of the provincial re-launch, the plan EIPS puts in place is dependent on the continued decrease in COVID-19-related hospitalizations and infection rates. As such, the Division is also developing contingency plans in case Alberta Education and the Chief Medical Officer of Health determine Scenario 1 is no longer feasible.

In the weeks ahead, EIPS will continue to communicate about how the plan is progressing and next steps, answer questions and equip you with the information you need to prepare for the 2020-21 school year. Thank you in advance for your patience and understanding.

Sincerely,
Elk Island Public Schools