



DEHCHO DIVISIONAL EDUCATION COUNCIL

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School Reopening Plans

August 12, 2020

Dear Parent/Stakeholder:

Background: Due to COVID-19, the past 2019-2020 school year saw an unprecedented upheaval that resulted in school closures across our entire district in March 2020. It is important to note that this decision was made because we always put the safety of our students and community members first. This decision was made in concert with *Employment, Culture, and Education (ECE)* and the *Chief Public Health Officer (CPHO)*.

The transition from full-time, face to face learning to distance learning was facilitated through the hard work of school principals, teachers, and various school support staff. Having acknowledged this, there were many more stakeholders than these who played a significant role in this effective transition. Across our district, parents stepped up to pick-up learning packages and become their child's primary, full-time teacher. Students were flexible within this new learning environment. They worked hard on their assignments and turned them in on time.

Moving Forward: Over the past few months, administrators across the Dehcho have been working painstakingly on *School Reopening Plans*. All the while, this work has been done in consult with designates of *Employment, Culture, and Education* to ensure that our plans aligned with Territorial and Global standards. Dehcho Divisional Education Council (DDEC) is very pleased to announce that all of our schools are ready to open on time. In fact, all of our schools will offer full-time, face to face learning.

New Safety Protocols: While DDEC is very pleased to reopen each of our nine schools, there needs to be a very serious emphasis put on a variety of re-entry safety precautions. It is important to note that these public health measures will be put in place to protect everyone.

- **Physical Distancing**

- Parents/Guardians will drop off and pick up students at the designated spots outside of the school at designated times which will be provide before school starts.
 - Students will be entering and leaving the school at separate times at designated entrances/exits.
 - Student teacher ratios and physical distancing requirements to be respected at all times.
 - Online learning options are available to those who do not attend physically.
- **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)**
 - Masks, Face Shields, and Hand sanitizer will be provided for students and staff where necessary.
- **Screening**
 - Students will be screened whenever they enter the building from home.
 - Parents/ guardians will be reminded to screen student before sending their child(ren) to school. Families will be reminded of the symptoms.
- **Infection Prevention and Control Prevention:**
 - Enhanced deep cleaning will occur twice daily at noon and after school by custodial services.
 - Students will be taught how to clean and disinfect their own areas.
 - Regular hand washing will be encouraged.
 - Student snacks will be individual servings and served to students in their own area.
 - Students must bring their own water bottle back and forth to/from school.
 - Parents will receive a GNWT poster of COVID-19 symptoms and what to look for.
 - If a student /staff display symptoms of COVID-19, they must remain home until they are well and follow health care provider advice.
 - If students display sickness at school, they will be taken to the designated area awaiting pick up from the parent/guardian.

- There will be no further assemblies, concerts, school lunches, Elder visits, or unauthorized guests until further notice.
- Outdoor activities will be emphasized

Conclusion: We are truly in unprecedented times. Just as we successfully transitioned to distance learning through hard work, cooperation, and transparent communication so too will we transition back to full time, face to face learning. We share a common goal and that is to see all of our students learn and develop effectively. This common goal includes supporting all students to become giving, capable, and responsible citizens. Together, we will succeed.

Yours in Education,



Philippe Brulot (DDEC Superintendent),



Patrick Phillips (DDEC Assistant Superintendent)