



2020 SLCS Return to School Safely Plan

Eight Pillars of Safety

To: Sturgeon Lake Community Members

From: Tyrone MacPherson, Director of Education

On behalf of our leadership, EAC and SLCS staff, we wish to thank all of our families and students who showed flexibility, patience and courage as the Covid-19 virus forced closures of schools, businesses, celebrations and events. It has touched everyone and the community of Sturgeon Lake has risen to the many challenges that came with it. Most importantly, we kept ourselves and our children safe.

As we prepare to re-open our doors to welcome back our students in September, we want you to know that we are taking this very seriously. We are making preparations to continue a safe approach that will balance the continued need for safety with the need for students to return to classes. In order to provide you with a sense of security we have included the following components in our back to school plan.

Following the Province of Saskatchewan announcement on August 4, 2020, we have used the 8 pillars of safety from their plan to help inform our "Return to School Safely Plan" at Sturgeon Lake Central School. We used our local context to drive a plan that works for the students, families and community of Sturgeon Lake. We are calling this **The Eight Pillars of Safety**.

The DRAFT version of this plan was reviewed and modified by the EAC on August 10 and 11, 2020 and subsequently approved by SLFN Chief and Council on August 18, 2020. Parental surveys conducted from August 14-17 were compiled and used to help refine the plan

The 8 pillars of safety which have driven our planning are:

- Safe Attendance – How do we proactively manage operations so that only we regulate who is attending the school on a daily basis? These measures ensure protocols for students or staff who be unwell and management strategies if a person becomes sick in school.
- Safe Transportation – How do we efficiently transport students so that both drivers and students in the safest possible manner?
- Safe Access – What is the plan to allow students to access the required areas in the school?
- Safe Facilities – How do we manage our facilities to provide the necessary services to students while keeping them safe?
- Safe Classrooms – What measures are we taking to reduce the risk of transmission in our classrooms?
- Safe Supports – What supports are we offering to our students who may have special physical, medical, emotional or learning needs?
- Safe Activities – How are we managing group activities in a way that keeps students safe?
- Safe Alternatives – If, for whatever reason, we are forced to modify how we deliver education, what are the alternatives we will pursue?

Best Practices:

1. Limit contact
2. Maintain social distance
3. Use of cohorts
4. Adequate ventilation for indoor spaces
5. Isolation, contact tracing, if ill
6. Know symptoms

Pre-Planning

Chief and Council have approved of a safe re-opening plan with the following elements clearly outlined:

- The date for staff return – Friday, August 28
- The date for students return – Tuesday, September 8
- Parent/caregiver feedback on safe return – Community Survey, Information Session
- The school building is ready for staff to return
- Established agreement on the protocols to be used - level of return
- Plan evaluation and re-direction
- Re-opening budget

The plan was developed to adhere with all health guidelines as set forth by Dr. Shahub, Chief Medical Officer, Province of Saskatchewan.

The plan included input and direction from the following sources.

- ISC
- Saskatchewan Ministry of Education
- Sturgeon Lake Health
- FSIN
- AFC
- First Nation Aggregates
- Various Saskatchewan First Nations
- Sturgeon Lake Education Advisory Board
- Sturgeon Lake Chief and Council
- Sturgeon Lake Membership

Considerations for Our Parents

- You feel assured that your child(ren)'s health conditions allow for safe return.
- You feel confident about your child(ren)'s close contacts, and their health conditions.
- Your family is able to find dependable, safe child care.
- Your family is in a position to provide home-based learning.
- Your child(ren) have developmental needs that require special attention, eg in-class learning with a trained professional, one-on-one virtual supports, special equipment/needs.

What will re-opening look like?

This back to school plan is largely the result of community feedback and comfort levels of parents in having children return to a safe school environment. It is important to realize that this is considered a level 3 plan (as listed in Section 8 – Safe Alternatives). The plan will be continually monitored and evaluated. Any change in the plan below, will require additional community response and approval from EAC and Chief and Council.

- Community “come and go” discussion session – August 25 – 12 – 8 pm
- Re-open with Staff Only – August 28
- Students will return on September 8
- To reduce class sizes, students will attend in groups or cohorts
- Cohorts will be 50% of regular class sizes
- As much as possible, cohorts will be based on families. The school will work to try and make sure all students from the same household are attending on the same days
- Students will attend school two days per week and be assigned home learning for days not in attendance
- Teachers will contact families/students each week for those who choose to keep their children home
- Cohort A – Monday and Tuesday
- Cohort B – Thursday and Friday
- Deep Sanitization of Classrooms Days – Wednesday and Saturday
- Wednesday- Teachers prepare learning packages for both cohorts and use as communication day for students and parents
- Families choosing to not have their children attend at all will be provided with home learning packages

The Eight Pillars of Safety are as follows.

1. Safe Attendance

To allow for all members of our school communities to attend school safely, self-screening measures will be implemented.

The parents and caregivers should:

- know the symptoms to watch for
- have been informed that they must monitor their children for any signs or symptoms of illness
- understand that if any symptoms are present, that the student is to remain home
- know how to have their child (or help their child) self-assess for COVID-19 using [Saskatchewan COVID-19 Self-Assessment Tool](#)

The school staff:

- has well developed protocols for screening, monitoring and referring those who exhibit symptoms
- has had training about COVID-19 and the safe practices
- has a dedicated quarantine area where individuals exhibiting symptoms will properly isolate from the rest of the school until someone can safely pick them up

The Details

- Students or staff who are sick should remain at home
- Staff reporting sick must notify clinic
- Staff who are symptomatic of Covid 19 must immediately notify the Director of Education
- The Director of Education, in turn, will notify Sturgeon Lake Health Department immediately of any staff who are symptomatic
- Teacher sick day allotment will become more flexible
- Increased rates of pay for substitutes
- Parents and caregivers being asked to monitor their children for any signs or symptoms of illness. If any symptoms are present, the student is to remain home.
- SLCS will establish a dedicated quarantine area where individuals exhibiting symptoms will properly isolate from the rest of the school until a parent or caregiver can safely pick them up or the school can transport them home
- SLCS has a fog sprayer that will disinfect a given area in 30-45 seconds that will be used should a person become sick while on school premises.
- Lobby Signage will be visible to all guests indicating requirements for visiting
- All visitors, including parents, will be expected to sign in at front office, wear a mask that will be provided, and adhere to all social distancing guidelines

- Student registrations may be conducted by telephone
- There is a developed safety plan for staff if they suspect a student is sick.

2. Safe Transportation

The following transportation protocols will help to ensure students are coming to and from school safely, these include:

The school and staff have:

- assigned seating for students and a record of this seating plan on school buses
- organized for students who live in the same household to be seated together
- encouraged parents/caregivers to transport their own children to and from school, if possible
- a thorough and consistent cleaning and sanitation plan for buses or other vehicles used to transport students

The Details

- Drivers will have sanitization foggers to disinfect bus after each run
- Drivers will design seating plans and keep a copy on bus. A copy will be on file with school principal
- Drivers and support staff are expected to wear masks
- Family members will sit together
- Maximum 2 students per bench
- Drivers will have temperature gauge. Students with fever will be denied access
- Parents will be encouraged to drive children to school if they feel that is safer
- Bus arrivals and departures will be staggered
- Extra custodial staff/parking marshals will direct students to separate entrances upon arrival and departures
- Support staff will accompany bus drivers to assist with temperature taking and tracking data

3. Safe Access

Students will be able to safely access and move throughout school facilities through the implementation of routines that include:

The school staff have:

- assigned and clearly marked dedicated entrance and exit doors
- created schedules for staggered recess, lunch, and other class transition times to allow for additional space
- created schedules for controlled flow of students and staff in common school areas

- posted clear and sensible directional signage and floor markings to manage flow of students and staff throughout the school

The Details

- Facility Smudged prior to students returning
- Daily smudging
- No assemblies
- Staggered recess times to allow for additional space
- Directional arrows on floors
- Assigned bathroom areas
- Additional safety person on staff
- Dedicated entrance and exit doors
- Increased signage
- Social distancing practices in all public areas (office, staff room, hallways)

4. Safe Facilities

Increased sanitation measures in school facilities and the promotion of proper hygiene practices will be implemented.

The school staff has:

- readily available hand sanitizer throughout the building and common spaces
- a thorough and consistent plan for custodial staff to maintain sanitization of school facilities
- organized plans for regular and ongoing hygiene of all frequently-touched surfaces and objects such as toys and classroom equipment, in each classroom and learning space

The Details

- Kitchen will function
- Lunch delivery will continue to students not attending school that day
- No buffet style meals
- Teachers will submit number of meals to Kitchen daily
- Meals will be delivered to classrooms
- Kitchen staff will wear masks
- Students should not share food they have brought from home
- Posted playground signs warning that equipment is not sanitized
- Library Services will be limited – open for staff, no students
- Librarian will visit classrooms
- Specialty subject teachers will come to classrooms – ex: Cree, Land Based, Culture
- Touch free dispensers installed in each classroom
- Hand sanitizer provided to each staff member

- UV lights which quickly kill the virus for all classrooms and bathrooms.
- 3 additional custodial staff for sanitization and safety purposes
- Masks available daily for every student (optional – in class, required in public areas of school)
- Emergency Spray Mister on site for decontamination

5. Safe Classrooms

As much as possible classrooms will be self-contained. The students and the staff assigned to that class will remain together as a group throughout the school day to minimize risk of transmission.

The Details

- All core K-9 classes will be delivered by home room teacher.
- K-9 students will not change classes for different subjects
- High School students will change classes as per normal but must wear face masks as they transition from one class to another
- Teachers from Grades 4-12 will be expected to teach one class per day using Google Classroom and Chromebooks
- Consideration will be given to returning to Block system to reduce student movements between classes and lowering risk of transmission
- Eliminating or limiting physical contact such as hugs and handholding, as well as encouraging the use of alternative greetings such as “air high fives”.
- Utilizing outdoor spaces for learning when possible.
- Classroom setup to minimize contact.
- Each classroom is equipped with a temperature gun to monitor student health
- Social distancing guidelines mandatory for Grades 4-12
- Limiting physical contact for Grades 1-3
- Traditional seating plans – all facing forward or similar setup to reduce face to face contact
- Students should maintain personal items in self-contained backpack
- Masks must be worn when leaving classroom but remain optional/encouraged within classroom
- Staff will be provided with protective face shields
- Disposable masks will be provided to each student every day by classroom teachers
- Students sign out/in for washrooms, wear masks when leaving classrooms
- Limiting or eliminating shared materials
- Direct teaching of personal hygiene and Covid 19 awareness
- Frequent hand washing
- Staff will maintain consistent communication with homes
- Social distancing 2 meters in grades 4-12 and public areas, 1 meter in K-3 classrooms

6. Safe Supports

At SLCS, we believe in the success of all learners. Many students come to us with specialized needs and plans will need to be made for accommodation. Considerations have been taken to safely support the learning needs of all students. The First Nation's Health Department will provide support to the school with the implementation of these measures.

The Details

- Teachers will need to communicate with families to identify students who can not attend school for medical reasons. Medical reasons may include increased risk of contracting the virus or immune-compromised students.
- The school will provide a safe and secure environment, which may include in-school setting or other appropriate spaces for the delivery of education.
- Medically fragile students will have supports in place to address their educational needs.
- SLCS will employ a full-time learning assistance teacher and guidance counsellor to provide additional supports
- SLCS has a full time Mental Health Therapist on staff to assist students with those needs
- All staff will be trained in Mental Health First Aid to assist them in identifying and referring students at risk

7. Safe Activities

To ensure adequate safety measures are taken, schools will adapt group activities to reduce physical contact, including:

Staff will:

- establish clear protocols for the reduced use of shared materials and classroom supplies
- identify alternatives to in-person assemblies, and large gatherings
- delay extra-curricular activities until it is safe to do so, using current guidelines as provided by Saskatchewan's Chief Medical Health Officer (indoor sports are part of Phase 4 Re-Open Saskatchewan Plan)

The Details

- Reduce or eliminate shared materials and classroom supplies.
- Using alternatives to in-person assemblies, such as virtual assemblies or outdoor assemblies.
- Participation in extra-curricular activities will be dependent on the most current guidelines as provided by Saskatchewan's Chief Medical Health Officer.

- Staff are encouraged to have students assist in picking traditional medicines
- Extra-curricular activities such as indoor sports are allowed as announced in the second part of Phase 4 of Re-Open Saskatchewan Plan. At this point there will be no extra-curricular activities that involve teams outside of the community
- Physical Education/Gym Strategies
 - Maximize outdoor activities
 - Limit or eliminate contact sports
 - Sanitization of equipment

7. Safe Alternatives

To ensure preparedness, there are four scenarios that we may choose to activate at SLCS. These will always be in accordance with the direction of Saskatchewan's Chief Medical Health Officer.

Re-Opening Levels

Scenario 1

- Return to school, as close to normal as possible, in accordance with this plan

Scenario 2

- Mask usage will be determined by the Chief Medical Health Officer. Under our current plan, masks are optional within the classroom. When students move through common areas such as hallways, they will be asked to wear them. We may be required to adjust accordingly should we be so directed by the Chief Medical Officer.

Scenario 3

- In the event it becomes necessary, school capacity will be reduced. This may include establishing cohorts that attend alternate days and hybrid learning models as considerations.

Scenario 4

- Implementing learning continuity plans, which means transitioning to mandatory distance learning

Supply Status

- 43,000 disposable masks for K-6 (PA Medical Supply on site -gym)
- 17 Classroom temperature gauges (Wintergreen – ordered)
- Playground signage – (Sign Shack – on site – shop)
- 40 Touch free dispensers/sanitizing solution (Enviroway – ordered)
- 50 bottle personal sanitizer for staff (Enviroway – ordered)
- 30 UV lights (awaiting quote from InkHouse)
- 7 mist sprayers (Enviroway – ordered)
- Sanitizing solution 20L (Enviroway – ordered)
- Personal Facemasks (75 ordered through ISC)
- 125 Chromebooks (onsite)
- 125 Portable wifi devices (onsite)
- 10,000 Adult masks (Inkhouse – ordered)
- 1 Instant Karchner Decontaminator sprayer (Back ordered – October)
- Temperature gauges for bus drivers – Clinic
- 5 Custodial / Safety staff selected