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## Mother Teresa ECEC Return to School Plan

August 26th, 2020.

It is hard to believe that the summer is drawing to a close and that we are looking at the start of a new school year. Naturally, these are different times and school will look differently in the fall. The purpose of this school plan is to review new and enhanced protocols that Mother Teresa ECEC and Lloydminster Catholic School Division will be implementing during the 2020/2021 school year in order to welcome back your child(ren) to the classroom. This plan seeks to clarify elements of what Mother Teresa ECEC is implementing in order to have a safe and happy return to school.

### **1. Prior to the Start of School:**

*By September 3rd, 2020, your classroom teacher will be communicating with you to show you what the classroom looks like and provide some advice for the first day of school. We look forward to our teachers welcoming you back in their own special way for each homeroom.*

1. I would please request that if your child(ren) has a pre-existing medical condition, you inform the school of this underlying issue. This information is critical for us to ensure vigilance in safety protocols and in creating the safest possible environment for your child.
2. We will be requesting (2) emergency contacts listed in our Student Information System in case your child has to be picked up due to illness. We hope to ensure that between you,

and your chosen contacts, there is someone who will be able to pick up your child in a timely manner.

3. As there will be no sharing of items in the classroom (pencils, crayons, etc) please ensure that you have the items on the Mother Teresa [school supply list](#) that was sent home in June. Please note that we will have sanitizer in our classrooms, however students may also bring their own individual sanitizer to ensure fast access to sanitizing materials.
4. We are strongly encouraging students to bring their own water bottles for personal use. This decreases foot traffic in the hallway and reduces the risk of spreading germs.
5. There are two reusable masks provided for each student. Mother Teresa students will be required to wear masks on the school bus (but not while at school). If your child is riding the bus, please have a mask for the first day of school for your child. Information on how to pick up masks will be emailed prior to the start of school.

## **2. School Start-up - Staggered Entry:**

On August 19th, 2020 Lloydminster Catholic School Division sent an email explaining that we will have a staggered entry for our students. This was done to ensure that we would have smaller groups in order for teachers and administration to go over new procedures and protocols due to COVID-19.

Staggered Entry at Mother Teresa will follow the schedule as below:

### **PreKindergarten**

Pre Kindergarten students will be placed in 9:00-11:30 am or 1:00-3:30 pm classes. The Pre Kindergarten team will contact parents regarding this by September 4, 2020. Parents and child will be invited to an individual meeting with the teacher(s) should there be a need for special considerations. Pre Kindergarten students will have small “play group” times sent to them for the week of September 8-14, 2020. This allows the children and the teachers to get to know them and learn what Pre-Kindergarten is all about. Bussing for Pre Kindergarten will begin September 21, 2020.

### **Kindergarten**

Our Kindergarten students received their dates via email. Please check your email for your child’s staggered schedule. Kindergarten students will attend on Sept. 8 and 10th **OR** Sept. 9 and 11th. Full day, every day Kindergarten will begin on Sept. 14th.

### **Grade One and Two**

Last name: A-L on Tuesday, September 8th, 2020.  
Last name: M-Z on Wednesday, September 9th, 2020.  
Last name: A-L on Thursday, September 10th, 2020.  
Last name: M-Z on Friday, September 11th, 2020.  
Regular classes begin on September 14th, 2020.

### **3. Mask Protocol and Hygiene:**

At LCSD all students in grades 4 to 12 wear masks outside the classroom in common areas (hallways, buses, etc.) At Mother Teresa masks are optional as all students are in Pre-kindergarten to grade 2. Kindergarten to Grade 3 students will be required to wear a mask on the bus. Please remind your child of proper mask usage:

1. wash/sanitize hands **before** donning mask
2. wash/sanitize hands **after** taking mask off
3. how/where to store their mask

Also, the school has **Prevention with a Purpose** which includes instruction on specifics such as handwashing, lunch and entering the school after recess. Each class will be given instruction using these videos on a continual basis. Further, cohort teachers will be providing time during the day for handwashing and/or sanitizing.

### **4. Dropping off Zone:**

Our staff will be at the Drop Off and Pick Up Zone before school. We look forward to helping to keep the traffic flowing and directing children to their teacher and entrance.

The Drop Off and Pick Up Zone for Mother Teresa School is at the front of the school, near the main doors on the pavement. Cones will be used to mark the zone.

### **5. Building Entry/Exit:**

Mother Teresa is limiting the number of visitors in the school in order to minimize exposure risk for students and staff. Parents and visitors may only enter the school by appointment. For students and staff the following protocols have been put in place in order to mitigate potential exposure:

1. In order to reduce large numbers of people entering the building at once, there are few changes to our morning procedures and dismissal procedures. Most notably, **students will be able to enter the building at 8:00 am** and go to their classroom. Students will no longer be required to wait outside until the first bell at 8:20 am. This procedure will be reviewed as the first month of school progresses.
2. Once students enter the building, they are to go directly to their classroom.
3. All cohorts (homeroom classes) are assigned a specific entry/exit door to the school. The school has numbered each door and the cohorts that are supposed to use that door are visibly posted on each door. Please note the following:

Door 1 - Prekindergarten Star Bus Students (Main Door West)

Door 2 - Prekindergarten Heart Bus Students and all Kindergarten (West Door)

Door 3 - All Grade One and Two (South Door)

Door 1 - Main Door West



Door 2 -West



Door 3 -South



Please speak to your child about their assigned door and drop off before the first day of school. Once the bell rings and classes start, all doors will be locked. All visitors (parents) and deliveries will be directed through our main doors (door #1) by appointment. Please note, that

EVERYONE (including parents) who enters the building will be screened for COVID-19 (questionnaire). You will also be required to wear a mask while in the school. Please call the School at 780-871-5944 for an Appointment and we will be able to accommodate you.

Students will be dismissed at the end of the day by class cohort. Exit times will be staggered so that classes are not in the bus rooms at the same time. Teachers will walk students to their bus cohort. This allows students to board buses in their bus cohort. Bus arrival takes place from 8am to 8:20am. Bus departure takes place from 2:55pm to 3:10pm.

We are kindly asking that if you need to pick up your child early, please call the school office and we will escort your child out the main doors and ensure your child is safely passed to you.

At the end of the day our Parent Pick Up Zone will be at the front of the school, near the main doors on the pavement. Cones will be used to mark the zone and Mrs. Jurke or another staff member will be waiting with the children to pick up. Children on pick up will be socially distanced while waiting for their parents.

If your child is coming into school late (after 8:20am), they will need to check in at the office. We are asking that parents phone the front office and wait for a staff member to meet them, and enter through our main door.

At this time, we are asking parents who wish to volunteer in the school to please wait as we have asked teachers not to have volunteers for the time being. Further direction on volunteering at school will come from the school and the school division.

## **6. Cohorting:**

Students' classes are "cohorted". This means that when a student is in a class, they are spending as much time as possible with that group and academic/social time with other groups is minimized or eliminated. This is done for contact tracing, and as a means of reducing potential covid exposure. This is done in accordance with advice from the Medical Officer of Health and the Ministry of Education.

In addition to cohorts, students will remain in their assigned classrooms for lunch. Most often teachers will travel from class to class as opposed to students. This minimizes foot traffic in hallways. Students will still have recess and physical education classes, however we will be doing as much as possible to provide these opportunities outside in the fresh air.

## **Physical Distance in the Classroom:**

In order to be able to physically distance as much as possible, the following procedures will be implemented in each cohort class:

1. Seating plans will be established and not changed for the month of September unless significant educational reason as determined by the school administrator. Please explain this to your child.
2. Where table groupings exist such plastic shields will be placed between students.
3. Group work and classroom centers will take place with hand washing precautions.

### **Minimizing Physical Distance in Common Hallways and Washrooms:**

In our hallways, we have placed floor markers in the form of bees and dragonflies. These indicate the appropriate traffic flow direction when in the hallway. We kindly ask that you reinforce to your child(ren) the need to respect these markers and to use these visual cues in order to maintain safe traffic flow for class transitions. Our teachers will be including this procedure in their Prevention With a Purpose programming.

### **Recess/Lunch Breaks:**

During our 10:20am and 12:10pm recesses students will play in one of three areas on our playground. Areas include the front play structure, the hill area and our back play structure/outdoor space. Zones will be rotated (so there is equitable access to playground equipment) and students will access each of these areas by grade. For example, Kindergarten will play at the front play structure while Grade One plays at the hill area and Grade Two plays at the back of the school. This will allow us to prevent students from playing outside in large groups. Recess breaks may also be determined by teachers. This provides students and teachers with flexibility to have recess during times when we can have less students on the playground at one time.

At 12:40pm students will eat in their classrooms with their classroom teacher.

Please note: Mother Teresa does not have student microwaves. Therefore, we ask that your children's lunches not be required to be heated.

This year Mother Teresa is offering a Sandwiches for Students in Need program. This will be available for our K - 2 students. Sandwiches in Need will follow all SK Health Guidelines including:

- Students are to eat lunch in their classroom each day with adequate spacing between each other.
- Proper hand hygiene must be practiced before and after eating.
- Students must not share utensils, dishes, and water bottles or drink containers.
- Food will be served by designated staff or their teacher.
- Utensils should be used to serve food items. Reusable utensils must be cleaned and sanitized after each use.
- Dispense cutlery, napkins and other items to students rather than allowing them to pick up their own items.
- Staff will distribute food and students will not follow self serve procedures.

## **7. Music/Physical Education/Option Programs:**

The school will continue to offer **Music and Movement** and **Physical Education** classes. Music and Movement and Phys Education will be taking advantage of as much outside time as possible in the month of September. Our Music and Movement teacher, Miss.Ukrainetz, along with our classroom teachers, are adjusting programming to begin with activities that promote physical distancing. In addition, students and staff will be sanitizing equipment as each class cohort leaves the gymnasium.

### **After School Program:**

- A. Entrances, Drop off, Pick ups and Signing in & out
  - Parents can pick up their child and their belongings at their assigned entrance.(Main front door)
  - Parents will sign up for Remind101 to send a Remind101 message when at the door for pick up.
  - After School program staff will sign out all children.
  - Staff will send the child out when the parent/guardian is visible.
- B. ASP Room Start & End Checklist
  - Everyone will use hand sanitizer upon entering ASP rooms.
  - We will follow the school procedures. Staff and children K-3 can choose to wear a mask.
  - The room floor must be clear of garbage so caretaking can be done.
  - Are all tables/desks clear of personal items so the surface can be disinfected.
  - Chairs should be left at the tables/desks and not stacked so they can be disinfected.
  - When staffing allows during quiet time such as story time, the other staff can wipe down chairs, tables and counters, and other commonly touched surfaces.
  - All counters should be clear of clutter and organized to ensure proper disinfection of the entire surface.
  - Student footwear and other personal items should be stored away in child/family labelled lockers/baskets or individual space.
  - Student water bottles and other personal items should be taken home daily for cleaning.
  - Any papers or posters should be adequately attached to the walls as to not interfere with disinfection.
  - Toys /educational resources that were used during the program, must be disinfected.
  - Students will have their own labeled bag of crayons and craft supplies.
- C. Food Service
  - Students are to eat snacks in a designated spot each day with adequate spacing between each other.
  - Proper hand hygiene must be practiced before and after eating.
  - If students prefer food from home, it must not be shared with other students and should be stored with the student's belongings.

- Parents/guardians will be asked to have student food provided in clean containers with their own utensils and taken home daily.
- Students must not share utensils, dishes, and water bottles or drink containers.
- We will not have self-serve snacks. Instead, we will use pre-packaged meals or meals served by staff.
- Utensils should be used to serve food items. Reusable utensils must be cleaned and sanitized after each use.
- Dispense cutlery, napkins and other items to students rather than allowing them to pick up their own items.

#### D. Activity Planning

For activity planning, staff should ask themselves the following questions to determine the risk of the activities and whether they are allowed to proceed:

- Does the activity involve shared surfaces or objects frequently touched by hands?
- Can the activity be modified to increase opportunities for physical distancing?
- What is the frequency/possibility to clean high touch surfaces (e.g., electronic devices, instruments, equipment, toys)?
- Avoid higher risk activities.

#### E. Outdoor Playgrounds & Equipment

We will follow SK [Provincial](#) guidelines around playgrounds.

- Take children outside more often, promoting physical activity with social distancing.
- Do not share toys and equipment between groups

#### F. Grouped Students

In programs that have 25 or more children, they will be grouped based on school cohorts and family.

### **8. Field Trips.**

Field trips such as a trip to other public spaces will be deferred until Thanksgiving with an evaluation being done at this time to determine what travel will be permitted. Again, these decisions will be made under the advice of the Area Medical Officer of Health and our Director of Education.

### **9. Shared Equipment/Items:**

If equipment is being shared (a basketball, or a computer), that equipment will be sanitized before and after use. Also, students will be asked to wash/sanitize their hands prior to and after the use of that equipment.

Additionally, we strongly encourage students to keep personal items (Pokeman cards, small toys, etc) at home so the risk of exposure to other individuals is kept to a minimum. If you have questions regarding bringing personal items to school, please contact the school directly.



Lockers or coat racks are available for student use. Access to lockers and coat racks will be controlled. Small groups of students in each classroom will access their lockers on a rotation when necessary throughout the day. Outdoor shoes will be placed on boot racks upon entry.

## **10. Procedure For Students Who are Ill at School:**

If a student discloses that they are ill (presenting symptoms) or staff identifies an ill student, they will be escorted to the office and we will ask the student to wear a mask. We will then ask the student to rest in our Illness In Care Room until a parent or guardian can pick up the student. Your child will be accompanied by an adult at all times in the Illness In Care Room. We appreciate your support in making sure that pickup is in a timely manner. Please ensure that if you are unable to pick your child in a timely manner, your emergency contact will be able to do so.

Student privacy will be respected and our priority is to ensure that if your child is sick you are contacted immediately. The steps to this process are:

1. A child is identified as being ill.
2. Teacher will contact the office.
3. Our trained staff members will come to the classroom to escort them to the office/Illness in Care room. Please be advised your child will be asked to wear a mask.
4. You will be contacted. We will ask for a pickup time.
5. Your child/student will be in a designated room supervised by our staff.
6. We will take their temperature and ensure your child is comfortable.
7. Parents, or the contact provided, will pick up their child as soon as possible.
8. The Public Health office will be informed that a child was sick at school and you will be contacted. If you wish to contact Public Health directly, you will be asked to call 811.
9. Public Health will advise you about isolation, testing, and what is required to return to school. Generally this means taking a COVID-19 test or staying home until symptom free for 48 hours or for 14 days.
10. Public Health will determine who the close contacts of any COVID-19 case are and contact them at home.

In order to maintain privacy, only the required contact with Public Health will be made by the school as required by the Province. As with any illness, our goal is to care for your child, ensure you know and to make them comfortable. Staff will follow the procedures outlined in [AP 137 Illness in Care](#). We appreciate your support in ensuring that if you are asked to pick up your child, it is done as soon as possible.

## **11. Students Requiring Individualized Supports**

Students are screened case by case to determine levels of support required to safely bring students into the school environment and any specialized support will be noted in the IIP, Medical Plan and/or BIP. Staff working with students that have individualized plans in place must review these plans prior to working with the child.

### **Programming to Support Learners with Intensive/Additional Needs**

- Students with additional needs may require updated assessments and revised individual goals. Assessments within LCSD will be scheduled face to face in a set location. PPE will be provided upon request.
- For personal interactions, conditions must be created to allow for the provision of support(s) within a safe and secure environment, which may include the school setting or other appropriate spaces.
- All health and safety measures must be in place and communicated with the relevant staff and family prior to the provision of the service.
- All engagements will occur in a supervised setting, which may include the school or other appropriate spaces, and staff will not enter into private residences or provide personal transportation.
- Other methods of providing service or additional precautions may be suggested for those with compromised immune systems, in consultation with a medical professional.
- Consideration will be given to the directions given by the professional governing body of the staff providing the support.
- It may not be possible to support all students with Intensive/Additional needs in-person due to health and safety guidelines.

## **12. Mental Health and Social Emotional Supports**

LCSD has individuals trained in Psychological First Aid in addition to staff trained in Mental Health First Aid for Youth. We have a fully trained LCSD Critical Incident Response Team. All staff have had access to “Kids These Days” online training. Our school has a counselor, Mrs. Keyowski will be on site one day per week.

Parents may contact the school counselor directly or the counseling team at [counselor@lcsd.ca](mailto:counselor@lcsd.ca).

Within our school we will continue to provide social emotional learning and supports including:

- SHINE (Strong Healthy Individuals Navigating Emotions) with our MHCB team has 72 research based programs designed for healthy student responses including Worry Woes, Mind-Up, and Dealing with Our Emotions.
- Our Social Emotional Response to Intervention tiered support including Behaviour Matters, Prevention with a Purpose, BIP, etc. All supported by Robin Collins, our Social Emotional Coordinator.

### **13. Enhanced Cleaning Protocols:**

Lloydminster Catholic School Division has enhanced cleaning protocols in all schools. We have a schedule for cleaning and sanitizing high touch surfaces such as door knobs, sinks, and washrooms. Shared technology devices will follow enhanced cleaning protocols as outlined division wide in our LCSD Reopen Plan. **We have caretakers for an additional 3 hours per day to enhance our already clean school environment.**

### **14. Stay Informed and Stay in Touch**

Please ensure that you are signed up for our Newsletter, this year communication is more important than ever and we will be providing regular updates as well as information from our school division. Sign up [here](#) to ensure you receive the most up to date information.

Schools in Lloydminster are beginning the school year at the Provincial Level 2 for School Re-entry. Any changes to the precautions we are taking in September will be in response to the work done in our local area with the Medical Officer of Health. The Director of Education is working directly with the medical officer and will keep schools informed of any changes. We encourage you to refer to the [LCSD: Return to School Plan](#) on the LCSD website for more information on return to school at Mother Teresa ECEC.

As always, should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us at 780-871-5944.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Jurke  
School Principal  
Mother Teresa ECEC