

PEIGAN BOARD OF EDUCATION

SCHOOL RE-ENTRY PLAN – AS OF JULY 1, 2020

Preface

In March 2020, Alberta Education made the timely decision to close all in-school classes. Since then PBOE schools have worked with students and families to distribute at-home learning packages and/or online learning activities. Also, PBOE schools sent to students and families wellness packages to support food security, physical activities, and mental wellbeing for the summer. Students and school staff are now off for the summer after a challenging Spring.

Currently, and in alignment with Alberta Education’s school re-entry plan, PBOE is working with the three scenarios provided for school operations August/September 2020:

- 1. In school classes resume (near normal with health measures)**
- 2. In school classes partially resume (with additional health measures)**
- 3. At-home learning continues (in-school classes are suspended/cancelled)**

Alberta Education June 10, 2020

Alberta Education, as of July 21, 2020, made the decision for school re-entry to follow scenario #1: in school classes resume (with near normal health measures).

CoVid19 Monitoring

Although there are measures that Peigan Board of Education can take to reduce the transmission of CoVid19, PBOE and Alberta Education cautions all stakeholders (parents and their children, staff, board of trustees) that “*the return to in-class learning is not without risk of infection transmission*” (Alberta Education, June 2020). Monitoring of CoVid19 cases within Piikani First Nation (South Health Zone) will continue and is the responsibility of Alberta Health Services/AKHS. If a CoVid19 watch and/or outbreak occurs, Alberta Health Services will be the designated authority to temporarily suspend in-person classes for a group of students where the outbreak occurred or to close the entire school. This is done to ensure the safety and health of all students and staff.

PBOE highly recommends that all parents/families receive CoVid19 testing prior to school start up. Also, we highly recommend that all parents/families wear face masks.

For Scenarios #1, the following CoVid19 precautions will be taken:

- Routine screening for all staff and students
- Enhanced environmental cleaning and disinfecting (touchspots, desks, bins, water bottles, etc)
- Strict stay at home policy for any students or staff exhibiting CoVid19 symptoms
- Physical distancing guidelines (2m distancing)
- Reorganizing classroom spaces for more physical space
- Cohorting/grouping students when possible

- Hand hygiene expectations (washing and/or hand sanitizing) when entering and exiting the school, classrooms, auxiliary rooms (library, gym, etc)
- Hand hygiene expectations (washing and/or hand sanitizing) before and after eating
- Teaching/using respiratory etiquette (sneezing/coughing into elbows, avoiding touching face, disposing of tissue, then washing and/or hand sanitizing)
- Staff will be required to wear PPE (including face shields and masks); students will not be mandated to wear masks however it will be highly encouraged
- No sharing of school supplies or other classroom items
- If sharing is required (i.e. gym equipment), ensure that equipment is disinfected immediately after use.
- Markers showing directional pathways, physical distancing, hand sanitizing stations, etc. will be placed throughout school.
- No indoor assemblies will be allowed until further notice; rotunda and other gathering areas will be closed until further notice.
- Water bottles will be provided by PBOE for student use at school. Water bottles will be washed on a daily basis. Students will be allowed to refill water bottles from designated water faucets/dispensers.

Scenario #1: In-School Classes Resume (Near Normal with Health Measures)

School Calendar

School Administration Start Date: August 17 – 21, 2020

Staff Operational Start Date: Monday, August 24-28, 2020

Student Start Date: Monday, August 31, 2020
(Monday to Friday/Full week)

Student transition week: Students will return to their homeroom of March 2020. This teacher will review essential language arts and math outcomes (missed during April and May) with attention specific to student mental health and wellbeing. Teachers would ‘prep’ their students for next grade grounding them with support for the challenges they’ve faced during the first half of 2020. New teacher would visit in their classroom introducing themselves and what the new school year will bring (new and exciting curriculum, virtual field trips, mindfulness training, etc.)

Monday, September 7, 2020: Labor Day Holiday– No School

Tuesday, September 8, 2020: Near normal school operations with students entering new grade.

School Bell Schedule – Start Time: Start time 9.00am

School Bell Schedule – End time: End time 3.30pm

Wednesday Early Dismissal:

Cancelled - Teachers and students encouraged to work towards increasing instructional time.

Friday Early Dismissal:

1:10pm dismissal time for students. Teachers will be expected to stay for RTI meetings (1 hour).

K4/K5 Classes:

Start date will be the same as Grades 1-12. K5 students will be attending full days and will ride big busses.

Transportation (School Drop off/Pickup)

Bus Drop Off: Busses will arrive at 5 minute intervals for drop off. Busses will wait in line to drop off students (am). Designated staff will be outside to monitor and assist students.

Bus Pick Up: Busses may arrive by 3.15pm; one Bus# and driver name will be called for student pick up. Designated staff will be outside to monitor and assist students.

Back Packs/Bags: Students will not be allowed to bring backpacks or bags onto bus (or into school). Small purses will be allowed.

Student Fit for School Screening (Home)

Parents and families are integral to student re-entry into schools by supporting at-home CoVid19 screening. Prior to school start date, parents will have available to them CoVid19 routine screening questions prior to getting on the bus (alberta.ca/returntoschool - attached). Screening questions for families will also be available on PBOE webpage and Facebook. Screening will be done on a daily basis.

PBOE will remind parents at all possible times, that if their child(ren) have CoVid19 symptoms (this includes symptoms of even a mild cold or allergies), to keep them at home and contact the school. PBOE staff will ensure that their child will have at-home learning support for school instruction.

Student Fit for School Screening (School)

Upon entering school, students will physical distance on markers and be asked CoVid19 routine screening questions, have temperature taken, and hand sanitize at entryway. If routine screening is passed, students will be directed to classroom.

Students exhibiting any symptoms will be immediately isolated in designated room and parents will be contacted for immediate pick up of child. Parent will be asked to follow AHS guide for

CoVid19 testing. Student will not be allowed to return to school until cleared by AHS (alternate for Piikani Nation - Aakommkiiyii Health Services).

Instructional Time

Teachers will use majority of instructional time for core classes (language arts, mathematics, social studies, science outcomes)

Teachers will instruct student on safety measures and hygienic practises to ensure that CoVid19 transmission does not occur.

Teachers will focus on the mental health and wellbeing of students when challenged with CoVid19 pandemic responses (i.e. self isolating, absence from school, distancing from family and friends).

When planning activities, teachers should ask themselves the following questions that may require modification or adaption of an activity (*from AE June 2020*):

- Does the activity involve shared surfaces or objects frequently touched by hands?
- Can an activity be modified to increase opportunity for physical distancing?
- What is the frequency/possibility to clean high touch surfaces (i.e. laptops, equipment)?

Students will be cohorted and not be moving classrooms; teachers will move materials and equipment as needed from class to class. Teachers will ensure in-class breaks to accommodate students' being in one physical space for majority of day.

At-Home Learning (AHL) Request

Parents who have requested a continuation of at-home learning will be supported through AHL packages. Teachers will develop packages for two week of instruction in core subjects. Additional instruction in student mental health and wellbeing will be included. Schools will develop pick up/drop off procedures for AHL packages (including online instruction).

Parents requesting AHL will be required to have their child(ren) remain with this option for the duration of one calendar month. Parents will not be allowed to move child(ren) in/out of programs for health and safety reasons. Parents must request in writing (by text, email, or by letter) as soon as possible to Schools Principals.

Intra-curricular Classes

Some intracurricular classes (phys. Ed., CTS/CTF, art, etc) will be cancelled until further notice; this decision will remain in effect until September 30 review. Blackfoot Language & Culture classes will remain in effect. Work Experience will be postponed until September 30; review of activity will occur prior to this date.

Recess/Breaks

Teachers will have staggered recess/break times. Physical distancing guidelines apply at all times. Re-entry to school and classrooms requires proper hand sanitizing.

Breakfast/Lunch

Students will be eating all meals in homerooms. Students will clean desks using proper cleaning products provided by school. Until further notice, all meals will be individually packaged in paper bags (lunch) or plastic baggies (breakfast) for ease of handling.

Fields Trips

All field trips (extra/intra-curricular) are cancelled until further noticed.

Learning Support

Students Requiring Specialized Support: PBOE Schools must be prepared for participation of students who required specialized supports and services. School Principals and Learning Support Teachers will determine what specialized support will be required prior to school start date and convey the learning plan and supports to parents.

End of Day:

Students will be dismissed from classroom by bus# and driver name following safe exiting directional markers. Designated staff will be outside to monitor and assist students.

Transportation Guidelines for Scenarios #1

PBOE will provide bus drivers with PPE's and cleaning supplies for busses. Busses will be equipped with protective physical dividers ensuring safe physical distancing between students and driver occurs.

Bus drivers will be trained on how to properly sanitize bus seats and all touchpoints on busses. Bus drivers will sanitize busses 4 time daily (prior to home pickup, school drop off, prior to school pick up, and after home drop off). Bus drivers will log all cleaning activities for reference.

Bus drivers will keep up to date attendance to ensure cohort contact tracing (if and when necessary and as required by AHS).

Bus drivers will complete Fit to Work screening on a daily basis; adherence to PBOE guidelines will be expected.

Transportation Coordinator, with Bus Drivers, will provide seating plan which allows for physical distancing between students.

Students should be instructed on safe hygiene practises on the bus: hand sanitizing upon entering, sneezing/coughing into elbow, discarding tissues, etc.

Students will not be allowed to bring backpacks or bags onto bus. Small purses will be allowed.

Operations and Maintenance of Buildings

Peigan Board of Education prides itself on its operations and maintenance of facilities. In response to CoVid19, O&M staff have worked diligently to ensure the upkeep of buildings.

Prior to school start up, the following activities will occur:

- School doors between NPES/PNSS will be closed and locked to limit interaction between staff and students at each school.
- Thorough cleaning of school (touchpoints, doors and handles, fountains and water faucets, washrooms, carpet, chair, desks)
- Removal of all non-essential classroom items (teacher desks, bookshelves, toy bins, etc) allowing for safe physical distancing between students
- Flushing all water systems so that stagnation does not occur with water
- Safe distancing and directional markers at bus drop off/pick up, entry/exit points, hallways, bathroom, classrooms
- Hand sanitizing stations at school entry points with physical barriers that persons cannot pass without first reading the safety guidelines (i.e. table)
- Water fountains to be closed until further notice
- Water for consumptions will be from water dispensers or faucets only
- All areas where students gather will have barriers placed to discourage visiting (rotunda, boot rooms, locker rooms)
- Washroom posters limiting access to 2 people maximum.
- Ensure that soap dispensers are operational and filled
- Lockers will not be used by students; purchase small bins for each student that will be stored in classrooms
- **All exit doors will be locked at all times** with posters stating that persons must call school office for admittance to school (including late arriving students). Both schools will be equipped with video doorbells prior to school start up.

Visitors to School – Parents & Family (Including Late Arriving Students)

- All parents must call into school office for admittance into school.
- No parents will be allowed past the school office (or other designated barrier)
- Parents must complete Fit to School screening prior upon entry.
- Late arriving students must complete Fit to School screening upon entry.
- Student will wait at office until cleared to move to classroom; teacher will be notified of incoming student.
- All parents and family members will be logged for contact tracing.

Visitors to School –Service and Delivery Personnel

- Service personnel will only be allowed entry if appointment has been scheduled; if possible schedule service personnel for after school hours.

- Service personnel must comply with Fit to School screening procedure (including mask/glove usage while in school buildings)
- Delivery personnel will only be allowed at front doors of school. School staff designated to receive deliveries must be masked and gloved to receive parcels.
- All delivery and service personnel will be logged for contact tracing.
- IT personnel (PM) will complete Fit to Work procedure at board office.

Visitors to School – Elders and Community Members

- PBOE discourages Elders and community members from visiting the school during CoVid19 response scenarios.

Visitors to School – SL/OT/PT and Counsellors (and other school personnel)

- All second level service providers must call into school office for admittance into school.
- No service providers will be allowed past the school office (or other designated barrier) without consent of Principal or designate.
- Service providers must complete Fit to School screening prior upon entry.
- All personnel will be logged for contact tracing.

Kitchen Staff/Cafeteria

- No admittance to any persons (including all school staff and students)
- If delivery persons are in need of kitchen staff, they must notify them by telephone prior to entry. Kitchen staff must ensure that safety guidelines/screening is adhered to.
- All equipment cleaned daily.
- All meals will be eaten in classroom.
- Lunches will be individually bagged in paper bags.
- Breakfast will be individually bagged in plastic baggies.

Infirmery (Sick Room)

Establishing a sick room is necessary for the interim as PBOE responds to CoVid19. O&M will designate one room per school that will be an infirmery. All equipment in this room (i.e. desk, chair, waste bin) should be easily disinfected.

Playground Equipment (including Ball Diamonds)

- O&M will use disinfectant equipment with sprayer three times daily (mid morning, mid afternoon, and after school).
- Posters to use at own risk to be placed near playground and ball diamonds.

Administrative Procedures

Communication to Families, Elders & Community Members

With the new PBOE website and Facebook postings, PBOE response to CoVid19 has been completed in a timely manner and shared with Piikani Nation community.

- PBOE website, Facebook, and Piikani Tsinikssin will be used to communicate school re-entry plan.
- Blackfoot Language & Culture Coordinator will gather team to provide information to PN Elders.