



January 7, 2022

Dear Parent or Caregiver:

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we worked through the delayed return to school. These additional 4 days were invaluable in order to prepare for a safe return to school for your children. We are looking forward to seeing your children back in classes on Monday, January 10.

Schools have re-visited their plans and will be emphasizing health protocols in keeping with the most up to date guidelines. [Addendum – Public Health Guidance for K-12 Schools](#)

While we continue to remain vigilant with our school cleaning protocols, we do not know what the virus situation will look like. We do expect to see considerable changes in both the transmission and our responses to it. Information from Public Health has highlighted that while transmission is more rapid, severe disease impacts are lessened, especially among the vaccinated population. We also understand that individual contact tracing, as we have known it, will no longer continue. [Return to School Q&A document.](#)

Schools have been working to develop contingency plans for potential staff shortages and the School District has developed plans to support schools where possible or, if necessary, announce a Functional Closure of a specific school(s) if the lack of available staff does not allow for safe operation of the school(s).

#### **If a Functional Closure Occurs:**

- Essential health workers' children, or children with diverse and complex needs may still attend as per usual
- Schools (staff) are expected to have rolling, flexible 5-day plans that could be easily engaged in by students in the event of a Functional Closure.
- Based on our current information, a Functional Closure would be for 7 calendar days from the announcement
  - Schools would shift to a virtual/online delivery with staff checking in on student progress
  - The first day will likely be a check in to prepare for learning schedule

#### **Parent Communication**

- The initial communication to parents of a functional school closure will come from the District Communications Manager under the direction of the District Superintendent.

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- Communication platforms will include district website, school website, Twitter, MyEd email, SchoolMessenger callout, and radio broadcast.
  - Parents will be directed to school administration for follow up questions

We will update parents as more or new information becomes available.

This continues to be a challenging environment, and I appreciate the ongoing patience as we all navigate the pandemic landscape towards a more familiar future. Again, my sincere thanks for your continued understanding and to our SD27 staff for coming together to find solutions to new and complex problems.

Yours truly,

Chris van der Mark  
Superintendent of Schools