

Permission to Reopen Monday!
January 21, 2021



Dear Rhema families,

Thank you for your continued support and resilience during on-line learning this month. Our parents, students, and staff have again demonstrated commitment and resilience. Thank you!

I received official notification late this afternoon from the Assistant Deputy Minister of Student Support, Ministry of Education that **private schools** in our Public Health Unit are permitted to resume in-person instruction on **Monday, January 25, 2021**. It would have been premature to announce our return to Rhema's building until this separate announcement was received. Private schools are 'required to align with the direction provided for the Public Health Unit in which their school is located', and occasionally throughout this pandemic, our instructions have varied slightly from the notice given for public schools. I am very pleased to state with certainty that Rhema classrooms will be open on Monday, January 25, 2021.

Additionally, before and after school programs will reopen with protocols. CARE at Rhema will be fully operational for your family's needs beginning Monday, as well. Remember to book your morning CARE by contacting Amber teSligte directly this weekend.

There are provisions for additional health and safety measures to support our reopening:

1. Mandatory masking for students in grades 1 - 3, with reasonable exemptions for students with medical conditions. (A doctor's note will be required as soon as possible. Until then, parents, please contact me directly if this applies to your child/children.)
*A request is in process seeking exemption due to the ability to distance within our classrooms. No response has yet been received. Students in kindergarten continue to be encouraged but are not required to wear masks.
2. Mandatory masking for all students outdoors where physical distancing is not expected.
3. Students will be required to wear a mask in the Learning Resource room.
4. Limited capacity in all washrooms will be posted. (2 students at a time only)
5. Enhanced daily screening protocols continue to be mandatory.
6. Congregating before and after school will continue to be in cohorts only.
7. The multiple strategy approach is to be continued: mandatory screening, cohorting, distancing, hand hygiene, disinfecting of all frequently touched surfaces, limiting visitors to essential workers within the building.
8. Field trips requiring group transportation are not permitted.
9. Gym class: outdoor is preferred; indoor gym will begin with distancing activities only.
10. School assemblies remain on hold.

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IMPORTANT: LAPTOP RETURN

In an effort to be prepared for Monday morning classes, the return of laptops needs to take place tomorrow. Please bring borrowed laptops on Friday January 22 to the Traffic Circle between 3:00 and 3:30 p.m.

If you are not able to make that time, but have a borrowed laptop, please contact office@rhema.ca early tomorrow for instructions. Thanks for your cooperation.

We continue to pray fervently for protection and good health for all our Rhema staff, students, and families. We are excited to be opening our classrooms again!

Many blessings as the Lord continues to “make your paths straight”. Proverbs 3:5,6

Wendy Holmes

Principal, Rhema Christian School