



MEDIA ADVISORY - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: November 19, 2020

Maskwacîs Education Schools Commission, in collaboration with the Maskwacîs Directors of Emergency Management and under the recommendation of Maskwacîs Health Services, has initiated a MESC-wide reset.

Maskwacîs, Treaty 6 Territory [November 18, 2020]—On Wednesday, November 18, 2020, the Maskwacîs Education Schools Commission (MESC) initiated a MESC-wide reset as a preventative measure to mitigate the risk and spread of COVID-19 in the community.

During these unprecedented times, MESC will continue to put the safety and wellbeing of Kiskinwahamawâkanak (Students) and Otatoskewak (Staff) at the forefront of all decisions. MESC has been working closely with Maskwacîs Health Services to monitor COVID cases in the community in order to mitigate risk for MESC students and staff.

Since welcoming back Kiskinwahamawâkanak (Students) in September, the “MESC Re-Entry Plan” and “Guidelines to Manage a Positive Case in MESC Schools” documents have proven to be effective in preventing school transmission. With an increase of cases in Maskwacîs, MESC and the Maskwacîs Directors of Emergency Management felt that a MESC-wide reset was in the best interest of the health and safety of Kiskinwahamawâkanak (Students), Otatoskewak (Staff), and their families at this time.

This MESC-wide reset includes:

- Pausing all in-school classes, effective November 19th, 2020.
- Closing all MESC schools to Kiskinwahamawâkanak (Students) and the public from November 19th, 2020 until December 7th, 2020. Classes may resume on December 8th, 2020.
- Closing MESC schools and administration buildings to Otatoskewak (Staff) from November 20th, 2020 until December 6th, 2020. Possible changes to Otatoskewak (Staff) re-entry will be reviewed on November 25th, 2020.
- Initiating enhanced cleaning protocols at all MESC schools and administration buildings.

Materials to support Kiskinwahamawâkanak (Students) learning and resources for mental health have been made available. Classes are anticipated to resume December 8th, 2020.

Maskwacîs Education Schools Commission

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ABOUT MESC

Maskwacîs Education Schools Commission (MESC), owned and operated by Ermineskin Cree Nation, Louis Bull Tribe, Montana First Nation and Samson Cree Nation, is the education authority for all 11 schools and 3 Head Start programs in Maskwacîs.. The primary goal of MESC is improving educational opportunities, services and student success for all students who attend our schools in Maskwacîs.

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