

NEWS RELEASE

News Release

January 27, 2020

Schools Update - St. John's Metro Region

The Newfoundland and Labrador English School District is providing the following update regarding the reopening of schools in the St. John's metro region (including Mount Pearl, Paradise, C.B.S., Portugal Cove-St. Philip's, Torbay, Pouch Cove, Flatrock, Bauline and Logy Bay-Middle Cove-Outer Cove).

Reopening of Schools

- All K-12 schools in the St. John's metro region will be open Tuesday (January 28) for all students and staff.
- This decision was made in consultation with municipalities.
- Please see the information below regarding school bus routes which have been adjusted in areas where ongoing snow clearing/removal is occurring on side streets.
- Meanwhile, there can be unforeseen circumstances which impact on the reopening of any given school, at any time. Families are therefore encouraged to check their school's status at: <https://www.nlesd.ca/schools/statusreport/index.jsp>.

School Bus Route Adjustments

- Many of the temporary school bus route adjustments announced Sunday, January 26 remain in effect. However, **some** routes for schools that were originally adjusted will now revert back to normal. Please see <http://www.nlesd.ca/schools/busing/soe.jsp> to determine if there are adjustments to bus stops/routes for your school. Those routes which have been reverted to normal since Sunday's announcement will be marked as 'revised'.
- It is expected these bus route adjustments will remain in effect until Friday, January 31. An update will be provided by the end of the week with respect to the week starting February 3.
- Scheduled pick-up times may vary. Students are asked to be at their assigned bus stop 10 minutes ahead of schedule. There may, however, be delays. Dress appropriately.
- For students who avail of alternate transportation services, schools are open, but all service providers may not be able to access every student's home, depending on local road conditions. Schools and/or contractors are reaching out to individual families in these circumstances, and services will resume as soon as it is safe to do so.
- Students and staff are reminded that for municipalities where there is a 24-7 on-street parking ban in effect, vehicles are not permitted to park on streets.

- As always, the District recognizes it cannot account for every conceivable, personal circumstance and that families are in the best position to judge whether a student can travel safely to and from school and/or school bus stops.

Important Safety Information

- Families are asked to review the bus safety tips brochure with students, available on the web page referenced above.
- Families are also advised to take necessary precautions to ensure the safety of students until they board the bus in the morning, and after they disembark in the afternoon. This includes escorting them to and from the bus stop and waiting for them to board/disembark, as deemed necessary, or to arrange for them to be escorted.
- Please refrain from bringing vehicles to the bus stops, as this will cause unnecessary congestion that could impact safety.
- Children should be advised not to play in any snow banks near bus stops, roadways, or school sites.
- Drivers are asked to be especially vigilant at this time, and to be aware that students may be gathered at new locations to access school buses. Slow down. Obey school zone rules and do not pass a school bus, from any direction, when the red lights are flashing and the stop arm is extended.

If families have specific questions around temporarily adjusted bus routes, please submit them through the student transportation (Avalon) public inquiries form here: [Public Inquiries Form \(Avalon\)](#) and a staff member will reply as soon as possible.

Student safety is everybody's responsibility. The District thanks families, school and District staff, provincial authorities and affected municipalities, snow clearing operators, and the motoring public for their patience and vigilance during this time.

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