

Fwd: Schools Reopening updates - October 25

From:

"Lanoix, Janelle" <janelle.lanoix@pco-bcp.gc.ca>

To:

"Wong-Fortin, Bonny" <bonny.wong-fortin@pco-bcp.gc.ca>

Cc:

"Babad, Luke" <luke.babad@pco-bcp.gc.ca>

Date:

Mon, 26 Oct 2020 05:41:52 -0400

Attachments:

School Outbreak Tracker Map (Oct 23 update).pptx (261.34 kB); ATT00001.htm (219 bytes); Trend Analysis (Oct 23).pptx (359.78 kB); ATT00002.htm (178 bytes)

FYI

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Harris, Tyler" <Tyler.Harris@pco-bcp.gc.ca>

Date: October 25, 2020 at 3:08:59 PM EDT

To: "Babad, Luke" <Luke.Babad@pco-bcp.gc.ca>

Cc: "Ferguson, Eric" <Eric.Ferguson@pco-bcp.gc.ca>, "Lefebvre, Alexandre" <Alexandre.Lefebvre@pco-bcp.gc.ca>, "Shi, Anke" <Anke.Shi@pco-bcp.gc.ca>, "MacMaster, Sarah" <Sarah.MacMaster@pco-bcp.gc.ca>, "Lanoix, Janelle" <Janelle.Lanoix@pco-bcp.gc.ca>, "Jarvis, Mark" <Mark.Jarvis@pco-bcp.gc.ca>, "Chiu, Marian" <Marian.Chiu@pco-bcp.gc.ca>

Subject: RE: Schools Reopening updates - October 25

Hi all,

Please find attached some school reopening updates for your Monday DAILY product. The revised chart is attached with recent developments highlighted.

As per usual, I am also including below some language for your analysis section. I have also included, as per your request, some additional language below with a bit of analysis – both overall, and with trends for each province. And, I have also provided a further slide as a visual placemat of school case trends in Canada, pulling out some further analysis. I hope they prove helpful.

Tyler

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN PROVINCIAL/TERRITORIAL RETURN-TO-SCHOOL PLANS

<!--[if !supportLists]-->■ <!--[endif]-->As of October 23, **British Columbia** has reported active exposures in 111 schools (39 new schools in the past week, a pronounced increase of 54%). The province has not reported any school closures, however a first outbreak was declared in a school in Kelowna on October 23, with 3 cases.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->■ <!--[endif]-->**Alberta** has noted a [surge in cases](#) among school-aged children, to new highs alongside increased numbers in the province. On October 23, the province reported 212 schools with 561 active

cases, approximately 14% of all the schools in the province. However, even with these new highs, the relative number of new cases in the schools was only 72 new cases (compared to 118 the week before). 101 school outbreaks have now been declared, including 27 schools with over 5 cases (10 new outbreaks in the last 7 days).

On October 22, **Saskatchewan** reported 84 active youth cases in the province, with reports of at least 27 schools being affected. This is a marked increase of 53 new cases, more than double the total number of youth cases compared to the previous week. The province has noted 5 school outbreaks, with at least 5 school closures. The Saskatchewan Health Authority does not publish cumulative numbers of students with COVID-19 cases in schools. Recent positive cases have been reported at ED Feehan High School, St. Joseph's High School, and WP Bate School in Saskatoon, St. Francis School in Prince Albert, and St. Kateri Tekakwitha School in Regina. An outbreak has also been announced at the Charlebois Community School in Cumberland House.

Regina Public School Board has also announced the installation of 800 bipolar ionization air filtration units to be installed at all schools in the district. The work began in September and is scheduled to be completed in November, with over 25% of the work complete as of October 21.

In **Manitoba**, the province has noted over 148 cases in 94 schools as of October 23. This is an increase of 44 cases and 31 schools (42% increase), as cases in Manitoba continue to increase. At least 17 classes have been shifted to remote learning at various schools. The outbreak at John Pritchard School has been declared over, but one new outbreak was reported on October 20 in Bird's Hill School in Winnipeg, and a second new outbreak on October 23 at Arbogate School in La Broquerie.

In response to the increasing case numbers and new daily high case records in the province, Manitoba Public Health is implementing new restrictions in "orange" zone schools in the province (Winnipeg). Schools will need to ensure 2 metres of distance in all classes, teachers and staff moving between cohorts will be required to wear medical grade masks, extracurricular activities, band and choir activities will be cancelled, and Grades K-8 may be offered a temporary remote learning option for the duration of the restricted "orange" level designation in the zone. With the elevation of the Northern Health Region to the same 'orange' restricted level and Winnipeg, Northern schools will be subject to the same elevated restrictions.

One Winnipeg School Division has also implemented its own contact tracing system for students, using QR codes. Students entering common areas (libraries, cafeterias) scan the QR code on their phone and input contact information, which can be used to trace contacts at a later time. The system has been used successfully with tracking one case at Oak Park High School, and City of Winnipeg officials are visiting the school to study the system further.

On October 23, 1,698 school cases had been reported in **Ontario**, with active cases appearing in 514 schools (representing an increase of 456 cases or 37% over the past week). Over 11% of the schools in the province have now presented at least one case of COVID-19. 4 schools are currently closed.

On October 23, **Quebec** reported 2,207 active student cases (an increase of only 80 active cases in comparison with the week prior). The province noted 848 schools with active cases, and over 28.3% of schools in Quebec have now reported at least one active case. 881 classes remain closed in the province – 43 fewer classes than a week ago, suggesting that the provincial situation is improving - however the number of closed schools is not actively reported. The province has also noted over 3,279 staff and students have recovered and returned to school. A total of 1,337 schools, or about 45% of the province's total have reported at least one case since the beginning of the school year, though just 0.36% of Quebec's 1.5M students and staff have been infected.

In **New Brunswick**, as of October 23, 5 cases have been declared in 5 schools in the Campbellton region. All 5 schools have been closed for cleaning, and while contact tracing is undertaken.

No school-based cases or outbreaks have been reported in schools in any other **Atlantic province or the Territories**.

Nunavut announced on October 23 that it will use a portion of its Safe Restart Funding to bolster its remote learning capacity. It has secured a remote learning platform and is in the midst of purchasing over 3,000 laptops and tablets for students.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->■ <!--[endif]-->**Trend Analysis**

<!--[if !supportLists]-->○ <!--[endif]-->Overall, after approximately 7 weeks of school in Canada, schools have noted numbers of cases, but have had relatively few outbreaks, and they have not been a major vector for transmission.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->○ <!--[endif]-->In British Columbia, school exposures have increased consistently since opening, but have noted a slightly larger 39% increase in the past week. Relatively, BC continues to be in a *good position*, with only one school outbreak (its first) just declared this week.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->○ <!--[endif]-->Alberta has reported relatively consistent new case numbers of around 112 per week over the past five weeks, but has seen fewer new case numbers in the past week (only 72 – 65% of previous weeks). If this relative decrease remains or accelerates in subsequent weeks, Alberta will continue to be in a *good position*.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->○ <!--[endif]-->In Saskatchewan, the overall numbers of active youth cases and affected schools remain low (84 youth, 27 schools), but the province has noted an increase of 53 cases this week. Saskatchewan is in a *good position*, but next week's number will determine if rising cases are a trend or an anomaly.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->○ <!--[endif]-->Manitoba has been noting overall new record high case numbers in the province, and schools cases are also increasing. The province has been increasing school case numbers by an average of 28 per week, but reported 44 cases this week (and 34 the week before). School cases in Manitoba are *trending upwards*, though there are only 2 active outbreaks.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->○ <!--[endif]-->Notably, COVID-19 cases in Ontario schools are *increasing*. The province is averaging 429 cases per week over the last three weeks. However, the number of schools impacted by cases is not increasing at the same rate as total cases.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->○ <!--[endif]-->Quebec has the *highest overall numbers* of active student cases, schools with active cases, and numbers of classes closed/self-isolating in the country. However, Quebec is noting relative weekly *decreases* in new cases for the past four weeks, a positive trend. Over the past week, Quebec reported just a 3% increase in active cases, as more students recover and return to classes.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->○ <!--[endif]-->Public health officials have generally noted that while schools have seen COVID-19 cases in students, *transmission is largely not occurring in schools* and there have been relatively few total school closures. Both the Ontario Chief Medical Officer Williams and the [medical director of the infectious diseases care program at St. Joseph's hospital](#) in London says that sending kids back to school (in Ontario) has not been the catastrophe that some predicted, and has largely been done safely. They acknowledge the presence of cases, but have not seen mass outbreaks.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->■ <!--[endif]-->Please also see the **attached Placemat** for further trend analysis.

Tyler Harris

Policy Advisor / Conseiller en politiques
Intergovernmental Affairs / Affaires Intergouvernementales
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Tyler.harris@pco-bcp.gc.ca
Tel: 613-294-2741

From: Babad, Luke <Luke.Babad@pco-bcp.gc.ca>

Sent: Thursday, October 22, 2020 7:36 AM

To: Harris, Tyler <Tyler.Harris@pco-bcp.gc.ca>

Cc: Ferguson, Eric <Eric.Ferguson@pco-bcp.gc.ca>; Lefebvre, Alexandre <Alexandre.Lefebvre@pco-bcp.gc.ca>; Shi, Anke <Anke.Shi@pco-bcp.gc.ca>; MacMaster, Sarah <Sarah.MacMaster@pco-bcp.gc.ca>; Lanoix, Janelle <Janelle.Lanoix@pco-bcp.gc.ca>; Jarvis, Mark <Mark.Jarvis@pco-bcp.gc.ca>

Subject: RE: Schools Reopening updates - October 21

Tyler,

Two quick things:

<!--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]-->Thanks again as always for the content last night. The schools info continues to be a big portion of the daily.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]-->We've been asked to include a trend analysis of school cases now that nearly two months have gone by – and to include it in either next Monday's or Thursday's report. E.g. are cases in schools still surging or starting to slow down? Do we know if transmission is occurring within the schools? Are there difference by PT?

Do you have the time to prep a couple bullets on that for Sunday night or next Wednesday night?

Hope you're doing well,
Luke

From: Lanoix, Janelle <Janelle.Lanoix@pco-bcp.gc.ca>

Sent: Wednesday, October 21, 2020 5:29 PM

To: Harris, Tyler <Tyler.Harris@pco-bcp.gc.ca>; Jarvis, Mark <Mark.Jarvis@pco-bcp.gc.ca>; Babad, Luke <Luke.Babad@pco-bcp.gc.ca>

Cc: Ferguson, Eric <Eric.Ferguson@pco-bcp.gc.ca>; Lefebvre, Alexandre <Alexandre.Lefebvre@pco-bcp.gc.ca>; Shi, Anke <Anke.Shi@pco-bcp.gc.ca>; MacMaster, Sarah <Sarah.MacMaster@pco-bcp.gc.ca>

Subject: RE: Schools Reopening updates - October 21

Thanks Tyler.

Can you be sure to CC Alexandre Lefebvre, Anke Shi and Sarah MacMaster on these emails moving forward.

Thanks!
Janelle

From: Harris, Tyler <Tyler.Harris@pco-bcp.gc.ca>

Sent: Wednesday, October 21, 2020 5:10 PM

To: Jarvis, Mark <Mark.Jarvis@pco-bcp.gc.ca>; Babad, Luke <Luke.Babad@pco-bcp.gc.ca>; Lanoix, Janelle <Janelle.Lanoix@pco-bcp.gc.ca>

Cc: Ferguson, Eric <Eric.Ferguson@pco-bcp.gc.ca>

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