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October 30, 2020

Dear Prairie Spirit families:

As we move into November, I would like to provide an update to our Prairie Spirit learning community. This letter is part of our ongoing commitment to communicate regularly with Prairie Spirit families.

I continue to be so thankful for the cooperation and patience of parents and caregivers. Your support for your children and our school staff is so appreciated.

Thank you for encouraging your children to continue to follow all safety guidelines, including mask wearing when necessary. Children continue to show all of us that they can do hard things. We also appreciate when families keep their children home if they have any symptoms. This is even more important as we are now in cold and flu season. We all have a part to play and we are grateful to get to have our schools open and filled with students, because of your support.

Dr. Shahab, the Chief Medical Health Officer, acknowledges the good work being done by schools and school divisions to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Dr. Shahab is not surprised that there are positive cases in our schools. *At this time, he points out that there have not been any instances of transmission within schools.* Our schools are following all safety measures and the Division's COVID Response Team supports a school if a case is identified.

In my communication with Prairie Spirit staff over the past few months, I have often referred to the need to be ready to "pivot." In this situation, it means we need to be ready to turn or change direction with our current classroom practices, if required. COVID-19 cases in Saskatchewan are currently on the rise and we need to be prepared to respond to possible adjustments to safety measures and guidelines. We will continue to communicate any information we receive from the Saskatchewan Health Authority that impacts our schools and our families.

I have asked all of our Prairie Spirit schools to refine their local contingency plans to detail how the school would move from our current Level 2 to Level 3 or Level 4 in the provincial Safe Schools [Plan](#), if directed to do so by the Chief Medical Health Officer:

- At Level 3, school capacity would be reduced and there may be a move to a hybrid learning model.
- At Level 4, we would transition to mandatory online learning.

Any changes to our school plans and safety guidelines will be made in consultation with the local Medical Health Officer and under the guidance of the Chief Medical Health Officer, the Ministry of Education and the Provincial Response Planning Team.

Despite the pressures of COVID-19 safety measures, our commitment continues to be on student learning. I am thankful for all of our teachers, school and Division staff for their dedicated work with and for students.

We also appreciate your support, patience and collaboration this fall. We are thankful that we get to partner with our families and communities as we focus on learning in safe and caring places.

Sincerely,



Lori Jeschke, Director of Education

### More information

- The provincial government’s Safe Schools Parent [package](#) is posted on the Division’s website. This document provides a range of information for parents, including “Thresholds for Changes to In-Classroom Learning.”
- For a definition of “close contact”, please go to the following [link](#) on the government’s website.
- For your reference, please see the following flowchart from the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health. This flowchart describes the process that will be used if there is a positive case in a school. In that situation, the school and Division personnel follow this process and work closely with the Saskatchewan Health Authority.

