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November 20, 2020

Dear Prairie Spirit families,

It is certainly beginning to look a lot like Christmas! It's hard to believe that we have just four full weeks of school before the Christmas break.

Learning safely together

We are confident that in-school learning can continue safely and effectively in our schools. Dr. Shahab, the province's Chief Medical Health Officer, continues to recognize the good work being done in schools to keep students and staff safe. He has commended schools and school divisions for continuing to follow the safety protocols, including various layers of protection.

However, we know the number of cases in the province is increasing. We have had cases in a few of our Prairie Spirit schools. If the situation changes and schools must move to at-home learning like we did in the spring, our schools are prepared to pivot to online learning to ensure learning continues.

Learning options for students

In order to maintain stability for student learning, Prairie Spirit recommends students continue with their current classroom for the entire school year, whether it is in school or online. For those families who wish to change their current learning program, please contact your school administrator to discuss your options.

COVID case at a school

Due to the volume of COVID-19 cases at this time, the Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA) is not able to complete contact tracing in a classroom. Effective immediately, if a case is identified in a classroom, all students in that class will self-isolate. The SHA will communicate the length of the self isolation for those in the class. Moving students directly into self isolation is a new strategy designed to keep everyone safe.

This new SHA process will impact families, as your child may be directed to self isolate with very short notice. As a result, it is important for families to be prepared with a plan for their child in this situation.

I appreciate the work of our teachers and school staff as they prepare for a variety of scenarios, including the following levels in the provincial [Safe Schools Plan](#):

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

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.

Despite the pressures of COVID-19 safety measures, our commitment continues to be on student learning. We are thankful that we get to partner with our families and communities as we focus on learning in safe and caring places.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lori Jeschke', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Lori Jeschke
Director of Education

Note:

Education partners in Saskatchewan shared a [letter](#) this week to ask all communities to do their part in following the recommended health measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and help keep our schools safe.