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December 16, 2020

Dear Prairie Spirit families:

As we enter our Christmas break, I want to provide an update to families about our current return to school plans for our students and schools in January.

Prairie Spirit follows the advice of our local Medical Health Officer in Saskatoon, as directed by the Ministry of Education and the Chief Medical Health Officer. At this time, we are being advised to continue to follow our current Christmas break schedule. **This means we will return for in person learning on Monday, January 4, following our established school year calendar.**

This advice from the Medical Health Officer (MHO) is based on the current COVID-19 numbers in our local context. With the current robust health measures in place, the MHO believes our schools can plan to resume in school learning (Level 2) after the two-week Christmas break.

The exceptions will be our large high schools – Warman High School and Martensville High School – who will return in January at Level 3. According to the Government of Saskatchewan’s [Safe Schools Plan](#), Level 3 involves a combination of in-person classes and learning from home. This provides the ability to reduce the daily number of students in the school. The move to Level 3 for high schools with an enrolment of over 600 students was recommended by Dr. Shahab, the Chief Medical Health Officer, in November.

Dr. Shahab continues to remind us that the vast majority of positive cases in schools are from community transmission, not transmission in the school. He is very appreciative of the diligence of school staff and students in following all safety protocols.

Please remember that this decision is “at this time” and is subject to change. If we receive advice to change our plans, we will communicate with all Prairie Spirit families as quickly as we can. Please check your emails throughout the Christmas break in case there is another update from the Division or your school.

Thank you for supporting your child’s teachers and school staff as they continue to focus on learning, with many other pressures this year. Your children and our Prairie Spirit staff have done an amazing job of adapting and ensuring our schools are safe learning environments.

Please stay safe and well and have a restful break.

Sincerely,

Lori Jeschke  
Director of Education