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Dear Prairie Spirit families:

The rapidly increasing cases of COVID-19 in our communities and recent changes by the provincial government are raising some questions about school operations. As we have done throughout the pandemic, we continue to seek clarity and guidance from our local Medical Health Officer to ensure we are doing everything we can to help protect the health of our students and staff.

### **Responding to rising COVID numbers**

At the Division level, we continue to work closely with local public health officials to monitor cases in our schools. If changes are needed, our schools are prepared to move quickly. This may include moving classes to learning at home temporarily or pausing extra-curricular activities.

We will give students, parents and caregivers as much notice as we can if a change is necessary. Please have alternate arrangements in place in the event that a class or a school needs to move to online learning with short notice.

### **COVID case management**

There are updated processes in place for COVID-19 case management in schools, following recent announcements from the provincial government.

[Province Outlines Steps For Schools To Continue Safely | News and Media | Government of Saskatchewan](#)

#### ***What has changed***

- **Parents are asked to report to the school if their child tests positive for COVID-19 with a rapid test at home or has a positive PCR result at an SHA facility.**

In this situation, parents should consult the following information on the provincial government website:

- [COVID-19 Case and Contact Management in Schools](#)
- [Updating COVID-19 Testing and Case Management Guidelines](#)
- [Self-Isolation](#)

The school will send a “Risk of Exposure” message via email to the impacted class(es)/extra-curricular groups/teams to make students and families aware that there has been a reported positive COVID-19 test result in the classroom/extra-curricular activity. The message will not provide any details about the student or staff member. In the event that there are multiple cases in a class in one day, the class will receive one risk of exposure email which will provide the necessary information regarding being a close contact.

The school community will receive an email from the school at the end of the day if there is a case (or cases) at the school.

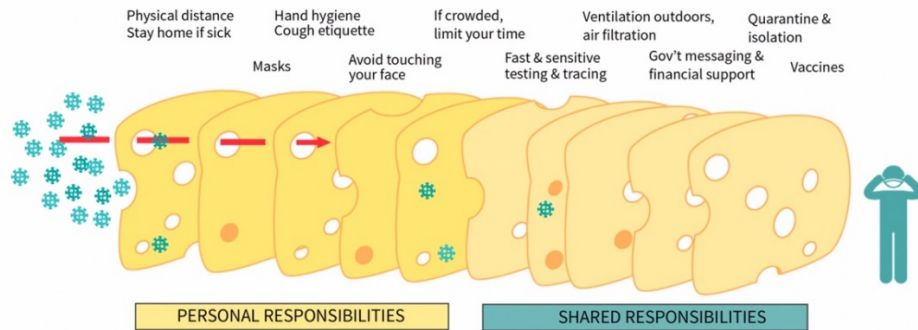
- **School divisions are no longer expected to notify Public Health when they receive information about a student with a positive rapid test.**

### ***What hasn't changed***

- We continue to ask parents to ensure that their children do not come to school with symptoms. If a student comes to school with symptoms, the school will be contacting the family to come and pick them up, even if they have a negative rapid test result. Schools will not administer rapid tests for students.
- The Public Health Order permits students who are close contacts to a case outside the home to continue to attend school if they do not display any symptoms, regardless of vaccination status. Unvaccinated students are required to self-isolate at all other times other than when at school or daycare, including school-based extra-curricular activities and other activities after school.
- The Saskatchewan Health Authority will continue to notify the school division when a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19 on a PCR test and attended school while communicable. Public Health will provide communication for affected classrooms (and bus, if applicable) that the school will distribute, as has been our practice until now.
- Individuals should wear triple-layer masks with a good fit. Medical-grade disposable masks are available to students and staff members at school.
- Our local Medical Health Officer recommends the use of rapid testing as a valuable layer of protection to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. Please continue to use rapid tests at home to ensure your children are well and able to attend school. Rapid test kits are available through our schools, as supplies allow, and at several [locations](#) in communities throughout the province.
- The Saskatchewan Health Authority and local Medical Health Officers continue to remind us of the importance of using multiple layers of intervention to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus in our schools and workplaces. Prairie Spirit is committed to following these layers of protection for the safety of our students and staff.

## Swiss Cheese Model

### THE SWISS CHEESE RESPIRATORY VIRUS PANDEMIC DEFENCE RECOGNIZING THAT NO SINGLE INTERVENTION IS PERFECT AT PREVENTING SPREAD



Our staff members have shown their dedication and commitment to student learning as they have created safe learning environments, despite many other challenges. Thank you for your ongoing support for your teachers and your school.

Sincerely,

Darryl Bazylak  
Director of Education