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Dear Prairie Spirit families:

I am sending this letter to all Prairie Spirit families to provide a COVID-19 update from the Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA) and the Division.

Although there have been some promising signs regarding the pandemic, the SHA message is that the pandemic is not over, and we must continue to be vigilant in following the layers of protection and safety protocols.

SHA update

The Saskatchewan Health Authority has asked Saskatoon and area school divisions to distribute a [letter](#) from the Medical Health Officer (MHO) to all staff and families. A Q+A document regarding Variants of Concern (VOC) follows the letter. The purpose of this letter is to:

- Highlight the **Variants of Concern (VOC)** that spread more easily between people.
- Confirm that a VOC has been identified by Public Health in at least one school setting in Saskatoon. There is an increase in VOC COVID-19 cases in Saskatoon.
- Highlight that COVID response processes may be impacted if a COVID-19 case in a school is a VOC.
- Urge families to continue to follow all protocols and public health orders.
- Highlight the importance of vaccination in bringing the pandemic under control.

Prairie Spirit update

- There have been 10 COVID-19 cases in Prairie Spirit schools since the February break.
- Our schools are doing a great job in following the layers of protection and safety protocols to help keep students and staff safe.
- Dr. Shahab continues to commend schools for their good work in limiting the spread of COVID-19 in school settings.
- Our current COVID response [process](#) may be impacted if there is a VOC COVID-19 case in a school. We will share more as we receive direction from the SHA.

Please continue to carefully follow all safety protocols and the public health orders as we anticipate more cases of the Variants of Concern in our communities.

Sincerely,

Lori Jeschke
Director of Education