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April 30, 2021

Dear Prairie Spirit families:

As we long for April showers that bring us May flowers, we look forward to the promise of hope and springtime that May holds for us. I would like to provide an update to our families, as part of our commitment to regular communication.

The end of the school year is coming up quickly and our school leaders and staff continue to work hard to create safe places and spaces for our students in our schools. Thank you to each Prairie Spirit family for your support and collaboration so far this year.

Prairie Spirit continues to work closely with the Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA) to help keep our students and staff safe. We want our schools to remain open, if possible. Prairie Spirit consults with our local Medical Health Officer when cases or outbreaks are identified. Our schools follow all Public Health recommendations to support the safe return of students and staff following an outbreak/exposure.

We know the **variants of concern** are in our communities. The variants of concern are highly contagious, transmitting more quickly and to more people within the community. It is more important than ever that we follow all of the COVID protocols and guidelines.

In Prairie Spirit schools, we continue to follow our safety protocols and layers of protection, which include mask wearing, hand hygiene, social distancing, student cohorts and cleaning guidelines. Students and staff should stay home if they have symptoms. These processes have been helping to keep our students and staff safe and they will be carefully followed.

Rapid testing

Prairie Spirit will be working with the SHA to plan rapid COVID testing clinics in communities identified by the SHA. These clinics will be offered to the community and be held in a community space. The Division will assist the SHA by sharing information about upcoming clinics with school communities.

Vaccination for school staff

We are very pleased that all school staff are now eligible for vaccinations. Prairie Spirit's Board Chair, along with the Board Chairs from Saskatoon Public Schools and Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools, recently sent a joint [letter](#) to the Minister of Education, urging the Ministry and the Government of Saskatchewan to prioritize education staff to receive the COVID vaccine. This will be an important layer of protection for our staff.

We are reminded that this pandemic is like a marathon. The end of the marathon can be the hardest. Perseverance and patience are required! Although we are all getting tired of things like masks and hand sanitizer, it is more important than ever that we maintain our safety protocols.

We are working together to keep each other safe and to keep our students in school. Thank you for all you are doing in this effort! 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'. The signature is fluid and cursive, starting with a large 'L' and ending with a long horizontal stroke.

Lori Jeschke
Director of Education