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January 3, 2022

Dear Prairie Spirit families:

Happy New Year and best wishes at the start of 2022! I trust you have enjoyed a time of rest, renewal and fun over the holidays.

The purpose of this communication is to share the recent COVID-19 update from the provincial government as we plan for the return to school tomorrow, Tuesday, January 4.

Dr. Shahab, the province's Chief Medical Health Officer, has confirmed that schools can return to in-class learning following the holiday break, with continued measures in place, including masking and rapid testing.

For the protection of students and staff, please follow all COVID-19 safety precautions:

- Be aware of the symptoms of COVID-19 and have your child stay home if they are not feeling well [Self-Monitoring | About COVID-19 | Government of Saskatchewan](#).
- Consider using a rapid antigen test before your child returns to school this week and make it a practice to regularly use rapid tests with your family, as this is a preventative measure identified by Public Health to help keep students and staff safe and healthy at school.
 - If the test is positive, please keep your child at home.
 - Rapid tests are free of charge and are available at a number of community locations around the province. [Locations for Rapid Antigen Self Test Kits | Self-Testing | Government of Saskatchewan](#)
- Ensure your child is wearing their "best" mask" according to [Saskatchewan Guidelines](#) on masking.
- Get fully vaccinated, including the booster shot for those who are eligible.

Changes to COVID-19 case management

The following changes to COVID-19 testing and case management [guidelines](#) were announced at the premier's COVID-19 update last week:

- Effective immediately, asymptomatic residents who receive a positive COVID-19 result on a rapid antigen test will no longer be recommended to receive a confirmatory PCR test. Whether you have received a positive test result through a rapid antigen test or a PCR test, all residents are required to self-isolate and notify their contacts as part of COVID-19 case management protocols.

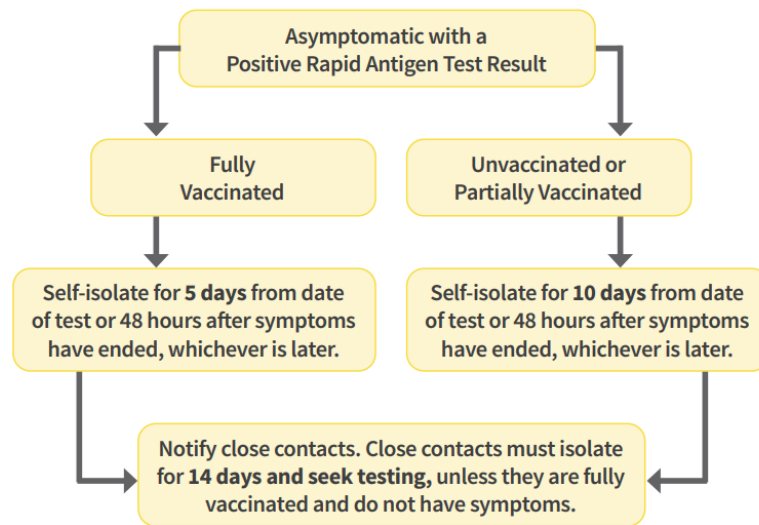
- Fully vaccinated asymptomatic residents who receive a positive COVID-19 result on a rapid antigen test or PCR test will be required to self-isolate for five days, down from 10 days.

Case Management: Positive Rapid Antigen Testing Results

All residents have access to rapid antigen test kits for *asymptomatic* COVID-19 testing.

In the event that you receive a positive result from a rapid antigen test, it is no longer recommended that you seek confirmatory PCR testing but you are required to abide by case management protocols to prevent transmission. *If you are symptomatic*, self-isolate immediately and seek a PCR test.

In all instances, you are required to abide by the proof of vaccination/negative testing policies for your workplace.



Call HealthLine 811 if COVID-19 symptoms develop or worsen.

saskatchewan.ca/COVID19



Public Health is expected to have updated information early this week regarding the handling of positive cases and outbreaks in schools. We will continue to provide regular updates to families.

Thank you again for your support for your teachers and your school as we work together to support student learning.

Sincerely,

Darryl Bazylak
Director of Education