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Dear Prairie Spirit families:

Please review the following important updates regarding sharing COVID information in our schools.

**Reporting COVID cases in Prairie Spirit schools**

We will be changing our process for communicating COVID cases to our classes and schools. Given the volume of COVID cases reported to schools last week and over the weekend, we realize we cannot continue to send COVID letters to each impacted class.

The Deputy Minister of Education and our local Medical Health Officer support the following process for notification of COVID cases in schools:

1. Parent informs the school of positive rapid test or PCR test for their child.
2. At the end of each school day, the school will send an email to the school community with information about positive COVID-19 cases reported, including the list of classes/buses/activities that have been impacted, along with information outlined in the most recent public health order. This information **does not** include the name of the student or staff member.

**Weekend reporting**

Parents are encouraged to continue to report a positive rapid test or PCR result to the school over the weekend. The school will provide information on Monday about positive COVID results submitted over the weekend.

When this information from the weekend is shared, it will also include the date of the positive test to give parents the information they need to determine if their child is a close contact and the corresponding self-isolation period.

Please note: If a student tests positive on a Monday morning prior to attending school, there is no concern for the class or school, as the student has not been in school for 48 hours. However, please report the positive result to the school as this information will be used for Division monitoring purposes.

**Illness/absence reporting**

Please contact your school if your child is away from school, for whatever reason. If your child is away because of any illness (COVID or another illness) please indicate that reason. If we have this information, we can track illness in the school and share the numbers with Public Health. This information does not include any personal information and does not identify the student or staff member.

Our local Medical Health Officer has provided the following direction: If a student or a staff member has symptoms, they should not return to work or school until symptoms have significantly improved for 48 hours or your end of isolation date (if COVID positive or close contact) – whichever is later.

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.

### **Moving to online learning**

As was mentioned in the last letter to parents, we will need to be ready to make a move to learning from home, depending on the COVID activity in a class or school. The process for moving a class to learning from home has been determined in consultation with our local Medical Health Officer. We can appreciate that this causes a disruption for parents and we will give you as much notice as we can.

If your child's class moves to online learning, parents are encouraged to continue to submit positive COVID-19 test results to the school as part of our ongoing monitoring of the situation.

When a class is moved to learning from home, the purpose is to slow down the transmission of COVID-19 in the class. Although other activities outside the school may continue, moving the class to learning from home reduces one area of contact, for a period of time.

### **Extra-curricular activities**

If a class moves to online learning, all extra-curricular activities for that age group will be paused until the classes in that age group return to in-person learning.

### **Cleaning at schools**

Please note that we continue to follow enhanced cleaning and disinfecting protocols at schools to include regular disinfecting of commonly touched surfaces and daily cleaning and disinfecting of all surfaces using the recommended disinfectant products and procedures.

We continue to appreciate your support for your teachers and your school. We are committed to providing regular updates to parents.

Sincerely,



Darryl Bazylak  
Director of Education