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Dear Prairie Spirit families:

We have been back in school for two weeks following the Christmas break and we are thankful for the learning that is happening in our schools. We are excited to have staff and students learning together as we know this is the optimal learning environment.

Our teachers and school staff have done an amazing job of continuing to focus on student learning during these challenging months. Because of the flexibility and commitment of our staff, we have been able to continue to operate our schools safely, even though it is not “business as usual.”

Prairie Spirit schools have received reports of over 600 positive COVID-19 test results since January 4, which includes over 80 staff members. Several individual classes have moved to learning from home for a period of time due to the number of cases in the class. Both Martensville High School and Warman High School will move to online learning this week for a period of time because of the level of COVID-19 activity in their schools.

Our schools currently have the added responsibility of:

- Collecting positive COVID-19 test results from families, students and staff to report to the school community.
- Managing high levels of staff absenteeism due to sickness and isolation requirements. With a limited supply of substitute staff, staff are being reassigned to cover unfilled absences for teaching and support staff.
- Monitoring student absenteeism due to a number of factors including illness, isolation requirements and parental choice. Teachers will continue to support all of their students but must focus on the students who are attending school each day. Thank you for your understanding of the many pressures that our teachers are facing at this time.

Because of the current level of COVID-19 activity in our communities and its impact on our students and staff, parents should be aware of the following possible interruptions to regular classroom learning:

- A class may move to remote learning when they have multiple COVID-19 cases within a five-day period.
- Student transportation may be disrupted or cancelled due to a lack of drivers.
- Specialized student supports may not be available due to staff absences.

- An entire school may move to learning from home based on the COVID-19 case numbers or if there are not enough staff members to ensure that the school can operate safely.

We know that any of these scenarios will cause a significant disruption for students and parents. We will give you as much notice as we can.

Please ensure your child stays home if they have 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.

Our local Medical Health Officer encourages families to use rapid tests as a safety precaution. You can ask for kits from your school, if supplies are available, or pick them up at other community locations. [Locations for Rapid Antigen Self Test Kits | Self-Testing | Government of Saskatchewan](#)

Prairie Spirit staff and families have been partners throughout the pandemic to support student learning. It has been a challenging time, but we will continue to work together to ensure our students are supported and have every opportunity to learn and grow.

We appreciate your support for your teachers and your school. We will continue to provide updates to families.

Sincerely,



Darryl Bazylak
Director of Education