

October 6, 2021

Dear parents, families and guardians,

Yesterday the provincial government [announced](#) a number of new protections that are designed to help students and staff, as we continue to navigate the fourth wave of the pandemic.

I want to share what we know with you.

Contact notification in schools

As you know, we have been informing you about COVID-19 cases that are reported to us by staff and family members. Notification to our school communities will continue. We're asking you to continue letting us know when your child has tested positive for COVID-19 case as the new process for notification is being developed.

We will continue to post cases that we are aware of on our [website](#). Alberta Health has also started [publicly reporting](#) schools across the province that have at least two COVID-19 cases online. The information publicly posted by Health is based on **all** positive cases of COVID-19, which may include cases we are not aware of.

Shifts to online learning

If there are three or more COVID-19 cases identified within five days in a Kindergarten to Grade 6 class, that class will shift to online learning for 10 days. Schools will notify families when a class is required to shift online. Our schools have shifted between in person and online learning many times over the last year and a half and are well equipped to continue to support students.

As a Division, we will also continue to closely monitor attendance in schools. We have the flexibility to shift students online as a measure to keep our school communities safe.

Clarifying outbreak definition

Based on yesterday's announcement, the definition of a COVID-19 'outbreak' is changing. A school outbreak will now be reported as 10 or more COVID-19 cases within a 14-day period who were infectious while at school. We will continue to communicate with you if your child's school is in an outbreak.

At-home rapid test kits

The province announced they would be providing targeted rapid testing kits starting in late October for Kindergarten to Grade 6 schools experiencing outbreaks, because these students are not yet eligible for vaccination. The rapid testing will be voluntary and will be administered at home by parents as a screening tool. Details about this program are still being worked out by the province. More information is expected about this soon.

Thank you

Thank you for your continued support and patience as we continue to navigate changes throughout the pandemic. I know you are as committed as we are, to keeping our students and staff as safe as possible.

Sincerely,



Darrel Robertson
Superintendent of Schools

