

DATE: April 13, 2021

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: Darrel Robertson, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: COVID-19 Impact on the Division from February 24 to March 30, 2021

ORIGINATOR: Karen Mills, Director Board and Superintendent Relations

RESOURCE

STAFF: Laurie Barnstable, Anna Batchelor, Megan Normandeau, Carrie Rosa

REFERENCE: January 12, 2021 Caucus Committee meeting

ISSUE

The Board of Trustees are receiving ongoing verbal and written updates on the Division's efforts to support students and staff and mitigate transmission during the COVID-19 pandemic. Trustees have asked that information be shared regularly at public Board meetings.

BACKGROUND

Information reports about the impact of COVID-19 on the Division were presented at the November 24, February 9 and March 9 Board meetings. Every weekday, updates on the number of COVID-19 cases in schools are provided to Trustees via a transmittal memo, to students and families via a [page](#) on the Division website, and to media via a direct report. Each week, the Superintendent emails an update to all staff.

Division schools continue to do everything they can to mitigate risk by following safety guidelines outlined in the Government of Alberta's school re-entry plan and our Division's Re-entry Strategy. This includes: screening for illness, handwashing and sanitizing, physical distancing where possible, enhanced cleaning standards, strict illness protocols, personal protective equipment (PPE), masks and cohorts.

CURRENT SITUATION

There continues to be incidences of COVID-19 cases in our schools. From February 24 to March 30, 2021:

- We received notice that 118 individuals in the Division tested positive for COVID-19
- 68 out of 215 schools had COVID-19 cases
- 3,067 students were recommended or required to quarantine
- 385 staff were recommended or required to quarantine

The Division's spring break ran from March 29 to April 6, but Division and AHS staff remained in contact and notifications continued when positive cases occurred.

Variants

The Division is aware of 25 COVID-19 cases in schools that have been confirmed by Alberta Health Services as variant cases.

MN:pd