

October 19, 2021

Dear parents, guardians and families,

Edmonton Public Schools has committed to keeping you informed about confirmed cases of COVID-19 in your child's school that we are aware of. Since the start of the school year we have let you know about cases reported to us by staff and families through letters.

Alberta's Chief Medical Officer of Health recently announced that Alberta Health Services (AHS) is reinstating notification of confirmed cases of COVID-19 who were infectious while at school. Effective immediately, this work will be happening under the direction of AHS.

Here's what you need to know:

A Confirmed COVID-19 case—infectious at school (Pre-K - Grade 12)

AHS will give us a daily list of the staff and students who were infectious with COVID-19 while at school. Schools will work with AHS to determine who would have been exposed. This includes students and staff in the same class, participating in team sports at school or those who sat within three rows of the COVID-19 case on the yellow bus.

You will receive a letter from AHS if your child was exposed to an individual who tested positive for COVID-19 and was infectious while at school. The letter will provide information and guidance about monitoring for symptoms and recommendations to help mitigate the risk of spread.

The broader school community will continue to receive a Division letter notifying them that there has been a confirmed positive case of COVID-19 who was infectious while at school. The Division will post confirmed cases of COVID-19 (only those who were infectious while at school) on [epsb.ca](https://www.epsb.ca).

Please continue to let your school know if your child is absent from school due to a confirmed case of COVID-19.

Three confirmed COVID-19 cases in five days—in a single class (Pre-K-Grade 6)

As a means to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 within a school, AHS has determined that when a single class or cohort of students in Pre-K to Grade 6 have three confirmed cases while infectious in school within a five day period, the entire group of students will transition to online learning.

Under AHS direction, classes who meet this criteria will be required to transition to learning from home for the remainder of the COVID-19 isolation period related to the confirmed cases. Schools will work with students and families of classes transitioning to learning from home to ensure they are aware of online learning schedules, have access to Chromebooks etc.

If your child is transiting to learning online due to exposure in the classroom, AHS will either email or call you. These students are not legally excluded from other activities; however, it is recommended they limit contact with others.

Declaring an Outbreak (Pre-K - Grade 12)

AHS monitors the number of COVID-19 cases in schools across the province and reports this [information publicly](#). Schools with at least two positive COVID-19 cases who were at school while infectious will be listed under Alert (two to four cases and five to nine cases) or Outbreak (10+ cases) status.

If AHS declares a school as Outbreak status, they will provide a letter, outlining any specific actions that are being taken and health advice for staff and families. Students will continue to attend for in person learning and the Division will monitor the situation closely. If necessary, the Division may need to temporarily transition some students to online learning due to operational challenges.

When AHS determines that an outbreak is over, the school will provide families with a letter from AHS indicating this.

Updated AHS Parents' Guide

To help support families, AHS released an updated version of the [Parents' Guide 2021-22 School Year](#).

Continuing to keep one another safe

Thank you for your continued partnership in keeping one another safe. Your continued patience and support through the changing circumstances of COVID-19 is appreciated.

Sincerely,



Darrel Robertson
Superintendent of Schools