

Lethbridge School Division

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Sept. 9, 2020

To our Chinook High School community,

Alberta Health Services has been working closely with Lethbridge School Division to support and manage the safety of our schools. Today, Lethbridge School Division received notice there is an outbreak at Chinook High School. As a result, Chinook High School is required to follow AHS direction and protocols.

The Alberta Government defines an outbreak as: If there are TWO OR MORE confirmed cases in your school setting (staff/child) within a 14-day period (one incubation period) OR two or more confirmed cases staff child) that are epidemiologically linked.

To date, AHS has notified the Division that there are two COVID-19 cases at Chinook High School. At this time, based on advice from AHS, Chinook High School will remain open.

AHS has proceeded with defining close contacts of the two cases within the school context, and those individuals will be contacted by the school through an emailed letter and individually by AHS as close contacts. Those individuals will be required to quarantine immediately for the period defined by AHS.

As we continue our focus on preventing the spread of COVID-19, we have directed our custodial services team to conduct enhanced cleaning protocols. This additional cleaning will focus on areas where the individuals were present, along with high-touch areas and surfaces throughout the school.

Our thoughts remain with the individuals that have tested positive, and we wish them a safe and speedy recovery.

Out of respect to these individuals and in accordance with Alberta Health Services guidelines, we cannot disclose personal details of the members of the Chinook community that have tested positive for COVID-19.

We remind families to monitor for any signs or symptoms of COVID-19 using the [Alberta Health Screening Questionnaire](#). Please remember to complete the checklist each day prior to attending school. If you or a member of your family has any of the symptoms of illness listed, please fill out the online [Alberta Health Services COVID-19 self-assessment](#) or call Health Link at 811.

AHS staff are scheduled to visit Chinook High School on Thursday morning to continue the contact-tracing process and review school practices and processes.

The health and safety of our staff, students and community is paramount. We know this news can be distressing and supports are available.

Please be assured we will continue to work closely with Alberta Health Services and the Medical Officer of Health in the South Zone to ensure we follow their ongoing recommendations. Please do not hesitate to reach out to your school principal or myself with any questions. Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Dr. Cheryl Gilmore, Superintendent of Schools