



October 30, 2020

To: Lethbridge School Division and Holy Spirit School Division

RE: Social gatherings involving students

We seek your assistance in distributing this important information to guardians, parents and students within your school divisions.

Alberta Health Services (AHS) has been advised of a number of upcoming social gatherings that may involve many students. This, in addition to the recent parties that have taken place, can and has led to the spread of COVID-19. One ill person who attends such events can cause many others to become exposed and infected. We are seeing this, not only across the province, but within our region as well.

A significant number of outbreak-linked cases in Alberta are from social gatherings. In fact, 15 percent of outbreaks are from such events and 1/3 of people infected in outbreaks contracted the virus while socializing or celebrating.

Currently, Public Health requirements will allow social gatherings, with restrictions of all [indoor social events](#) to no more than 50 persons and [outdoor events](#) with no seating to 100 persons. This is identified in Chief Medical Officer of Health Orders.

During such gatherings, it is critical all participants adhere to hand hygiene, illness screening and physical distancing requirements, regardless of the size or location of the event. Where physical distancing cannot be maintained, masking must instead be required of all participants.

We are asking for your support in implementing these measures. These measures have been shown to successfully reduce the spread of COVID-19 and we can all do our part in making social gatherings safer.

In general, social gatherings pose a significant risk of COVID-19 transmission and this may put yourself, your child(ren), the teachers and the entire student body at risk.

Please, help us protect you, your family and our communities by considering limiting attendance at these social gatherings.

For more support and guidance, please see: <https://www.alberta.ca/restrictions-on-gatherings.aspx>

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Shobhit Maruti".

Dr. Shobhit Maruti, MD, MPH, FRCP(C), (DABPM)
Medical Officer of Health – South Zone