

# COVID-19 PROTOCOLS

**OCT. 29, 2020**

The COVID-19 pandemic presents an unprecedented challenge for Lethbridge School Division. To ensure safety of students, staff, the school community and the community at large, leadership at all levels of the Division must continuously evaluate the response to COVID-19. At any time, the Division must consider:

- Alignment of Division mission, vision, priorities, pandemic plan and re-entry guide
- Maintaining or reduce current protocols designed to prevent the spread of COVID-19
- Enhancing (increasing or reducing) protocols designed to prevent the spread of COVID-19
- The following chart is designed to assist with the decision-making process related to any changes to the Pandemic Plan as well as the implementation of COVID-19 protocols as outlined in the Re-entry Plan. As always, the overriding principle in all decision-making processes related to COVID-19 is the safety of students, staff, the school community and the larger community. The considerations in the chart are not exclusive; other factors that may not have come to the forefront as concerns may be considered when making decisions.

## **GUIDANCE FROM ALBERTA HEALTH SERVICES, ALBERTA EDUCATION & OH & S**

### **FACTORS TO CONSIDER:**

- Has Alberta Health Services provided any new direction or guidance?
- Has Alberta Education provided any new direction or guidance?
- Has OH&S provided any new direction or guidance?
- Have there been other new guidelines announced?

## **COMMUNITY TRANSMISSION RATES**

### **FACTORS TO CONSIDER:**

- How many active cases are there in Lethbridge?
- What is the multi-day trend for cases in Lethbridge?
- What is the four-week trend?
- Are the number of cases increasing or decreasing in Lethbridge?
- Is Lethbridge currently in watch status according to AHS?
- Is Lethbridge currently in enhanced status according to AHS?

## **COVID CASES IN SCHOOL COMMUNITIES**

### **FACTORS TO CONSIDER:**

- Are there known COVID-19 diagnosis in any schools?
- Has AHS mandated that staff in any school isolate or quarantine due to possible exposure at school?
- Has AHS mandated that students in any school isolate or quarantine?
- Is AHS conducting contact tracing in any schools?
- Is there evidence of COVID-19 transmission within schools?

## **ORGANIZATIONAL STATUS AND LEARNING**

### **FACTORS TO CONSIDER:**

- How does the student absenteeism rate compare to a non-COVID year?
- How does the staff absenteeism rate compare to a non-COVID year; is it impacting instruction?
- Do we have enough substitute teachers and non-certified substitutes to meet the needs of schools?
- Do we have enough caretaking staff to ensure buildings are properly cleaned?
- When is the next pivot point?
- Overall, have schools communicated that they support change and have the capacity to assume the additional responsibilities that come with co- and extra-curricular activities?
  - Are schools ready to implement plans that consider the breadth of activities, timelines for implementation, and protocols that follow AHS and other organizations such as ASAA?
  - What implications does the addition of cohorts to the current school cohort structures have on learning. Have schools been able to move to adding a greater breadth of in-school curriculum before considering out of school activities?
  - What are the potential implications for the operation of the school if a number of individuals on a school team cohort/club/activity tested positive?

## **BOARD GOVERNANCE CONSIDERATIONS**

### **FACTORS TO CONSIDER:**

- How does our mission, vision and priorities inform our decision making?
  - How does our pandemic plan and re-entry plan inform our decision making?
  - What is the Standard of Care owed to students and staff? (Guided by the MOH, wellness standards, OHS, impact on capacity to maintain Standard of Care required during the pandemic)
  - If cases are increasing, how does this impact our Standard of Care?
  - Balance of duty to staff and students- what decision promotes the greatest good as to the Standard of Care?
  - Political Pressure/ Parent Pressure considerations
  - Are there other factors to consider?

## **SUMMARY QUESTIONS**

### **FACTORS TO CONSIDER:**

- Are there changes from Alberta Health Services, Alberta Education or OH&S that would suggest we need to maintain, enhance or reduce COVID-19 protocols?
- Does community transmission information suggest we need to maintain, enhance or reduce COVID-19 protocols?
- Does school COVID-19 information suggest we need to maintain, enhance or reduce COVID-19 protocols?
- Does organizational status information suggest we need to maintain, enhance or reduce COVID-19 protocols?
- Are there other factors we need to consider when deciding if we should maintain, enhance or reduce COVID-19 protocols?