

Lethbridge School Division

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March 19, 2021,

To our staff and community members of Gilbert Paterson Middle School,

Gilbert Paterson Middle School has recently been notified by Alberta Health Services that they have identified a second case of COVID-19 at the school.

As a result, the Medical Officer of Health has started an investigation. Public Health staff are investigating to determine who may have been exposed at your school to cases of COVID-19 during their infectious period. The risk to the general population in the school of becoming infected because of these cases is low.

AHS Public Health is responsible for contact tracing. Public Health and the school will work closely together to ensure timely and accurate contact tracing. Close contacts will be notified via email and instructed to quarantine for at least 14 days. Public Health also has provided recommendations to the school about cleaning measures and other control measures to reduce the risk of further transmission. If you are not contacted, your child is not a close contact and can attend school as usual, following all public health guidance.

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

The school schedule will proceed as normal for Monday, March 22, 2021.

Out of respect to these individuals, and in accordance with Alberta Health Services guidelines, we cannot disclose personal details.

We remind our staff team 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.

Out of an abundance of caution and as we continue our focus on preventing the spread of COVID-19, we have directed our custodial services team to conduct enhanced cleaning. This additional cleaning will focus on areas where the individual was present along with high-touch areas and surfaces throughout the facility.

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

Please rest 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 to our colleagues, students and community.

Sincerely,

Dr. Cheryl Gilmore, Superintendent of Schools