

October 8, 2021

To: All Staff, Parents and Guardians
From: Cheryl Gilmore, Superintendent
Re: Implementation of New Provincial COVID-19 Public Health Measures for Schools

On Tuesday, October 5, the Alberta Chief Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Hinshaw, the Minister of Health, Jason Copping, and the Minister of Education, Adriana LaGrange, announced some further public health measures that are required for schools. The measures are to further protect students, staff, and school communities so that in-person learning can safely continue.

1. Contact Notification

Starting on Tuesday, Oct. 12, a COVID-19 notification process will begin for schools with students in **Kindergarten to Grade 6 only**.

A process of notification will be forthcoming to school divisions next week. Once the process is finalized, we will provide more detailed information to staff and parents.

2. Contact Notification and Exclusion

This term will be used if three or more COVID-19 cases are identified within a five-day period in a single classroom grades K to 6. AHS will draft an exclusion notification, which will be sent out by the Division, that will shift students in that class to at-home learning. Exclusion letters will be issued on a class-by-class basis. Timelines for at-home learning will vary because it will be based on the last day of potential exposure to infection (10 days following last potential day of infection at school).

3. Public Reporting

Alberta Health has started the process of posting information concerning COVID-19 cases in schools. Any school with two or more COVID-19 cases will appear on the COVID-19 School Status List located here: [SCHOOL STATUS](#).

This list will include any COVID-19 cases at the school that were infectious while attending school over the last 14 days. The list will also include cases in **ALL** schools in our Division, from Kindergarten to Grade 12.

One of the key changes is the way in which outbreaks are defined. The current use of 10 per cent absenteeism will no longer be in place. School outbreaks will now be reported if there are 10 or more COVID-19 cases within a 14-day period that were infectious while at school.

Next week, the government will also provide the guidance documents to school divisions with more details on contact tracing and the close contact notification process.

4. Rapid testing

Rapid testing is also set to begin in late-October for Kindergarten to Grade 6 for schools experiencing outbreaks. The rapid testing program will be voluntary. Later this month, the government will provide more details on how the program will be rolled out.

With all of this in mind, the Division encourages everyone to follow the current public health restrictions to ensure our post-Thanksgiving return to school is as smooth as possible.

More information on the current restrictions in place can be found here: [RESTRICTIONS](#).

Take care,

Cheryl



Dr. Cheryl Gilmore

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