



COVID-19
INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

January 1, 2022

To: All Parents/Guardians of Students in Grades K-12

From: Cheryl Gilmore, Superintendent

Re: Further Information Re: Provincial Announcement for Winter Break Extension

Dear Parents/Guardians of Lethbridge School Division,

Following meetings with Education Minister LaGrange and the Deputy Minister, there is some further communication that I would like to provide to you at this time.

First, the Minister indicated that having in-school learning commencing January 10th is a priority for government. School Divisions have been given the direction to spend the week preparing for learning to commence January 10th. Our staff will be preparing for both potential scenarios (in-school and online). We are hopeful that government is able to keep the priority of in-school learning, but we will be prepared for short-term interruption that may require us to implement online learning.

Further Information from Government Meetings

1. Are there provisions that allow programs for students with exceptional needs, Outreach students, institutional programs, and early education programs to continue? The Deputy Minister made it clear that the expectation is that all programs associated with the K-12 system **do not** operate. All students are on an extended Winter Break.
2. As per direction from the Government of Alberta, it is expected that all programs, including extra-curriculars, that fall under the K-12 system, are suspended until January 10th. This includes practices.
3. Our online programs will not be running. These students are also on extended Winter Break.
4. After-school programs such as BLAST will not operate. We will allow for the full day already booked for January 3rd to run, but there will not be any programs for the rest of the week.
5. Diploma Examinations are cancelled, and it is not optional for students to write. The Deputy Minister could not comment on whether there will be opportunity for students to write in spring or June administrations.
6. Grade 9 Provincial Achievement Tests will be administered. The Part A scheduled for the week of January 10th will be shifted to week of January 20th (both A and B administered the week of January 20th).
7. Medical grade masks described as the "class" that falls just below N95 will be sent by government for students and staff. I do not yet have clarity regarding the number of masks per individual. Pediatric masks will be sent for students in K-6, and adult masks for students in 7-12.
8. Rapid Test Kits will be sent by government for staff and students. We have been informed that we will be sent enough for 2 kits for each student and staff member (each kit contains 5 tests). While it is the goal of government to have these kits delivered to school divisions next week, we have not yet been provided absolute delivery timelines.

Again, I know that next week will be challenging for some families with respect to securing childcare, and I feel badly for the situation parents have been put in. We are hopeful to see students return on January 10th. If you have further questions, please email your school principal. I will be meeting with principals on Monday. If there are common questions occurring, we can look at those and provide a response to all parents.

Take care,

Cheryl



Dr. Cheryl Gilmore

Superintendent

Lethbridge School Division

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