



## COVID-19 INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

**January 20, 2022**

**To: All Parents/Guardians of Students in Grades 6-12**

**From: Cheryl Gilmore, Superintendent**

**Re: Update regarding Extra-curricular and Co-curricular Activities**

Dear Parents / Guardians of Students in Grades 6-12

As was committed to in communication sent to you last week, middle and high school administrators met with division administration to review extra-curricular activities.

Administrators decided that they wanted to continue with inter-school competition in sports. They also decided to continue the practice of not having spectators in the buildings.

Administrators described the context of their schools at this time as very precarious. It has been an incredible challenge to keep schools operational given absenteeism/ illness percentages of staff and students. I truly appreciate the fortitude and commitment of our administrators and many staff who are covering and making things work in our schools. Administrators are making many difficult decisions every day and I commend them for being able to maintain a level of extra-curricular activity that meets the first and second priorities that they outlined at the beginning of January:

- (1) Keeping schools open for learning, with attention to measures that mitigate the spread of COVID.
- (2) Engagement of students in activity. Engagement in activity is part of overall well-being of students. Engagement of students in activity can move along a continuum of maintaining cohort integrity at the school level and then expanding it to external cohorts.

Administrators will continue to meet weekly to review extra-curricular status and give consideration to all the levels of priority including the ultimate goal of engagement with spectators.

- (3) Engagement of school community and broader community, as spectators is the ultimate goal but we will need to keep students in school to meet this goal.

Administrators want to do what is best for their schools, and I am hopeful they have the support of their school communities while engaged in this difficult work.

Take care,

Cheryl



*Dr. Cheryl Gilmore*

Superintendent

**Lethbridge School Division**

433 15 Street South | Lethbridge AB | T1J 2Z4 | 403.380.5301

[cheryl.gilmore@lethsd.ab.ca](mailto:cheryl.gilmore@lethsd.ab.ca) | [www.lethsd.ab.ca](http://www.lethsd.ab.ca)