



BORDEN SCHOOL

Achieving Success Together

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Dear Borden School Families,

In this update I will share information on the following topics: Level 2, 48-hour Exposure Communication, Supporting Learning from Home

Level 2:

At this time, Borden School remains at Level 2 in our pandemic response plan. Level 2 is the Swiss cheese model of layers of support for in-person learning (masking, hand hygiene, social distancing, cohorting, etc.).

For any school to move to Level 3 (alternating days) or Level 4 (full-time, remote learning), the senior administration at the division office would make that decision based on input and discussion with health officials, education ministry personnel, and the local school itself.

It is possible that schools, or individual classrooms, may move directly to Level 4 from Level 2 (as happened at the Yorkton High School). Having said that, Borden School remains at Level 2 at this time and for the immediately foreseeable future.

48-Hour Exposure Communication:

The ministry has provided direction for schools to utilize different communication protocols for positive covid-19 reports based on the time that the person with the positive report was last in the school building (or bus).

If the window of time for the most recent in-person attendance is 48-hours or less, every Borden School family will receive an email with 2 attachments. One attachment, titled "Positive Covid 19 Rapid Test Result at Borden School – XX date" will include a lengthy message and a table of classes, buses, and activities impacted. The second attachment, titled "General Risk of Exposure Message" provides more explanation and a flowchart to follow for people who are considered a close contact. Students and staff who were in the classes, buses, and/or activities identified would be considered a close contact and are to follow the guidelines on the flowchart.

If the window of time for the most recent in-person attendance is greater than 48-hours, every Borden School family will receive an email with the following message, "*Positive COVID-19 test results were reported in the Borden XX class that has no risk of exposure for the class; therefore, there is no need for students in those classes to isolate as a result.*" There will be no attachments or other documents sent with this message. These

messages are being shared with families to let you know what is being communicated to the school (our goal is to communicate honestly and transparently while also respecting the privacy and confidentiality of the students, staff, and families involved). This shorter message indicates that students and staff who are in the identified class would not be considered at risk of exposure due to the time between the positive report and the last attendance date.

If you have any questions or would like to speak more about this, please reach out to me.

Learning from Home:

At the end of last week and today (Monday, January 17th, 2022), student attendance at Borden School has been low. I understand that some families are choosing to take a precautionary stance for their child(ren) and families at this time. I also understand that reintroducing the 48-hours symptom free before returning to school protocol has contributed to more absences at Borden School.

I would like to provide some important context at Borden School. At the time of typing this note, the total number of positive covid 19 cases reported at Borden School in all of 2022 is less than 10 total cases. I spoke with our superintendent, Dean Broughton, and as a percentage of total school population, Borden School is on the lower end of the scale of positive cases at this time. To my knowledge, no whole school in Prairie Spirit has moved to Level 4 as of yet in 2022 (although individual classes at some schools have transitioned to Level 4 as a temporary measure).

I believe that in-person learning is the best avenue for students to learn and to be engaged socially. As a staff, we are making efforts to support our learners from home within reason. Regardless of whether the absence of students is precautionary or illness, this is our school plan to support learners at home. We are committed to sharing *essential* tasks, assignments, and projects by direct email (Kindergarten), SeeSaw (Grades 1-2), and Google Classroom (Grades 3-12). We will also keep a folder at the main office with Ange for each grade to compile *essential* tasks, assignments, and projects there. If parents want hard copies of the *essential* documents, they can be quickly and efficiently printed off at the main office. The specific details and process will vary a little bit between the grades, so please be in touch with your child(ren)'s classroom teacher(s) to ensure everyone is on the same page.

It is simply not possible for the Borden School staff to replicate a minute-for-minute classroom experience for students learning at home. Also, the strain and stress of supporting learners in-person and at home simultaneously is very challenging and not sustainable over an extended time frame. As a school operating in Level 2 with a relatively low number of positive cases reported, we are hoping to have students learning in-person when possible.

Expectations for students who are feeling healthy, but will be learning from home (due to covid 19 recovery, due to precautionary absences, or due to extended illness absences related to the 48-hour symptom free requirements), are as follows:

- 1) Students/families check their email inbox (Kindergarten), SeeSaw (Grades 1-2), or Google Classrooms (Grades 3-12) daily.
- 2) Students/families track due-dates and complete tasks on time. Questions around due dates need to be addressed with classroom teachers as soon as they are identified.
- 3) Student/families who prefer hard-copies assignments/tasks should be arranging pick-ups from the school at least weekly (preferably bi-weekly). Calling or emailing ahead of time would be a good strategy so you don't waste a trip if nothing new has been added.
- 4) Students/families who are having difficulty finding material or understanding material need to connect directly with the classroom teacher(s) as soon as possible.
- 5) Students/families who have connected with classroom teacher(s) and continue to have difficulty need to reach out to Mr. Morris as soon as possible.

Finally, let's talk a little bit about technology. Families who are anticipating lengthy absences for their children for any reason and who need technology devices to support learning from home need to connect with school admin (Mrs. Lukan and/or Mr. Morris). We do have Chromebooks that families can borrow. We just need to track serial numbers and ensure that all devices return in working condition. If you need support with technology, please connect with school admin staff immediately.

Conclusion:

I thank you for taking the time to read this letter. If you have questions or would like to speak about anything at Borden School, please reach out to me. I can be reached by email at brody.morris@spiritsd.ca, a phone call to the school at (306) 997-2090, or you can call or text my cell phone which is (306) 371-2888. Your gracious support and kindness are always appreciated!

Brody Morris – Borden School Principal