



LORD ASQUITH SCHOOL

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Good afternoon LAS community,

I just wanted to thank all of you for your patience and support during this highly unusual school start-up. The first few days have gone really well, and we have all been impressed with how understanding the students are of the new routines and protocols. The kids have been fantastic! I am incredibly grateful that the school is buzzing again after months of sitting dark and empty.

One question that we have already gotten multiple times, and are likely to keep getting, is “What if my kid has allergies?” Most of you have already read all of the information regarding kids not being allowed in the school with any COVID symptoms, but we also know and understand that many of our students get allergies this time of year and we want to make sure we are understanding of that while still following COVID protocols. We have received the following communication from the school division regarding students with allergies:

- It is important to note that not all students with symptoms consistent with COVID-19 will actually have the disease, but processes to mitigate the risk of transmission of COVID-19 must be followed.
 - Our local Medical Health Officers (MHO) have clearly said that **parents should monitor their children for COVID-like symptoms and not send their children to school if they have symptoms and call 811**. The direction we are currently provided for the start of school is that **all students with COVID-like symptoms will be sent home and asked to get testing, regardless if the student has allergies** – this will not exclude them from testing.
 - When a school sends home a child with COVID symptoms what is the return timeframe?
 - Testing is 48 hours after onset of COVID-like symptoms, and then a negative test result and 48 hours symptom free before returning to school.
 - There will be no ‘baseline’ for testing either, therefore, parents do not need to take their child to a Testing Centre prior to school starting. The challenge of relying on Doctor’s note written weeks or days before the child is symptomatic – it may not tell you exactly what is going on with the child *today*, especially if they were exposed to household or other community members. The MHOs have no objection to schools asking parents to provide Doctor’s notes on allergies, however, they caution that this may NOT be very helpful in all situations, the child may still have to go for testing.
 - After the initial testing, the school’s reaction to a child with allergies will be individually based on the child – what we know about the child, what their allergies and symptoms are like, if they’ve worsened – we might not have to keep testing after first test.
 - This does not mean the child with allergies is *always* excluded from testing:
 - A student who is in a bubble with someone who is COVID positive may affect the outcome for the child and testing will then be required, or
 - A student may not have any changes in his/her symptoms, but the five other students in his/her close cohort have the same symptoms, so Sask Health may also recommend a test at that time.

So basically, any student showing COVID symptoms at school (which may be attributed to allergies) cannot be allowed in school until they receive a negative COVID test or are symptom free for 48 hours. **School staff are not allowed any room for discretion on this matter.** Once the student receives their negative result, they can return to school and the next time the student shows the same symptoms (which are attributed to allergies) we will be allowed to make a judgement call based on what we know about the student, **as long as the symptoms are not new or worsening.** If new or worsening symptoms appear, the student will once again be sent home and once again asked to get testing.

Thank you for your understanding with this. Please feel free to give us a call at the school if you have any questions.

Have a great day!

Brett Kirk
Principal

Michael Karras
Vice-Principal