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April 29, 2021

Dear Prairie Spirit families in the communities of Rosthern, Osler and Hague:

The Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA) has posted an <u>alert</u> regarding **increased COVID-19 variants of concern in Rosthern, Osler and Hague**.

Prairie Spirit continues to work closely with the SHA to help keep our students and staff safe. The SHA has asked us to share the following information with families in the schools in these communities.

The SHA is urging all residents to continue to follow all public health measures, including:

- In public spaces, keep two metres away from others and always wear a mask.
- Avoid gatherings: all gatherings are risky for COVID-19 transmission and indoor gatherings are an especially high risk.
- Keep to your household bubble. Gatherings between households remain a primary driver of transmission.
- Avoid unnecessary travel.
- If you are able to work from home, work from home at this time. If you cannot, ensure that you are following all the guidelines in your workplace. Do not share any food or drink in the workplace, even in break rooms.
- If you develop any symptoms, stay home and get tested as soon as possible. Testing is an
  important way to detect the COVID-19 virus and its variants early and stop the spread. Call
  HealthLine 811 or your physician for a referral for testing or visit your local drive-thru testing
  site.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer. Do not touch your eyes, nose, mouth or mask with unwashed hands.
- When you are eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine, get one. All vaccines are safe and
  effective, including against variants. Current vaccine information can be found
  at <a href="mailto:saskatchewan.ca/COVID19-vaccine">saskatchewan.ca/COVID19-vaccine</a>.

The **variants of concern** are highly contagious, transmitting more quickly and to more people within the community. It is more important than ever that we follow ALL of the COVID protocols and guidelines.

We all want our schools to remain open or return to in-person learning. Prairie Spirit works closely with our local Medical Health Officer when cases or outbreaks are identified. Our schools follow all Public Health recommendations to support the safe return of staff and students following an outbreak/exposure.

Our focus continues to be on carefully following all the layers of protection recommended by our partners in Health. These processes have been helping to keep our students and staff safe and they will be carefully followed.

We are working together to keep each other safe and to keep our students in school. Thank you for all you are doing in this effort!

Sincerely,

Lori Jeschke

**Director of Education** 

## Note for VCA families:

Please provide the following reference number for testing: SKHR-2021-415

