

Good morning Venture Heights families,

As you are likely aware, a school in Martensville recently had a positive Covid-19 case with one of their students. As we expected, the school and their community did a great job of managing the situation. It is certainly a possibility that we might have a case to deal with as well. I want to give you some information ahead of time, so we can all know what to expect:

When Saskatchewan Health Authority determines that one of our student or staff population has tested positive for COVID-19, they contact the school as part of their investigation process for determining who may be identified as a close contact. There are several different ways someone can be considered a close contact of a patient with COVID-19, one being having close prolonged contact (within two meters) or having shared personal items. They inform us that an individual attending or working at our school has been found to be positive and that contact tracing has begun. If the individual is a student, they would have already collected some information from the parents, and based off of that information, may ask the school to provide additional information, such as classroom seating plans and contact information, to help with their investigation. They will also ask for a bus seating plan, if applicable, and information regarding whether or not they attend any other school programs, such as our Before and After program. From there they determine, in consultation with the ill student, who would be considered a close contact. Those who are deemed to be a close contact are then contacted by The Health Authority. It is then determined by Health the next steps moving forward which may include testing or isolation. Close contact would most often be people who have been close to that student for at least 15 consecutive minutes. In the case at our neighboring school, the Health authority didn't consider contact at recess time, hallway interaction, etc.

Here at school we then begin our procedure for informing parents, via email or the texting feature, of the class affected and the school population as a whole. The letter going home to the class will state that there has been a positive case found in your child's classroom. The rest of the population gets one stating that there has been a positive case found in an individual attending the school. We are directed by Saskatchewan Health, in keeping with privacy laws, that the names and/or classrooms of the student, staff, or siblings are not to be divulged to the general public.

Our facilities department, along with Administration, then determines the possible contact areas of the child/class within the school and a deep clean is completed.

We hope this clarifies for you the process that we have to follow in regard to both keeping people safe, informed, as well as protecting people's privacy. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation in following all the Health protocols and guidelines as we try to keep our school communities safe.