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September 13, 2021

Dear Prairie Spirit families:

We are celebrating a wonderful start to a new school year in Prairie Spirit schools. I love the energy and enthusiasm of students and staff in our schools and the excitement to learn together.

We are committed to supporting our schools to remain open for in-person learning. Our safety measures are designed to limit the risk of transmission of COVID-19 in the school setting and support in-person learning.

However, we are seeing an increasing number of COVID-19 cases in our schools, particularly in students who are not currently part of the Division's mask requirement. **As a result, all students – Pre-K to Grade 12 – in all Prairie Spirit schools will be required to wear a mask while indoors at school, including indoor extra-curricular activities, effective Tuesday, September 14.** All Prairie Spirit staff members have been wearing masks indoors in schools and offices since the start of the school year.

According to our Medical Health Officer (MHO), cases in schools reflect COVID activity in the community. Our MHO tells us that the Delta variant is causing uncertainty right now and that this variant will continue to surge. We have a shared responsibility to decrease the risk of COVID-19 impacting our schools.

We will follow the current Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA) process when a case of COVID-19 is identified in a school:

1. The SHA will notify the school division of an exposure in the classroom and provide the Division with a *Class Exposure letter* to send to the students in the impacted classroom(s) and bus, if applicable.

At this time, the SHA direction in the letter will be to self-monitor for symptoms of illness. Students and staff who have symptoms should stay home if they are feeling unwell. Please note: the SHA is not providing an exposure date in their letters, at this time.

If your child is directed to self-isolate by the SHA, please communicate with your school so your child's teacher can offer supports for learning at home for that period of time.

Please note: Parents may choose to inform the school of a positive COVID-19 case for their child prior to the school receiving information from the SHA. This notification helps us coordinate a timely response with the SHA for possible communication to the school community.

2. The school community will be informed of the positive case in the school.
3. Public Health will continue to monitor COVID activity in schools and identify transmission/ outbreaks in the school setting.

If an outbreak is identified in a school setting, the MHO will communicate with the school and may provide additional recommendations (for example, transition to online learning or direction for a class to self-isolate).

If this process changes, we will provide an update to all families. Prairie Spirit will follow the direction of the SHA with regards to the recent changes in public health orders. We expect to have more information about this later this week.

Communication between the home and school is very important as we continue to support our learners and work together to keep our school community safe. All staff and students are asked to stay home and report any absences if they are not feeling well. Please note the symptoms of COVID-19 as described on the Government of Saskatchewan's Self-Monitoring [page](#).

Thank you for your support and understanding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Bazylak', written in a cursive style.

Darryl Bazylak
Director of Education

For further information regarding COVID-19, please go to the provincial government's website at: [COVID-19 | Emerging Public Health Issues | Government of Saskatchewan](#)