



Box 809 • 121 Collins Street
Warman SK CAN • S0K 4S0
Phone: 306-683-2800
Fax: 306-934-8221
www.spiritsd.ca

September 24, 2021

Dear Prairie Spirit families:

As we navigate through the pandemic this school year, Prairie Spirit schools will be focusing on the Provincial Education Plan, which is designed to be a learning response to the disruption of the COVID-19 pandemic. This provincial plan targets literacy, numeracy, reading and mental health and well-being. Our schools are currently working with these target areas to support students. In Prairie Spirit, our focus continues to be on student learning, despite the challenges we're facing.

COVID update

On September 17, the Government of Saskatchewan implemented a Public Health Order that includes specific directives and processes for schools. Prairie Spirit will continue to follow the government's direction and the guidance of the local Medical Health Officer.

The Division has received reports of over 60 COVID cases in schools so far this month. The Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA) determines if a case was contagious while at school. If it was, the SHA will provide information to the impacted classroom.

We all have a role to play to keep our communities and our students safe. Our schools have safety measures in place to help to protect students and staff. The Saskatchewan Health Authority recommends limiting after school activity, keeping your bubble small, wearing masks and getting vaccinated.

Rapid testing for students

The provincial government is currently developing a plan for schools to offer rapid testing kits for students and families to use at home. Once we have more information about this plan, we will provide an update to all Prairie Spirit families. Our schools do not currently have rapid tests available for families.

COVID case in a class - UPDATE

When there is a positive case in a school:

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

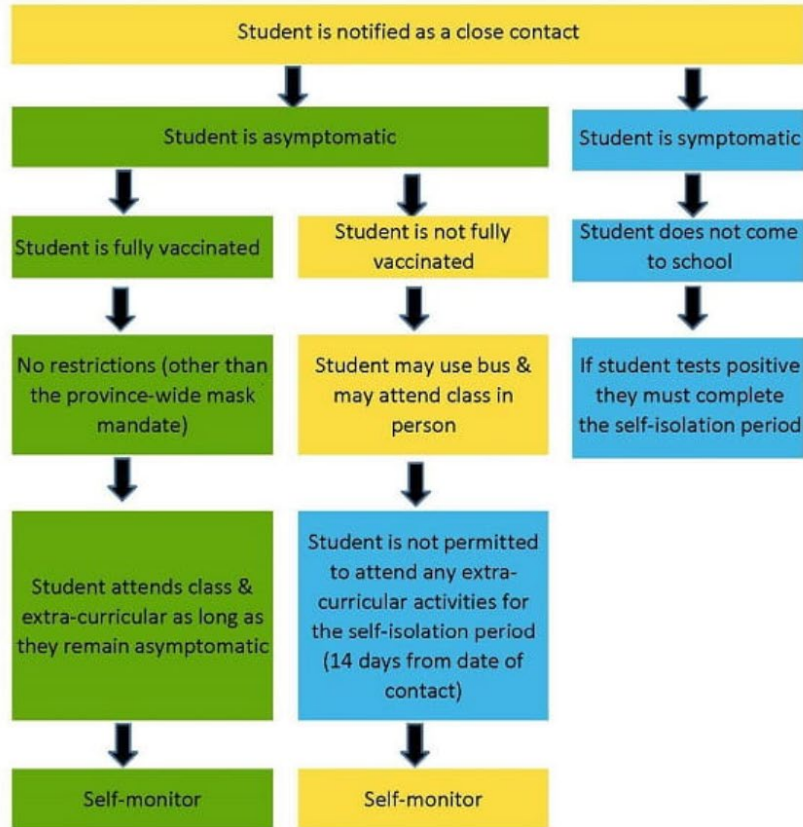
Public Health considers all students in the classroom/bus to be close contacts to the positive case. SHA has provided a resource for close contacts which is attached to the end of this letter.

The *Class Exposure letter* will specify the communicable date(s) and provide direction regarding isolation.

2. Next steps for close contacts:

Saskatchewan Schools: Student Close Contact Protocol

Province-wide mask mandate applies to all students per new masking order



saskatchewan.ca

Saskatchewan

- **With symptoms (symptomatic):** Students will self isolate for the period indicated in the Public Health letter.
- **Without symptoms (asymptomatic) and unvaccinated:** Students may continue to attend school, including bus transportation to and from school, **but must isolate from all other school and community activities for the period indicated in the Public Health letter.** All close contacts will continue to self monitor for symptoms.
- **Without symptoms (asymptomatic) and fully vaccinated:** Students may continue to attend school and all extra-curricular activities, while self monitoring for symptoms.

Public Health does not share the vaccination status of the students in the affected classroom. Fully vaccinated close contact students who wish to participate in extra-curricular activities must first show evidence of vaccination to the school principal (for example: vaccination card from

vaccine clinic or printout from MySaskHealthRecord). Proof of vaccination will be carefully managed to protect student privacy as much as possible.

3. Prairie Spirit will implement enhanced precautions when a class has a positive COVID case, including cohorting the class at recess and lunch and avoiding contact with other classes in the school during the isolation period, where possible.
4. The school community will be informed of the positive COVID case in the school.
5. All staff and students will continue to self-monitor for symptoms. If symptoms develop, the individual should get tested.
6. 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 Medical Health Officer will communicate with the school and may provide additional recommendations.

Extra-curricular activities

According to the new Public Health Order, when any participant (athlete, coach, volunteer drivers, etc.) tests positive for COVID-19, the entire team is deemed a close contact and will need to follow the Isolation Guidelines outlined in the Public Health Order.

Students deemed close contacts will be allowed to provide proof of vaccination to their school administration and will be allowed to continue to participate in extra-curricular activities so long as they remain symptom-free and self-monitor.

Students who are not able to or do not wish to provide proof of vaccination will not be able to continue with extra-curricular activities for a period of fourteen (14) days since last contact with the positive case or as directed by the Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA). Students will be exempt from the isolation only for the purpose of attending the instructional school day so long as they remain symptom-free.

Participants (coaches, volunteer drivers, etc.) directly connected with the positive case will be able to provide proof of vaccination and will be able to continue regular duties so long as they remain symptom-free and self-monitor. Those volunteer participants directly connected to the team who are unable to provide proof of vaccination will be considered close contacts and will need to self-isolate from regular duties (staff professional duties included) for the 14-day isolation period or as directed by the SHA.

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

We appreciate the great leaders and staff members who are working together in our schools to keep our staff and students safe. Thank you to each Prairie Spirit family for your support and collaboration so far this year. We are thankful that we get to partner with our families and communities as we focus on learning in safe and caring places.

We will continue to provide regular updates to families.

Sincerely,



Darryl Bazylak
Director of Education



If you have been in close contact with a positive case, **SELF-ISOLATE immediately**

You are receiving this notice under *The Health Information Protection Act* at 4(4)(g) and *The Public Health Act, 1994* at sub clause 33(4)(c)(i) and *The Disease Control Regulations* at s6 to communicate a concern identified that may impact your health status.

How do I know I was exposed?

- A family member, friend, acquaintance, roommate, classmate or co-worker has spent time with you (at least 15 minutes within a 24 hour period and within 2 meters) when they were infectious with COVID-19.

But I've been fully immunized, now what?

- If you are fully immunized and do not have symptoms, you do not need to self-isolate. Get tested if you work in a high risk setting.
- Fully immunized means that at the time of exposure, it has been 14 days or more after the 2nd dose of a two dose COVID-19 immunization series or 14 days or more after the first dose of a one dose COVID-19 immunization series.
- Check the table below for testing and self-isolation requirements if you are partially immunized or not immunized:

HOW MANY DOSES OF VACCINE HAVE YOU RECEIVED?	DO YOU NEED TO GET TESTED?	DO YOU NEED TO SELF-ISOLATE?
NONE	Yes	Yes, for 14 days after your last exposure*
1 DOSE ONLY	Yes	Yes, for 14 days after your last exposure*
2 DOSES AND THE LAST DOSE WAS IN THE LAST 14 DAYS	Yes	Yes, for 14 days after your last exposure*
2 DOSES AND BOTH DOSES WERE MORE THAN 2 WEEKS AGO	No, unless you work in a high risk setting or have symptoms	ONLY if you have symptoms and until they are improved for 48 hours

*If you are not fully immunized and you live with someone who tested positive, you are required to isolate immediately and for 14 days AFTER their isolation is complete.

**A negative test result for a close contact does not mean that you can stop self-isolating earlier than 14 days after the last exposure.

***If you tested COVID-19 positive in the 3 months prior to being exposed, you may not need to isolate. Call HealthLine 811 for direction.

What are the symptoms of COVID-19?

- You might not have any symptoms.
- Common: fever, chills, cough, tired, muscle aches, nausea/vomiting, diarrhea.
- Less frequent: shortness of breath, sore throat, new or unusual worsening of chronic conditions, decreased or loss of appetite, new loss of smell and/or taste.
- Rare: confusion, runny nose, fainting, skin rashes, eye symptoms.
- Most people with COVID-19 illness will recover on their own. Severe symptoms may require hospitalization.

Where can I get tested for COVID-19?

- Visit saskatchewan.ca/COVID19 or call HealthLine 811 for more information on testing.



What does self-isolation mean?

- ✓ STAY HOME. DO NOT go to work, stores, malls, restaurants, places of worship, social events or any other public setting. DO NOT take buses, taxis or ride-sharing.
- ✓ STAY and SLEEP in a completely separate room from others in your home. USE a separate bathroom if you can.
- ✓ DO NOT have visitors to your home, unless they are fully immunized AND they know you are self-isolating.
- ✓ HAVE family, friends or a delivery service drop off food or essential items. Items should be left outside your door.
- ✓ It is OK to be outside on your own property, including your backyard or balcony, as long as you are not physically interacting or near other people. DO NOT leave your private property. DO NOT go for walks.
- ✓ CANCEL or RESCHEDULE non-urgent appointments, including immunization appointments. You can leave your home for a medical emergency. Wear a mask and notify screeners that you are a close contact.

What is a high risk setting?

- Hospitals, long term care facilities, personal care homes, group homes, correctional facilities, homeless shelters.

I work in a high risk setting, what should I do as a close contact?

- GET TESTED (regardless of immunization status).
 - If you are FULLY IMMUNIZED, you do not need to SELF-ISOLATE.
 - If you are not fully immunized, SELF-ISOLATE for 14 days after the last exposure.
 - Healthcare workers who test negative and have symptoms that persist past 48 hours should be retested.
- If you have symptoms, you are not permitted to return to work until symptoms have significantly improved for 48 hours or your end of isolation date – whichever is later.

I am a student (Pre-Kindergarten – Grade 12), what should I do as a close contact?

- If fully immunized and you do not have symptoms, you are not required to self-isolate.
- If you are not immunized, students are exempt from self-isolation to get to school (bus or car pool) and to attend classes. You must wear a mask. You are required to self-isolate at home outside of class time. You cannot attend any extracurricular activities.

My child attends daycare, what should I do if they are a close contact?

- Children that attend daycare are exempt from self-isolation to attend their regular daycare for the hours childcare is required. They must wear a mask unless they are aged two or under. They are required to self-isolate at home outside of daycare. Your child cannot attend any extracurricular activities.

What should the people I live with do while I self-isolate?

- If they are 12 year of age and older and are not immunized, GET IMMUNIZED.
- If they have had two doses of vaccine more than 2 weeks ago, there is no need to get tested or self-isolate, unless they have symptoms.
- If they have symptoms, GET TESTED and SELF-ISOLATE until symptoms have improved for 48 hours.
- If your child is a close contact and cannot self-isolate alone, a parent/guardian should stay with them. The parent/guardian will not need to self-isolate. However, that parent/guardian should be consistent and they should minimize unnecessary outings and interactions with others during the child's self-isolation period.