

Sept. 11, 2020

Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update: Students, Parents/Legal Guardians, and Staff

This week, we welcomed back to school the 510 Kindergarten to grade 9 and 152 high school students enrolled in the recently launched *Greater St. Albert Catholic Schools Online Learning Pathway K-12*. All students are now back in class, either in face-to-face or virtual learning environments, and another year of learning is well underway. Our *School Re-Entry Plan* has been a resounding success so far, thanks to the combined efforts of our students, families, and staff – thank you!

As I shared in a [special correspondence](#) earlier this week, Alberta's Chief Medical Officer of Health sent our Division a [letter](#) (dated Sept. 3 and addressed to all parents/legal guardians of K-12 students in Alberta), which we received on Sept. 8, and, in turn, immediately circulated to our families. The letter outlines important information from the government regarding public health guidance for schools, clarification of mask requirements, provincial protocols for dealing with cases of COVID-19 in schools, and more. We have updated our [Parent Guidebook for School Re-Entry: 2020-2021](#) accordingly. While I encourage you to review all of the revisions in the *Parent Guidebook* (changes are noted in red), I also want to draw your attention specifically to critical updates and new information regarding:

- Illness at School: What Happens at School (p. 7),
- Illness at School: Parents' Next Steps (p. 8),
- Isolation Protocols (p. 9), and
- COVID-19 Protocols (p. 11).

Please note: as the COVID-19 situation is changing rapidly, information may be updated more frequently than once a week. Please visit our [website](#) for the most up-to-date information and the latest version of the *Parent Guidebook*.

The Alberta government's just-updated [Resource Guide for COVID-19 Outbreaks in Schools](#) provides our Division and our schools with an understanding of what tools are available when responding to COVID-19 in the school setting, including what to do when there are symptomatic students and/or staff at a school, what to expect when a case or outbreak is identified, how to report information, and what information we must provide to staff/students/parents/legal guardians/visitors/volunteers – both on and off-site. To further support parents with understanding and monitoring COVID-19 cases in schools, the Alberta government has published an [interactive map](#) of cases in Alberta schools.

As has been noted frequently in past communication, our Division has put in place [multiple health measures](#) to help keep everyone in our school communities safe and to help reduce the spread of COVID-19. This can only happen successfully through our collective ongoing and consistent efforts to follow these protocols, which align with public health guidelines.

We are closely following the direction of Alberta Health Services, the Chief Medical Officer of Health, and all levels of government on preparedness planning and will update our *School Re-Entry Plan* as required. We will make every effort to keep you informed through these weekly notices, the [School Re-Entry section of our website](#), our official social media platforms ([Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#)), the *Parent Guidebook*, and other communication channels. Of course, you are always welcome to [contact us](#). If you have questions, reach out to [your child's school directly](#), or [send us an email](#).

We encourage you to follow all public health guidelines to help keep you, your loved ones, and your community safe and healthy. Credible information about COVID-19 is available at:

- [Health Canada](#): canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/coronavirus-disease-COVID-19.html
- [Alberta Government](#): alberta.ca/coronavirus-info-for-albertans.aspx
- [Alberta Health Services](#): albertahealthservices.ca/topics/Page16944.aspx
- [World Health Organization \(WHO\)](#): who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019

Although these are challenging times, we are grateful for the opportunity to gather together in community, be that in-person or online. May we choose to seek hope and joy and continue to support one another in this time of adversity, as “we, who are many, are one body in Christ” (Romans 12:5). Blessings to all in our Greater St. Albert Catholic Schools community for a wonderful weekend!

Sincerely,

Dr. Clint Moroziuk
Superintendent of Schools