

Sept. 18, 2020

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

I continue to be amazed and impressed by how everyone in our faith and learning community has come together during these unusual times. The many school personnel with whom I have spoken have shared that re-entry is going well, and that students, families, and staff are abiding by the [multiple health measures](#) that our Division has put in place to help keep everyone safe. Thank you for your continued support. Let us all continue to follow these protocols, as we work together to help reduce the spread of COVID-19.

Several of our schools launched their school year with opening liturgies. Many students have said that these services were enjoyable and meaningful. Connecting with our faith and parish priests is an excellent way for our students and staff to kick off another year of growing in faith and knowledge.

Our division has experienced two positive cases of COVID-19, at different schools, since the start of the school year. In both situations, our staff worked closely with Alberta Health Services (AHS), and schools' health and safety measures were successful. We are proud of our students and staff for self-screening, staying home when sick or symptomatic, getting COVID-19 testing, and informing us with results, prior to AHS contacting us. We thank our families and staff for such vigilance and look forward to supporting one another when cases arise. May we always treat one another with respect, care, and compassion when these inevitable incidents occur.

We are proud of our new **GSACRD Online Learning Pathway K-9**, which has a stable enrollment of approximately 500 students. Starting **Mon., Sept. 28**, online core programming for our French Immersion students (grades 4-5, 6, 7-8, and 9) will be expanded to include Math, Science, Social Studies, Physical Education, and Health. We will also continue to offer our K-Grade 1 and grades 2-3 French Immersion classes. If you are interested in having your child(ren) join French Immersion classes online, please [contact](#) Mr. Evan Holstein, principal of the GSACRD Online Learning Pathway, by **Fri., Sept. 25**.

We have once again updated our [Parent Guidebook for School Re-Entry: 2020-2021](#). I encourage you to review all of the information in this document, paying specific attention to the changes/updates noted in **red**. Please note that as the COVID-19 situation is changing rapidly, information may be updated more frequently than once a week. Please visit our [website](#) regularly for the most up-to-date information and to read or download the latest version of the *Parent Guidebook*.

I encourage you to review the Alberta government's [Resource Guide for COVID-19 Outbreaks in Schools](#). As I shared last week, this recently updated guide 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. The province has also published an [interactive map](#) of COVID-19 cases in Alberta schools.

We continue to closely follow the direction of AHS, Alberta's 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](#), the Division's official social media platforms ([Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#)), the *Parent Guidebook*, and other communication channels. If you have specific questions, please [contact your child's school](#) directly, as your child's principal can best address your concerns as they apply to your school.

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

As we continue to work through these challenging times together, let us call on Jesus Christ, who is "the Light of the world," and may we find hope knowing that all who follow Him "will never walk in darkness but will have the Light of Life" (John 8:12). I would ask that all of us – students, parents/legal guardians, and staff – reach out to those around us who may be struggling, as we journey through the COVID-19 pandemic and allow ourselves to be that light of Christ to one another. Blessings.

Sincerely,

Dr. Clint Moroziuk  
Superintendent of Schools