



## COVID-19 Update

January 19, 2022

You may be aware, as of January 3, 2022, the Government of Saskatchewan announced that individual COVID-19 cases will no longer be reported to schools or managed by the Saskatchewan Health Authority. Chinook schools now rely on notification from parents, guardians, students and staff members, who have been asked to report positive COVID-19 test results from either rapid antigen or PCR tests, to their school office.

***Please review the following important updates regarding sharing COVID-19 information in our schools.***

### **Reporting COVID Cases in Chinook Schools**

We have updated our method of reporting cases in schools this week to make it as clear as possible for families. In order to align with the messaging provided on the flow chart provided by the Government of Saskatchewan, we will be listing the dates that the individual who tested positive attended school 48 hours prior to the positive test. For close contacts: the isolation date starts on the last day of the listed exposure dates that a student attended school.

If the volume of active cases reported continues to increase, it will become difficult for schools to send letters for each case. Schools will move to a multiple case summary reporting method. At the end of each school day that cases were reported, the school will send an email to the school community with information about positive COVID-19 cases, including the list of classes, buses, or activities that have been impacted and the dates, along with information outlined in the most recent public health order. This information will not include the name of the student or staff member.

### **Weekend Reporting**

Parents are encouraged to continue to report a positive rapid test or PCR result to the school over the weekend or on Monday morning. The school will provide information on Monday about positive COVID results submitted over the weekend.

Please note: If a student tests positive on a Monday morning prior to attending school, the case will not be reported as the student has not been in school for 48 hours prior to the test.

### **Illness/Absence Reporting**

Please contact your school if your child is away from school, for whatever reason. If your child is away because of any illness (COVID-19 or other) please indicate that reason. This information allows us to track illness in the school and share the numbers with Public Health. This does not include any personal information and does not identify the student or staff member.

The local Medical Health Officer has provided the following direction: If a student or a staff member has symptoms, they should not return to work or school until symptoms have significantly improved for 48 hours or your end of isolation date (if positive case or close

contact) – whichever is later. We continue to ask parents to ensure that their children do not come to school with symptoms. If a student comes to school with symptoms, the school will be contacting the family to come and pick them up, even if they have a negative rapid test result.

### **Moving to Remote Learning**

We will need to be prepared to make a move to remote learning, depending on the COVID-19 activity in a class or school. The process for moving to remote learning is determined in consultation with our local Medical Health Officer. When a class is moved to remote learning, the purpose is to slow down the transmission of COVID-19 in the class. It may also be due to several absences in the classroom or difficulty staffing. Although other activities outside the school may continue, moving the class to remote learning reduces one area of contact for a period of time.

The decision to move to remote learning is made after serious consideration. We can appreciate that this causes a disruption for parents and we will give you as much notice as we can. We recommend that families create a contingency plan for this possibility.

### **Protective Measures**

Please note that all other protective measures will continue as outlined in the Chinook Return to School Plan. We will continue to follow the public health orders that remain in effect. This includes requiring the use of non-medical masks in all indoor public spaces in Saskatchewan, including schools.

### **Bus Cancellations**

We have been forced to cancel several buses this week, especially in the city of Swift Current. Unfortunately we expect to see further cancellations due to replacement drivers not being available. When any buses are cancelled, families will be notified directly as soon as possible and updates are posted on social media and our website bus banner. Please ensure that you are checking your phone notifications daily to see if bus routes are cancelled.

We greatly appreciate your continued support for the teachers, staff and your school during this challenging time. We are committed to providing regular updates to parents.