



January 4, 2022

Dear Chinook staff and families,

On behalf of the Chinook Board of Education and senior administration, Happy New Year! We hope you all had an enjoyable and restful holiday break with your family.

On December 30th, the Government of Saskatchewan announced changes to the self-isolation requirements in the current [Public Health Order](#) related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Individuals who test positive with a rapid test are no longer required to confirm with a PCR test conducted by the Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA). We are awaiting clarification related to what role school divisions will be playing in the contact tracing process moving forward. This is evolving and may change.

Until we receive additional direction, we are required to follow the [Public Health Order](#) and the following process will be in place in all Chinook schools:

1. If we are notified of a positive case of COVID-19 by the SHA, we will continue to email information from the SHA to all families, as we have since the beginning of this year.
2. If we are notified of a positive rapid test by a staff member or parent, the school will email parents that we have received this information. In this case, we will not have formal confirmation from the SHA determining who close contacts are, so an email will be the only notice we are able to provide to families. Individual families who receive this notice may contact Healthline at 811 to access further direction from the SHA.

The SHA recommends your child(ren) use rapid tests ongoing, which [are readily available to families across the province](#), as well as at the schools. For additional information regarding close contacts, refer to: [What you need to know as a Close Contact to COVID-19](#).

We are looking forward to a time when schools are able to focus on teaching and learning and less involved in the contact tracing process and COVID-19 follow up. We will continue to follow all of the protocols and guidelines in our Return to School plan, including mandatory masking, hand sanitizing and increased cleaning practices.

We will be in touch as we receive additional information. Until then, have a great first few days of 2022. Thank you for your continued efforts to keep our schools safe.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Benesh".

Mark Benesh
Director of Education