

May 3rd, 2021

Dear Parents:

We are writing today to update you on COVID-19 activity and response in Prairie South Schools. As always, we appreciate you taking the time to read our correspondence as we work to ensure that parents have timely and accurate information. As of today, we have completed contact tracing work for 91 positive cases in our schools since the beginning of this school year.

COVID activity has picked up in several schools in Prairie South since the last time we communicated. Currently schools in Coronach and Bengough are in a remote learning model after each of these schools faced multiple positive cases after community transmission events. We continue to be very successful in limiting COVID transmission at school, and we are still requesting that all members of communities in Prairie South observe precautions that will limit home and community spread. Public Health advises that the current COVID Variants of Concern are more easily passed from one person to the next.

We have had several inquiries from parents about the possibility of additional support for students who are staying at home until COVID activity lessens in their community. This is a challenge for our staff who are teaching in an in-person setting, and we are not expecting staff to provide additional instruction for students who are at home but who are not self-isolating under the direction of the SHA. Schools will have some online resources available for students, and parents are welcome to use these at home as needed.

We corresponded with families of grade 12 students last week about the direction we have received connected to restrictions and graduation ceremonies this year. We are working with individual schools and with Public Health authorities to ensure that we celebrate our grade 12 graduates in a way that is meaningful and safe.

Two weeks ago, we were saddened to learn that a member of our staff in Moose Jaw had passed away after being hospitalized with COVID-19. This a profound loss for her family and colleagues, and for the children she worked with as a mentor, advocate and friend. Our thoughts and prayers are with her family, with whom we have been in close contact since her passing.

We continue to meet with both local and provincial Public Health authorities every Wednesday to assess the impact of COVID on our school operations throughout Prairie South. At this time, we believe it is most prudent to continue with in-person learning across the school division and make school-by-school decisions that meet individual school needs.

We will update you again soon.

Respectfully,



Anthony D. (Tony) Baldwin
Director of Education



Robert Bachmann
Chair, Board of Education