

January 11, 2022

Dear parents, guardians and families,

I hope you all had a restful and safe winter break. As we welcome students and staff back into our schools, I want to provide an update on what our Division is doing to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

With the rise of the Omicron variant in our communities, it is important now more than ever that we do everything we can to keep our students, staff and families safe. In addition to our ongoing COVID-19 protocols like good hand hygiene, enhanced cleaning, mandatory masks and cohorting students, schools will start receiving medical grade masks and rapid test kits this week. These additional measures are important steps to help limit the spread of COVID-19. More information on rapid test kits and medical grade masks will be shared directly from your child's school.

### **New online tool**

As you may be aware, the province is changing the way schools are notified about outbreaks and positive COVID-19 cases. We will no longer receive daily information or data from Alberta Health Services. This makes it difficult to have a clear picture about what's happening in our schools and classrooms.

In an effort to provide clear and transparent data to you about our schools, the Division has launched a [new online tool](#) that will show the number of students who are absent from school due to general illness or self-reported cases of COVID-19. The online tool will replace letters that were previously provided to a classroom and school. We hope this online tool will help families stay informed of trends at their child's school.

### **Reporting illness**

It remains important for families to report any absence to their child's school. Before your child comes to school every day, please complete the [daily health checklist](#). If your child is feeling unwell, please keep them home and let your school know. If your child tests positive for COVID-19 through a rapid test kit or an Alberta Health Services PCR test, you can let your school know. No personal information about your child or their reason for absence will be shared publicly.

**Keeping one another safe**

Finally, I want to thank our students, staff, families and communities for all they have done to help keep our schools safe and welcome spaces for learning. We are committed to continuing to share more information with families as it becomes available.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'DR', is positioned above the printed name.

Darrel Robertson  
Superintendent of Schools

