

DATE: June 22, 2021

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: Darrel Robertson, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: COVID-19 Impact on the Division from May 26 to June 8, 2021

ORIGINATOR: Karen Mills, Director Board and Superintendent Relations

RESOURCE

STAFF: Laurie Barnstable, Anna Batchelor, Megan Normandeau, Carrie Rosa

REFERENCE: January 12, 2021 Caucus Committee meeting

ISSUE

The Board of Trustees are receiving ongoing verbal and written updates on the Division's efforts to support students and staff and mitigate transmission during the COVID-19 pandemic. Trustees have asked that information be shared regularly at public Board meetings.

BACKGROUND

Information reports about the impact of COVID-19 on the Division were presented at the November 24, February 9, March 9, April 13, May 11 and June 8 Board meetings. Every weekday, updates on the number of COVID-19 cases in schools are provided to Trustees via a transmittal memo, to students and families via a [page](#) on the Division website, and to the media through a direct report. Each week, the Superintendent emails an update to all staff.

Division schools continue to do everything they can to mitigate risk by following safety guidelines outlined in the Government of Alberta's school re-entry plan and our Division's Re-entry Strategy. This includes: screening for illness, handwashing and sanitizing, physical distancing where possible, enhanced cleaning standards, strict illness protocols, personal protective equipment (PPE), masks and cohorts.

CURRENT SITUATION

There continues to be incidences of COVID-19 cases in our schools. From May 26 to June 8, 2021:

- We received notice that 37 individuals in the Division tested positive for COVID-19
- 26 out of 215 schools had COVID-19 cases
- 1,001 students were recommended or required to quarantine
- 111 staff were recommended or required to quarantine

Transition to online learning at Westminster School

Following approval from Alberta Education, in-person learners at Westminster School transitioned to online learning on June 8, 2021. Four cases of COVID-19 were reported at the school in early June and approximately 140 students and 12 staff were asked to quarantine due to potential close contact with a positive case. The shift to online learning supports school operations and continuity of learning. Students are scheduled to return to in-person learning on June 21, 2021.

AB:pd