

Superintendent of Schools

November 10, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians/Staff,

As the number of COVID-19 positive cases continue to climb across our province and region, we are seeing an increase in the number of cases impacting our schools and buses. The safety and well-being of our students and staff continues to be our number one priority. In support of this, we are changing our COVID-19 positive case notification process to inform close contacts/families of close contacts faster.

While the Alberta Health Services (AHS) contact tracing team is working hard, unfortunately, the sheer volume of positive cases in the province is limiting their ability to investigate the cases and inform school jurisdictions in a timely manner. It is currently taking five to seven days for AHS to confirm if an individual testing positive for COVID-19 was contagious while at school or on the bus. RVS believes close contacts/parents of close contacts need to be made aware sooner.

Effective immediately, as soon as RVS learns of a COVID-19 positive test from the individual/their family, we will identify those we believe may be close contacts according to our records and inform them.

Individuals that are potential close contacts are required to isolate at home and wait for further direction from AHS. Once we have confirmation from AHS that the individual was contagious while at school or on the bus, we will provide AHS with the necessary information so that they can email families further information, including the isolation lift date. Should AHS determine that the positive individual was not at school while contagious, the school will email families and inform them that the close contacts can return to school immediately.

We recognize that by notifying close contacts sooner, it will likely result in isolating for a longer period-of-time. We believe this is necessary to protect our staff and students and help to limit the spread of COVID-19 in our schools and communities.

Screening for illness continues to be an essential part of RVS' safety strategies to slow the spread of COVID-19. Do not send your child to school if they are sick or if they answer YES to any of the questions on the [Alberta Health Daily Checklist](#). This checklist needs to be completed daily at home. If your child has symptoms, you need to complete the [COVID-19 self-assessment](#) for Albertans and keep your child at home. For questions about COVID-19, call 811 or visit alberta.ca/covid19.

Our thoughts are with all individuals impacted by all positive cases. We wish anyone impacted a quick recovery and look forward to their return to school when they are well, and it is safe. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Sincerely,



Greg Luterbach
Superintendent of Schools

