



Dear Parents

We look forward to welcoming students as they return to classes on Monday January 10. The Government of Alberta made the decision for schools to return to in-person based on the belief that it is critical to students' learning and their mental and physical well-being. Our focus is on meeting the learning needs of all students, whether they are in person or required to be at home, we will ensure they have the resources and support they need for learning.

Student and staff safety remain our highest priority. The following safety measures will remain in place:

- Pre-K to 6 students will remain in cohorts.
- Staff and students must wear masks on the school bus
- Staff and students in Grades 4 to 12 must wear masks in hallways and common areas of schools. This has been **mandated** by the government. (Please note Alberta Health is now **strongly recommending** that students in Pre-K to 4 also wear masks in hallways and common areas. Younger students are welcome to wear masks but will not be required to do so.). If your child is sent with a mask lanyard it must be a break-away lanyard.
- All families are asked to conduct a daily assessment of their children prior to coming to school. **Anyone who has symptoms of illness must stay home. If symptoms are noted at school, families will be asked to take their child home.** [Here is the Alberta Health Daily Checklist](#) (see page 3 and 4 for children under 18).
- If students are at home, (due to illness or other absence), our teachers will do their best to support their continued learning. We ask that parents please be respectful and aware of the limits of teachers to support both in-person classes and students learning at home.
- Visitors to schools and spectators attending sport and performance events must provide proof of two doses of vaccine or show a photo of a negative rapid test result, be well and wear a mask at all times.

Here are the **new** safety measures to take effect next week:

- The provincial Government is providing **rapid test kits and medical-grade masks** to all staff and students of school divisions. At this time, we do not yet have an indication of

when deliveries will take place within BRSD. Rapid test kits and masks will be packaged in a way that enables them to be easily distributed to individual students, to be taken home. There will be enough kits and masks for all students and staff at each school.

- The new masks are medical grade. They have been tested to meet international standards and are proven to be more effective at protecting individuals from the highly contagious Omicron variant, as compared to single ply, cloth masks.
- Rapid tests can be used at home if someone is symptomatic and can also be used on a regular basis (twice a week has been suggested) to confirm someone who is asymptomatic is not COVID-positive. Schools will not be 'policing' the use of rapid tests and will not test students at school.
- If you do not want to receive the masks and testing kits please let us know - we would prefer to keep extra items at the schools rather than have them go to homes where they will be unused.
- The process for keeping schools apprised of COVID cases connected to schools is currently being revised and is not yet finalized. Anyone who is able to get an AHS COVID test will receive their results, but there will be no additional contact tracing or notification done by AHS. Schools will be asked to track absenteeism (as they always do) of students, as well as of staff.
- In the press conference on Wednesday, Minister LaGrange advised parents to notify their child's school if the child tests positive for COVID, either through a rapid test or an AHS test. This is for tracking purposes only - at this time we do not believe the new process will require schools to share news of every rapid test result with a class or the school community.
- School divisions will have the authority to make decisions to switch a classroom or a grade to remote learning for a period of time, if operational or absence considerations make it necessary. This is a decision that can be made by the Superintendent, using guidelines provided by the province. At this time, we do not yet have those guidelines.
- The authority to switch an entire school, or a school division, to remote learning rests with Alberta Education. We do not yet have the guidelines they will use for making this type of decision.

Please remember that things are changing quickly right now and all information that has been shared is subject to change. As new details and information become available, we will share it. Take care of yourself. Stay safe.

Yours in education,  
Zenovia Lazaruk  
Principal

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