

17-Sep-21

To: Staff and Parents/Guardians of students at [Vera M. Welsh Elementary School]

RE: Notice of Respiratory Illness Outbreak in a School Setting – No infectious agent identified

The Medical Officer of Health has declared a respiratory illness outbreak at the school named above. Outbreak control measures to limit further spread will be implemented in the school.

Respiratory illness can be passed from person to person through tiny droplets of liquid, spread by coughing, sneezing, talking, laughing and singing. This means that a person would need to have direct contact with droplets from a sick person or contaminated surfaces to be exposed to the virus.

Due to the ongoing risk of COVID-19 and other respiratory pathogens all staff and students must use the [Alberta Health Daily Checklist](#) daily to determine if they may attend school.

- If staff or students develop symptoms as listed on the COVID-19 [Alberta Health Daily Checklist](#) please isolate at home immediately. Complete the AHS [COVID-19 Self-Assessment](#) tool or call Health Link at 811 as soon as possible to arrange for COVID-19 testing.
- If booking a COVID-19 test, please use Outbreak Number [2021-9622].
- If staff or students require medical attention, please call ahead to the health care provider or call Health Link at 811 so that safe care can be provided.
- If staff or students need emergency medical care, call 911 and tell them that the ill person may have been in contact with COVID-19 so that safe care can be provided.

To help minimize spread of any respiratory illness including COVID-19, we always recommend the following:

- Get immunized against vaccine-preventable respiratory illnesses such as influenza and COVID-19. Immunization protects the individual and those who are not immunized. The best way to protect children too young for COVID-19 vaccine is to ensure all adults and older children around them are immunized.
 - If eligible for COVID-19 vaccine and not fully immunized with two doses, please schedule an appointment at www.ahs.ca/vaccine or by calling 811.
- Ensure all routine immunizations are up to date, including annual influenza vaccine.
- All household members should wash hands often with soap and water thoroughly for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available and hands are not visibly dirty.
- Encourage household members to not touch their eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve when you cough or sneeze. Throw used tissues in the garbage and immediately wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Stay home if you're sick. If your kids are sick, keep them home from childcare or school.
- Clean and disinfect surfaces that are touched often and shared by everyone in your home such as door knobs, light switches and bathroom taps.
- Wear a mask and keep your distance from others when in public places.

For further information, please call Health Link at 811, or visit the Alberta Health Services website for [COVID-19](#).

Thank you.

Public Health,
Communicable Disease Control