

Parent Update
November 10, 2020



Hello everyone,

It has been so great to have students and staff back in our schools in Chinook's Edge School Division for the past two months. Since we are well into the 2020-21 school year, I thought it would be timely to provide you with a brief update before Remembrance Day and our fall break.

To recognize Remembrance Day, and honour those who fought and died for our freedom, our schools have done a fantastic job ensuring that these traditions carry on even when we can't physically bring everyone together in person. Our schools have creatively used virtual ceremonies to commemorate Remembrance Day which is so important for all of us.

With respect to the pandemic, I wanted you to know that at the time of this letter we have had five positive COVID-19 cases from five of the 43 schools in our school division. In three of these cases we needed to have some students and staff self-isolate, however, in every case learning has continued in spite of this disruption.

It is also important to note that we have not had a single case of student to student transmission in our schools. This speaks to the level of effort being taken to ensure that all of the COVID-19 safety protocols are in place.

Because the number of positive cases in our communities is on the rise, we do expect that the number of positive cases in our schools will also rise. We are doing everything we can to minimize the likelihood of that, however, many times it is often beyond our control.

To ensure in-school learning can continue, we are asking you as parents to continue to support the efforts in our schools by:

- 1) Keeping your child at home if they are sick. This is the single most important way you help us minimize the number of positive COVID-19 cases in our schools.
- 2) Continuing to support the wearing of masks if your child is in grades 4-12. In addition to distancing where possible, masks remain a critically important safety protocol for all of us to comply with.
- 3) Making sure you check your email regularly in case we need to inform you that a positive case has been identified in your child's school.
- 4) Encouraging your child to complete as much of their school work as possible if they are required to be away from class, unless they are ill.

If you become aware that your child has tested positive for COVID-19, please keep them home and please notify us immediately, regardless of the day or time, by filling out this [confidential form](#). We will call you back as soon as possible so that we can develop a plan together.

We continue to be very proud of our staff. Staff are all doing their best to keep learning moving forward during a very stressful time. Our teachers have learned so much since last spring when we were sent into an online environment without any notice. We are now so much more prepared with Google Classroom, and other supports, to ensure that learning can continue in our schools even when students and staff are unable to attend for a variety of reasons.

On a final note, please know that every effort you make to honour the advice from Chief Medical Officer Dr. Deena Hinshaw is an effort that keeps all of us safe and keeps our schools open for our students.

I sincerely wish all of you a well-deserved and restful fall break!

Kurt Sacher
Superintendent of Schools