

Dear Staff and Parents/Guardians of students of **Duffield School**;

RE: Notice of COVID-19/Respiratory Illness Outbreak to Staff and Students in a School Setting

A greater than 10% absenteeism due to respiratory illness has been confirmed at the school named above. The Medical Officer of Health has requested Alberta Health Services (AHS) Public Health staff initiate an investigation.

Respiratory viruses are 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.

There is no longer a legal requirement for quarantine of close contacts of cases of COVID-19. As a result, AHS Public Health is no longer identifying or notifying close contacts of cases of COVID-19.

- If staff or students develop symptoms as listed on the the COVID-19 [Alberta Health Daily Checklist](#) please isolate at home and 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 you/your child need to book a COVID-19 test, please use Outbreak Number **2021-9273**.
- If you or your child require medical attention, please call ahead to your health care provider or call Health Link at 811 so that they can care for you or your child safely.
- If you need emergency medical care, call 911 and tell them that you or your child may have been in contact with COVID-19 so that they can care for you or your child safely.

To help minimize spread of any respiratory virus we always recommend the following:

- Get immunized against vaccine-preventable respiratory illnesses such as COVID-19 and influenza. Immunization against COVID not only protects you, but also your children and others under 12 years of age who are too young for COVID vaccine.
 - If you/your child are eligible for vaccine, have not been immunized with two doses of COVID-19 vaccine and don't have any symptoms currently, please schedule an appointment at www.ahs.ca/vaccine or by calling 811.
- Ensure your child's routine immunizations are up to date.
- 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 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.
- Consider wearing a mask and keeping distance from others when in public places and other public places.

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

Thank you.

Public Health,
Communicable Disease Control