



## DUFFIELD DIGEST

January 2022

Hello families:

I hope that you all had a restful holiday and I wish you all the very best in 2022!! My hope is that we make our way through this next challenge with the Omicron variant and patiently await the end of the pandemic sometime this year! Our students and staff have been so resilient and we continue to try to make everyone here at Duffield as safe as possible.

Unfortunately, the Omicron COVID variant is highly transmissible and therefore we have had to make some changes to maintain safety in the schools in Parkland School Division. We are following the advice of AHS and also Alberta Education to guide our decisions and we hope that by being proactive for the month of January, we will be able to return to our pre-Christmas protocols before long.

### COVID Protocols

- ❖ **Changes to Masking Protocol** - On Friday, you would have received information from Parkland School Division indicating a change to mask wearing in schools. Effective on Monday, students in Grades 4-9, as well as all PSD staff, are required to be wearing masks at all times (excluding when they are eating, engaged in physical activity, or outside). The relaxed portion of the protocol where students could remove masks when seated forward has been removed for the time being due to our current situation. For students in K-3 the government is **strongly recommending** mask wearing but it is not mandated at this point.
- ❖ **Masks & Rapid Tests** - As indicated by Alberta Education we are expecting a shipment of Medical Grade masks and Rapid Tests Kits starting to arrive this week. When they arrive we will send out an email with the distribution process.
- ❖ **Sickness and Symptoms** - As we have done previous to the Christmas break, students who are experiencing symptoms of COVID will be placed in an isolated space until a parent is able to pick up. Please ensure that you have updated emergency contacts in your PowerSchool Parent Portal. I have included the updated daily health checklist provided by Alberta Health Services. Please complete the screening with your child(ren) before they come to school each morning.
- ❖ **Isolation** - The isolation period for COVID has been reduced from 10 days to 5 days but **ONLY** if the child has no symptoms and is fully vaccinated. If your child still has symptoms or is not fully vaccinated, the isolation period continues to be 10 days.
- ❖ **Ventilation** - The school division is upgrading all of the air handling units to a better filtration level (MIRV13). The changes are expected by the end of January. These filters filter down to 0.2 microns and are effective at filtering out the COVID19 virus from the air supply. Air supply is exchanged in our classrooms between 6 and 7.5 times every hour.

### [AHS Daily Checklist](#)

#### Play Parkland

We were very excited to participate in Play Parkland activities for Grade 3-6 at the Tri-Leisure Center in Spruce Grove but because of the highly transmissible Omicron COVID variant, we have postponed our visits for the month of January. We will re-evaluate the schedule in the third week of January and will keep families informed about Play Parkland for the month of February.

## January 2022 Duffield Calendar of Events

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
3	4	5	6	7
CHRISTMAS BREAK				
10 First Day Back	11	12 Immunizations Grade 9 <b>POSTPONED</b>	13	14 Kindergarten PD
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28
31 PD Day	1	2	3	4

<b>Duffield School Council and Fundraising Meeting</b> January 18, 2022 6:00-7:00	We were hoping to have an in-person School Council meeting on January 18 but we will move to a virtual format to prevent any unnecessary contact due to COVID protocols currently in place. I will send the agenda, as well as the link to the meeting to all families on January 17, 2022. I look forward to seeing many parents at our meeting again this month.
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Sincerely,  
Cherie Lovsund

