



March 15, 2020

Dear Parents:

On March 14 the Alberta Chief Medical Officer of health gave new directions to our schools that will be effective **Monday, March 16**, which we want to share with our families.

This new direction includes a **zero tolerance** policy for children with any respiratory symptoms attending school. Teachers will be asked to closely monitor their classrooms, and if any student is having respiratory symptoms such as cough or symptoms of a mild cold, the steps below will be followed. The same steps will be followed if a staff member begins to experience respiratory symptoms. **Please note these are guidelines implemented by the Alberta Chief Medical Officer of Health.**

- If a student, child or staff member develops respiratory symptoms while at school, they should be removed from the school environment.
- Schools will promptly separate the student or staff with symptoms of COVID-19 (eg: fever, cough, sore throat, shortness of breath, fatigue, headache, muscle aches, and including symptoms that seem like a mild cold) in an area separate from others, with adequate supervision until they can go home.
- To help prevent transmission, the most important steps are to reinforce strict respiratory etiquette and hand hygiene practices and have the ill student or staff stay two meters away from others. If possible, the student will be placed in a separate room from other students with a closed door.
- Schools will notify parents/guardians if their child begins to experience respiratory symptoms while at school, and arrange for immediate pick up.
- Students who begin to show respiratory symptoms while at school need to be picked up by their parent/guardian and avoid travel on school buses.
- Students or staff who develop respiratory symptoms should be kept home for 14 days after the start of the symptoms.
- If students are tested for COVID-19, those who test negative will be advised individually about returning to school by Alberta Health Services.

Below are key links that are extremely important to accessing current and accurate information.

Key Information Links

[COVID Online Self Assessment](#)

[Government of Alberta - COVID-19](#)

[Alberta Health Services - COVID-19](#)

[Health Link 811](#)

We recognize this situation is stressful for all of us. We are all concerned about the wellbeing of ourselves, our families and our students. The daily uncertainty is something we are doing our best to support our communities through. I cannot thank you enough for your patience and understanding. We recognize the impact this new direction will have on families. If you are called to pick up your child, we ask you come immediately as per these new Alberta Health regulations.

Thank you again for your cooperation as we work through this situation together. The health and safety of our students and staff is always a top priority. We will continue to diligently monitor the situation and will quickly respond as directed by the Medical Officer of Health.

Sincerely,

Scott Brandt

Scott Brandt

Superintendent

Grasslands Public Schools