1-Oct-21

To: Staff and Parents/Guardians of students at **[Chester Ronning School]**

RE: Notice of Respiratory Illness Outbreak in a School Setting - COVID-19 Identified

The Medical Officer of Health has declared a respiratory illness outbreak at the school named above. COVID-19 has been confirmed in some of the ill individuals. Outbreak control measures to limit further spread will be implemented in the school.

COVID-19 is 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.
- Household contacts of a case of COVID-19 are strongly recommended to stay home for at least 14 days from last exposure to the person with COVID-19 if they are not fully immunized.
- All staff and students must use the COVID-19 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 **[2021-10366].**
- 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 COVID-19 and influenza. 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