



November 23, 2020

## **COVID-19 Update**

Dear CGCS families,

We hope this communicate finds you doing your best to stay healthy and safe. At CGCS we remain committed to keeping you informed about the changes we are making as we partner with you to keep our school safe and healthy during this pandemic. The safety and well-being of our students, staff and families remains our focus at this time.

### **Notification Process**

We have had two positive cases of COVID at CGCS to date. As we navigate this challenging time, we have been working on our communication to affected families and the greater community. While Alberta Health Services (AHS) contact tracing team is working incredibly hard, unfortunately, the sheer volume of positive cases in the province is limiting their ability to investigate the cases and inform school jurisdictions in as timely a manner as we would hope. It is currently taking several days for AHS to confirm if an individual testing positive for COVID-19 was contagious while at school or on a bus. To manage this difficulty, we have determined that if we are informed by a family or staff member that an individual has tested positive for COVID-19 we will identify those we believe may be close contacts according to our records and inform them. If you as a parent, learn that your child was infectious while at school, as per [AHS](#) guidance, you are asked to notify the school and we will proceed as indicated above.

### **Isolation Requirements**

Individuals that are potential close contacts are required to isolate at home and wait for further direction from AHS. As positive case numbers in the province have climbed, we have learned that in many cases, AHS' ability to contact families in a timely fashion has been challenging. Therefore, out of an abundance of caution, we will also communicate that affected students and staff will need to isolate. We want to reiterate that all individuals must adhere to [isolation requirements](#) as outlined on the Government of Alberta website. Should we learn that the COVID-19 positive individual did not attend school while contagious, we will contact families again via email and inform them that their children can return to school. If parents have other children, they are not required to isolate unless they are displaying symptoms consistent with COVID19. We know this

### **SUPERINTENDENT**

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may result in longer quarantine periods, but we expect this will actually shorten the time between when we hear of a positive case and when affected families may receive isolation instructions from AHS. Our goal here, operating with an abundance of caution, is to help limit any potential spread of COVID19 and protect students, staff and families. We know that students and staff want to be at school and we believe this step will assist us in achieving that safely.

### **IMPORTANT REMINDERS**

As our office staff works diligently to support our students and families, it is imperative that parents/guardians inform the Office of **all** absences. If your child will be away from school for **ANY** reason, please ensure that you call the school to let us know. This allows us to track attendance of all of our students. If your child has been directed to isolate because of an in-school exposure, you **do not** need to call the absence line. We will capture that your child is absent due to isolation requirements, until the return date.

Screening for illness continues to be an essential part of the CGCS safety strategy to minimize the spread of COVID-19. Do not send your child to school if they are sick or if they answer YES to any of the questions on the [Alberta Health Daily Checklist](#). This checklist needs to be completed daily at home. If your child has symptoms, you need to complete the [COVID-19 self-assessment for Albertans](#) and keep your child at home. For questions about COVID-19, call 811 or visit [COVID-19 for Albertans](#).

### **INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL**

With the winter holidays about a month away, some people may be considering traveling during the break. According to the Government of Alberta website, an [official global travel advisory](#) remains in effect. Non-essential travel outside of Canada is to be avoided until further notice.

That said, the [International Border Testing](#) Pilot underway in Calgary, has sparked some questions from our community members. Eligible international travelers returning to Alberta **may** be able to participate in a pilot program that is exploring reduced quarantine periods. As it pertains to K to 12 school settings, students and staff cannot go back to school until they have their second COVID test and have received a negative result. Because of our commitment to the safety and security of all CGCS students, families and staff, an abundance of caution will continue to be exercised and expected.

As numbers of positive COVID-19 cases continue to rise in Alberta, we want to be sure that we are doing all we can to ensure safety and security of all members of our learning community. We are in this together and we thank you for your patience and partnership as we care for all CGCS community members.

Stay safe and be well.

Yours in education,

The CGCS Team