



February 5, 2021

Mid-Year Community Health Update

Dear CGCS learning community members,

We hope this communicate finds you staying safe, healthy and well. As we are at the mid-year point and we take stock of the first part of the year and look ahead at the coming months, we thought it prudent to refocus and reiterate the importance of our health and safety measures. We have been engaging in new safety routines for five months and it could be easy to inadvertently become complacent regarding our required practices. In light of this week's announcements made by Dr. Deena Hinshaw, Chief Medical Officer of Health, we wanted to make clear all expectations of our community members to continue to ensure the safety and security of all.

First, as has always been the case, parents are required to administer the [daily health checklist](#) for their children before sending them to school. At mid-year it is timely to remind everyone of those mandatory expectations. If any child exhibits any COVID symptom, they are to **stay home** and you must contact [Health Link](#) for further instruction. In light of the recent COVID variant strains emerging in Alberta, this has become more important than ever.

Secondly, we want to reiterate the importance of hand hygiene. All persons entering the school are to wash or sanitize their hands upon arrival and departure. Other times when hand washing and/or sanitizing is to be done are:

- Boarding/exiting the bus;
- Changing activities;
- Moving spaces;
- Before and after using manipulatives;
- Before and after donning and doffing a mask; and
- Before and after eating.

Thirdly, we thought it timely to provide a reminder about [mask etiquette](#). All wearers of masks are encouraged to follow the protocols outlined by the province. As can happen, one can become complacent with respect to proper donning, doffing and wearing of masks. Please see and review with your child, the [poster](#) and [video](#) that provide additional explicit instruction about mask wearing. In addition to wearing masks at all times, we are doing our best to have students and staff physically distance or provide instruction outdoors when possible and appropriate.



Also, we continue to severely limit visitors coming into our school to reduce the risk of COVID exposure and spread. Parents are asked to phone or email the school with questions as opposed to coming into the building. Any of our educational partners or scheduled visitors who *must* enter the school are **required** to complete the [daily health check](#) prior to coming into the school. If an individual is exhibiting any COVID symptoms, they are **not allowed** into our school.

Additionally, we continue to work closely with Alberta Health Services (AHS) to ensure all of our practices are meeting provincial expectations for health and safety. We have proactively engaged the Public Health Inspector to ensure that we are engaging in best practices. As well, in the most recent positive case we have had in our learning community, we received greater support from AHS with respect to contact tracing and communicating with our families and for that we are grateful. The province seems to have pushed in increased resources for schools to assist with maintaining our safe learning environment.

In the case that an individual is diagnosed as having COVID19 or is a close contact of someone with COVID19, by law that individual must [self-isolate or quarantine](#) according to public health measures. At CGCS, we work closely with AHS to assist in contact tracing in such an event.

As has been the expectation from the start of the year, we ask that families communicate clearly and promptly with our office when a student is going to be absent, for whatever reason. In the event that we may need to engage in contact tracing, accurate information regarding attendance of all students is essential.

We thank you for your ongoing partnership, cooperation and support to ensure the safety and security of our students, staff, families and community. We are in this together.

Please stay safe, be well and take best care and we look forward to learning and working together for the second half of the school year.

Yours in education,

The CGCS Team

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