

January 7, 2022

Dear Elk Island Catholic School families,

As you are aware, on January 5th, the Minister of Education confirmed that students are returning to in-class learning Monday, January 10th. We look forward to welcoming students back to classes and are working hard to keep our schools as safe as possible.

To maintain a safe learning environment for students and staff, we kindly ask that you refamiliarize yourself with these necessary protocols:

Stay Home if Feeling Unwell

- All individuals must review the [Alberta Health Daily Checklist](#) with their children before sending them to school each day. Students and staff exhibiting any symptoms must remain at home until symptoms resolve. This is the single most important thing each of us can do to support our schools at this time.
- If your child has any of the [core symptoms](#), you are legally required to isolate. If they test negative on a rapid covid test, they must still stay home and away from others until symptoms resolve.
- For fully vaccinated students and staff (2 doses) who test positive on a rapid test for COVID-19:
 - Isolate for 5 days from the start of symptoms or until they resolve, whichever is longer, if symptoms are not related to a pre-existing condition. For the 5 days following isolation, wear a mask at all times outside of the home.
- For students not fully vaccinated (1 dose or less) who test positive for covid on a rapid test:
 - Isolate for 10 days from the start of symptoms or until they resolve, whichever is longer, if symptoms are not related to a pre-existing condition.
- Additional isolation information can [be found here](#).

Preparing for Shifts to At-Home Learning

In the event we must move a class or grade to temporary remote learning, parents will be immediately notified by the school regarding next steps. Temporary online learning may occur when it isn't possible to continue in-person learning due to operational viability.

Rapid Test Kits and Masks

The Government of Alberta is providing rapid test kits and medical-grade masks for use by students and staff members. These are expected to start arriving at each of our schools next week. Mask use is required for all K-12 students and staff including when seated in a classroom.

The rapid tests will come in a box of five. Each K -12 student and staff will be given one box at distribution that will provide them with enough tests for 2.5 weeks; a second shipment will follow. It is recommended that Rapid tests be used twice per week, 72 hours apart (e.g. Sunday and Wednesday or Monday and Thursday). Information regarding the Rapid Test Kits can be found in the following links:

[Education At Home Rapid Testing Program](#)

[Covid 19 Rapid Testing Guidelines](#)

[Video Resource](#)

Reporting Positive Cases of COVID-19 and Student Illness

To keep our schools as safe as possible, please continue to inform your school if your child has tested positive on COVID-19 test, is exhibiting symptoms or will be staying home from school for any reason. Schools will continue to monitor school absenteeism due to illness.

Alberta Health Services (AHS) has ended the COVID-19 positive case notification process. This means that families no longer receive letters home regarding positive cases.

Additional Health Measures

- Enhanced cleaning protocols will continue.
- All students and staff in grades K - 12 are required to wear a mask in all areas of the school.
- All parents and volunteers are required to screen for any signs or symptoms of COVID-19 using the [Alberta Health Daily Checklist](#), must wear masks while in our schools, and be in compliance with [AP 489 - Covid-19 Vaccination Status - Employees and Volunteers](#).

Assessments

It is imperative that quality teaching and learning continues to be the focus and sound assessment is a part of quality teaching and learning. Final exams for students will continue at the end of January.

The Ministry has shared that January diploma examinations for senior high students have been cancelled. Provincial Achievement Tests (PATs) will occur the last week of January. School staff have been working hard to provide the best possible teaching and learning activities for our students.

Thank you for your continued understanding and cooperation. Please watch for further school specific information in your regular weekly communication and also on the eics.ab.ca divisional website.

God bless,

Shawn Haggarty
Superintendent
Elk Island Catholic Schools