



Grande Prairie Public School Division

Responding to Positive COVID-19 Cases in our Schools October 9, 2020

This resource supports understanding the Division response to positive cases of COVID-19 in our schools. Because of the nature of the pandemic, there are different ways the Division may become aware of a diagnosis in a member of the school community.

Positive Case Notifications

Typically, the Division learns of a positive case in one of two ways:

- Alberta Health Services notifies the Division or School that a member of the school community has tested positive.
- Individuals who receive a positive diagnosis inform the school directly. The school provides information to the Deputy Superintendent who reports the case directly to a hotline designated for school authorities and initiates the work of the Division Response Team.

Issuing Notice to the School Community

The AHS Contact Investigation Team determines when individuals were infectious and if there was possible exposure to close contacts based on information provided by the school. It is important to note the Division does not share information about positive cases until directed by Alberta Health Services and it may take up to 30 hours to receive authorization to issue a formal notice.

- If a case of COVID-19 is confirmed to have been infectious or acquired in a school setting, AHS will authorize an Alert letter to be sent out to the school community. The school would remain open to in-person learning for all staff and students who are not identified by AHS as needing to isolate.
- If it is determined that the individual who tested positive was not infectious while attending school, it is considered a community case. Therefore, the school does not report this information to the school community.

Importance of Confidentiality

Members of the school community may have questions about individuals who receive a positive diagnosis. It is important to respect confidentiality. Personal details related to private health matters cannot be shared. Our communication about cases of COVID-19 in schools is limited to specific school communities and is not shared with the Division as a whole.

We appreciate your continued understanding that the circumstances around the pandemic are complex and change on a regular basis. We will continue to work closely with Alberta Health Services to ensure that our processes are aligned with the most current recommendations to support the health and safety of our school communities.