



Canadian Rockies School Division
618 – 7th Avenue
Canmore, AB T1W 2H5

Tel: 403-609-6072
Fax: 403-609-6071
www.crps.ca

April 19, 2021

Dear parents,

Re: COVID-19 Update and Plea for Vigilance

Thank you for all you are currently doing to keep you and your family safe during these very difficult times. It is unfortunate that COVID-19 numbers are increasing both in our province and in our valley. The rise in the number of cases in the community is having a direct impact on our schools. As Dr. Hinshaw has said on many occasions, “Our schools are a reflection of our community.”

Over the past week, we have been receiving more and more calls from parents who are informing us of a potential exposure of themselves or their children to a positive case of COVID-19. Some instances are as a result of spring break travel.

Between Sunday April 18th and noon April 19th we were informed of 13 students who have had either a positive COVID-19 test or have been exposed to a person who has tested positive. Unfortunately, in many of these cases the students who have been exposed had spent time in their classroom prior to being informed of the exposure. These students are now all isolating at home and AHS has contacted those who have been determined to be close contacts.

Today, April 19, we moved two classes to learning from home; one at BCHS due to a positive case of COVID-19 in the class and one at ERS as a precautionary measure. The parents of the students in these two classes have already been contacted by the school administration. In addition to these two class closures, there are ten other classes in the division (potentially impacting over 260 students and staff) that may have been moved to online learning, but neither the individuals, nor the school division, were aware of the exposures until a week after the exposures occurred. AHS did implement their standard contact protocols; however CRPS was unable to take any complementary precautionary steps. In the past, these additional complementary steps have been effective at mitigating COVID-19 transmission in our schools.

Our schools are at risk of closing. If we work together we can keep our schools open and students can continue with face-to-face learning. The Variants of Concern, which are now present in the Bow Valley, spread much more easily and can also cause more severe outcomes compared to other variants ([link](#)). The virus spreads through airborne transmission and transmission rates are about 20 times higher when indoors compared to outdoors. While we may want to socialize with other people and return to more normal routines and activities, now is

not the time to let our guard down. We know that no one would intentionally spread the virus. Thank you for the tough choices you have had to make and continue to make.

We remind parents/guardians of students, as well as any staff/visitors/volunteers, to please remain vigilant and monitor for any signs or symptoms of COVID-19. Thank-you for not sending your child(ren) to school if they or anyone in your family are exhibiting symptoms or have had a potential exposure. The Alberta Health Daily Checklist can be found [here](#). Please remember to complete the checklist with your child/children each day prior to attending school.

We thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Christopher MacPhee". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "C".

Christopher MacPhee
Superintendent of Schools