



Canadian Rockies School Division
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November 6, 2020

Dear Families of Canadian Rockies Public Schools,

Yesterday, Canadian Rockies was notified, after the fact, about two cases which could have impacted and shut down multiple classes in both Elizabeth Rummel School and Banff Elementary School. We were not contacted by AHS directly regarding these potential cases. Teachers and principals were notified by other sources. This communication process has been a challenge across the province and we are now experiencing this challenge first hand.

- BES learned through a third party on Thursday afternoon, November 5th, that a parent tested positive for COVID-19. The parent received their positive result on October 31st, but the children tested negative. The children attended school on Monday, November 2nd, but CRPS was not made aware by AHS contact tracers even though this was a direct contact situation. The students were absent for the remainder of the week and will return to school after self-isolating for the required amount of time that is mandated by AHS.
- On the afternoon of November 5th, a parent called ERS to notify the school that they were notified that they, as well as their child, had been in close contact over the weekend with someone who later tested positive for COVID-19. They received this information on Thursday, November 5th and promptly removed their child from the school. Both parent and child were experiencing no symptoms, were going to get tested, and are self-isolating until they receive their test results. They will notify the school of these results.
- Additionally, Thursday, November 5th, ERS received a report from a third party that a child's parent tested positive for COVID-19. The child had not been in school since Tuesday. The family is awaiting test results and is currently self-isolating.

Although the cases referenced here were not direct cases in one of our schools, we wanted you to have the awareness that this virus is spreading in direct proximity to our students, staff and schools. Preventative actions would have been taken immediately if we had received this information in a timely manner. Given the timing of the information, we were unable to do so. In the future, CRPS will only provide details such as this when COVID cases have directly impacted students/staff in our schools.

For the privacy of the individuals involved, we are unable to provide specific grades or names so please refrain from contacting either the schools or division office in this regard.

As cases rise exponentially, we want to remind everyone to use the [self-screener](#) **each and every day** and continue practicing the safety measures in place. We must be extremely vigilant in our proactive practices. As one of our parents wisely stated, “Once the genie is out of the bottle it is too late.” Our focus remains on safety and we are hopeful that we do not become one of the statistics; 565 schools have reported COVID-19 cases since August 30th and **352 in the past two weeks**; 111 declared outbreaks; 51 are on watch to be closed and 14 schools are currently closed. There are 778 total active cases in schools. One only needs to compare these statistics to last week’s communication to see how numbers in schools around the province are increasing. While we knew from the beginning this would likely occur, it does not negate the fact that CRPS wants to continue to not be one of those statistics again.

Our objective remains keeping our students and staff safe and keeping our schools open. We cannot do this without your help. Therefore, we will continue with our current rigorous structures, but will review these on a regular basis. If transmission rates continue to rise please be aware that a review of our current guidelines may also result in a tightening up of our protocols.

Please be vigilant in following AHS and CRPS safety protocols. Thank you for your continued efforts to keep our students and your children safe.

Sincerely,



Christopher MacPhee,
Superintendent of Schools