

January 10, 2022

Dear CRPS Families,

Further to the communication this morning with the updated [COVID-19 Alberta Health Daily Checklist](#), please find attached the [link](#) to the **updated** “Guidance for Schools K-12 and School Buses” Alberta Education document that was shared with school divisions on the evening of Friday, January 7, 2022.

Please note, there are numerous revisions and recommendations within this updated document.

Some updates include, but are not limited to:

- *The guidance provided in this document is intended to support school and school authority leaders in reducing opportunities for transmission of COVID-19, including the more transmissible Omicron variant, in schools under the 2021-22 School Year Plan.*
- *Off-site activities (e.g., field trips for group physical activity, performance activities, and recreational activities that are part of the curriculum) **are not recommended at this time.***
- *It is recommended that school authorities **limit extracurricular sport tournaments and inter-school games at this time**, to reduce potential exposures to COVID-19.*
- *If non-medical masks are worn, they should be constructed of at least three layers: two of breathable tightly woven fabric, such as cotton, and an additional effective middle filter layer, such as non-woven polypropylene.*
- *Medical masks can also be worn by staff and students to provide additional protection.*
- *The “Responding to Illness” section has significant updates.*

The letter you received Friday, January 7th regarding strengthening protocols was supported and/or developed together by all school administrators, senior administration, the local Alberta Teachers Association (ATA) and the CRPS Board of Trustees. Our entire team and the Board are focused on keeping CRPS facilities open for education purposes.

Again, we will be monitoring the impact of the Omicron variant on a daily basis and hope for recent, additional measures to be relaxed soon. We are currently very concerned that approximately 20% of our staff are already out with illness. Given the COVID-19 rates in the valley, we remain deeply concerned with the increasing numbers and our capacity to keep classes and schools open for your children, due to staffing shortages. We are aware of several other school divisions who are already experiencing difficulties with substitute staff shortages due to illness. Please be aware that if CRPS continues to have increased staff who are required to isolate, schools may be required to close for in-person learning and all activities may be required to cease due to operational challenges. Should this unfortunate situation occur, students will be supported through at-home learning.

Sincerely,



Christopher MacPhee  
Superintendent of Schools