

September 16, 2020

Dear St. Cecilia Parents & Guardians,

I wish to inform you that a positive case of COVID-19 has been confirmed in our school community.

Alberta Health Services will be contacting parents/guardians of students, as well as any staff, who may have been in close contact with the individual. We are working closely with Alberta Health Services to ensure that all necessary measures are in place to protect all students and staff.

Out of respect to this individual and in accordance with Alberta Health Services guidelines, we cannot disclose personal details. However, we are able to share that we learned of this confirmed COVID-19 case on Wednesday, September 16th. We understand that the individual was last in the school on September 9th and physical distancing, proper use of PPE, proper hand hygiene and school protocols were consistently maintained while this individual was at school. The individual is isolating at home for 14 days.

Our schools have undertaken exceptional steps to help mitigate the risks of COVID-19 transmission for the safety of students and staff. With everyone following the protocols, we can be assured of a school environment that is as safe as reasonably possible. Parents, we thank you for taking the time to have serious conversations with your children to reinforce how important it is to follow the safety guidelines and protocols.

We remind families to monitor for any signs or symptoms of COVID-19 using the [Daily Health Screening Questionnaire](#) available on our website. Please remember to complete the checklist each day prior to attending school. If you or a member of your family has any of the symptoms of illness listed, please fill out the online [Alberta Health Services COVID-19 self-assessment](#) or call Health Link at 811.

Out of an abundance of caution and as we continue our focus on preventing the spread of COVID-19, we have directed our custodial services team to conduct enhanced cleaning protocols in the areas identified within the building. This additional cleaning will focus on areas where the individual was present along with high touch areas and surfaces throughout the facility.

Moving forward, it is imperative that we adhere to the AHS school re-entry guidance which states: if a student develops symptoms that could be caused by COVID-19 or by a known pre-existing condition (e.g. allergies), the student should be tested for COVID-19 at least once to confirm that it is not the source of their symptoms before entering or returning to the school.

Further, we want to reinforce that students and employees exhibiting symptoms must stay home until they have been assessed by a health care provider to exclude COVID-19 or other infectious diseases and their symptoms have resolved.

It will remain our expectation that all staff and students at St. Cecilia will continue to follow all protocols in the school including **physical distancing, mask wearing, hallway directions, and classroom procedures**. Transmission is high risk when staff and students are exposed to a contagious individual without a mask in a space of 2 metres or less for an extended period of 15 minutes or more. Hence, wearing masks is mandatory in Grades 4-12 and strongly recommended in Pre-K to Grade 3, as per AHS and ECSD directions.

The health and safety of our students and staff remains our first priority, and we are confident in the measures we have in place.

Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions you may have. Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Chris Cicchini

Principal, St. Cecilia Junior High