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January 6, 2022

Re: Return to school

Dear Parents/Guardians of BTPS Students,

Our staff is excited to welcome our students back to school on January 10, 2022. It looks like the weather will cooperate with the return to school.

As we return to school, I am outlining some important reminders for the safety of our students and staff.

1. [Alberta Health Daily Screening Checklist](#) - Please ensure your student completes this checklist each day.
 - o Anyone with core symptoms is legally required to be isolated as per the [government guidelines](#).
 - i. If you have core symptoms or test positive and are fully vaccinated:
 - Isolate for 5 days from the start of symptoms or until they resolve (whichever is longer).
 - All fully vaccinated students or staff for 5 days following isolation must wear a mask at all times when around others outside of home (including physical education, recess, breaks, or outdoor activities).
 - ii. If you have core symptoms or test positive and are not fully vaccinated (1 dose or less):
 - Isolate for 10 days from the start of symptoms or until they resolve (whichever is longer).
 - iii. If you have core symptoms and test negative stay home until symptoms resolve.
2. **Masks** - All students must wear a mask on the bus. All grade 4-12 students must wear masks (until sitting face forward in their desk). Dr. Hinshaw has strongly recommended

masks for K-3 students in schools. When in the classrooms, all students who are working in groups or unable to physically distance will be asked to wear a mask.

- Our schools will recommend that K-3 students wear them in busy common areas and hallways.
- If there is a positive COVID-19 case within a school, masks will be mandatory for all staff and students for 14 days.
- Schools may choose to have additional requirements for masks which would be communicated by the school principal.

We recognize that many students are tired of wearing a mask and we appreciate all the support with this task. Staff having to spend time on the reminders for students to wear masks is tiresome and continual disrespect of this rule may lead to disciplinary action.

3. **Medical-grade masks** - Alberta Education will be sending medical-grade masks for all students. They will provide a 2-week supply of masks (2 masks per day, 10 masks total) for each student and staff member. The medical masks should be shipped to schools beginning the week of January 10th.
4. **Rapid Tests** - Alberta Education will be sending optional rapid tests for all students. There is no obligation to use them. Rapid tests will not be used at school. If you do not want them sent home with your student, please let your school know and they will be redistributed. The rapid tests should be shipped to schools beginning the week of January 10th.
 - Initially, Alberta Education has indicated that the rapid test distribution will offer enough rapid test kits for each student and staff member to test twice per week for 2.5 weeks. This is optional for our BTPS staff and students.
 - Here is a [how-to video](#) for parents. There is also a fact sheet available [here](#).
5. **Preparation for shifts to at-home learning** - Staff have prepared for the event that students may be at home learning on short notice. If schools are unable to get substitutes because staff are ill, or there is a high absentee rate, there may be a shift of a class, cohort, or even the entire school to at-home learning.
6. **Visitors in Schools** - All schools continue to limit any visitors.
7. **Extra-Curricular Activities** - January 10-17, all extra-curricular matches/games/competitions are postponed. Teams may be practicing with enhanced

guidelines and the school will send out that information. Cohorts and the number of contacts are to be limited.

Your school will be following up with additional information. As we know, the guidelines could change quickly.

This is not the return to school of 2022 that we want for our students or staff. Please keep in mind that the guidelines are in place for the safety of all in our schools. We appreciate your support in adhering to the rules as we are all making the best of the situation we are currently in.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Holoien". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rhae-Ann Holoien
Superintendent