



September 28, 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians,

In response to the evolving pandemic and fourth wave taking place in Alberta, there have been recent changes to COVID-19 guidance and protocols in STAR Catholic schools that families must be aware of.

Board Motion to Notify Cohort Classmates of Positive Cases

During a special meeting today, the Board of Trustees passed a motion that schools will provide notification when families self-report an AHS-confirmed case of COVID-19 to the school. Unlike last year, AHS does not notify schools or close contacts of individual cases and no longer requires classmates of confirmed cases to isolate. Confirmed positive cases and anyone with COVID-19 symptoms are still required to isolate.

We strongly encourage parents to let school administration know if their child has tested positive for COVID-19. When administration is made aware of a confirmed case, they will share this information with the impacted cohorts while respecting privacy and keeping personal details confidential. As self-reporting is voluntary, we will likely not be aware of every positive case within our schools.

Updated Provincial Guidance for K-12 Schools

The Government of Alberta recently released updated health guidance for K-12 schools to follow to the best extent possible. Key points and highlights from the updated guidance are:

- Additional focus must be given to hand hygiene and surface disinfection
- Students in Kindergarten through Grade 6 must be cohorted during activities outside the classroom such as recess and lunch breaks
- Field trips and group performance activities (ex. singing) may continue with enhanced restrictions
- Physical distancing will be maintained as much as possible in common areas and classrooms
- Pick-up and drop-off procedures will be developed to support physical distancing between households
- Large gatherings of students and staff will be avoided

- Parents/guardians can attend the school if they are required; when a visitor enters the school they will be asked to complete the Daily Health Checklist
- New restrictions around food preparation, snacks brought to share with class, etc. are too numerous to list in this letter; please contact your school Principal if you have any questions in this area
- Carpooling for school activities is discouraged

[See the full Guidance for Schools \(K-12\) and School Buses document on the Government of Alberta's website.](#)

If you have any questions about health practices and daily operations at school, please contact your Principal.

Thank you,

STAR Catholic Schools