

January 7, 2022

To Parents/Caregivers of our Students,

Happy New Year! We are so excited that our students will be rejoining us on Monday, January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022. The smiles, enthusiasm, leadership and compassion our students show to each other and the staff is what makes St. Mark school an incredible community.

Although we have entered the 5<sup>th</sup> wave of the pandemic and cases are rising, we want you to know that we are doing everything to keep your children safe. **All the procedures that our students and staff have been following since the start of pandemic will work to keep us all safe if we follow them with vigilance and respect!** It is very important that you read through this message with your children, so we are all ready for Monday. The principal will personally visit each homeroom on Monday morning to reiterate this message to ensure there is no miscommunication; please make sure your child is prepared.

The big three items that we have been reminding our students about every morning during announcements are still crucial for us to have success. **First**, wearing a mask properly is always mandatory! New more protective masks will be issued to the students when they arrive from the government. **Second**, social distancing within your grade cohort will mitigate the spread of the virus. Students will not touch each other, share any items or food, and stay six feet apart as often as possible inside and outside the building. **Third**, hand sanitizer must be used whenever a student enters the building or a new room in the school. All procedures and rules our students followed before Christmas will be the same, but we need to be vigilant with them as we return on Monday.

The **fourth**, and most important, item that must be followed by all staff and students for us to stay safe is the strict adherence to Alberta Health Services daily [checklist](#). **Any symptoms, and I mean any symptom, must be considered COVID and your child must stay home until the symptoms are gone!** Dr. Deena Hinshaw posted on Wednesday, "Next to getting vaccinated, the most critical thing we can do is stay home if we are sick – even with the mildest of symptoms." Please, please, please, stay home if you have any symptoms. Our teachers will have work available on their google classrooms for your child to work on when they are away. Only if we all follow these rules will we ensure our school stays open for everyone to learn and we can comfortably look each other in the face and say, "I will protect you; thank you for protecting me."

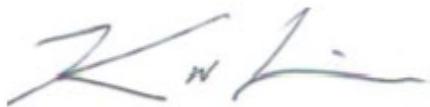
Here are the most up to date AHS isolation guidelines if your child tests positive for COVID:

- Fully Vaccinated (2 doses) – Isolate for 5 days from the start of symptoms or until they resolve
- Not Fully Vaccinated – Isolate for 10 days from the start of symptoms or until they resolve
- Close Contacts of Positive Cases are no longer required to quarantine
- Household Close Contacts of Positive Cases, if not fully vaccinated – Isolate for 14 days

Along with the masks that Alberta Education is supplying us, we will also be sending home some rapid testing kits. This is a good way for you to confirm your child's symptoms are not COVID as they stay home. As soon as we receive the masks and tests from the government, we will message you and send them home. Finally, please remember to contact the school if your child tests positive for COVID!

With God's continual love, our community will come together to protect all of us. The four rules above will mitigate the spread of the virus. "So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." (Isaiah 41:10)

We wish you joy and success for 2022! Together, we can learn and keep each other safe!  
Sincerely,



Kevin N Myskiw  
Principal