



BLACK GOLD SCHOOL DIVISION

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To Parents/Guardians and Students:

Black Gold School Division is firmly committed to the health and safety of our students and staff. We would like to reassure parents/guardians that our schools are meeting Alberta Health Services (AHS) guidelines in providing a safe environment for student learning. Transmission rates within Black Gold schools are currently under control because all Black Gold Schools continue to implement strict guidelines.

To date, there have only been six cases of COVID-19 reported in our 31 schools. In each case all guidelines were followed by the families and their schools, which meant student isolation and learning disruptions were kept to a minimum. We thank all involved for their quick actions.

As reported cases of COVID-19 in our communities are rising, Black Gold School Division is encouraging students and their families to remain vigilant and ensure they are following the AHS public health guidance, **both at school and in other areas of their day-to-day lives**. While there was early success in flattening the curve in Alberta, recent outbreaks are occurring at an alarming rate.

Should the increase in outbreaks continue, Alberta Health Services may require us to transition from Alberta Education's Scenario 1 to Scenario 2 with short notice. Please be assured that Black Gold School Division has outlined a plan for a move to Scenario 2 - with partial in-school classes with additional health measures - in the event that we are required to do so.

Under Scenario 2, in addition to restrictions already in place :

- Students will be divided into two cohorts, with each cohort attending on different days to allow for more physical distancing. This means that roughly half of the students will attend school each day.
- Wherever possible, siblings will be placed in the same cohort.
- Teachers will provide cohorts with work to be undertaken when not at school, which will be reviewed when students return to class.
- Families, staff, and visitors will continue to be required to conduct daily health checks prior to school entry with strict stay-at-home and pick up policy for anyone exhibiting signs of illness.

Neither teachers, students nor parents want to move to Scenario 2, as it would significantly disrupt both learning and family life. We understand that people are growing weary of following COVID-19 protocols as they can be taxing both physically and mentally; however, moving to Scenario 2 would be much worse. That is why we are strongly urging parents, teachers and students to continue practicing safe COVID-19 protocols outside of school time to further reduce opportunities of bringing the virus into a school setting.

Thank you for your ongoing understanding and cooperation during this extraordinary time. Please contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Bill Romanchuk,
Superintendent of Schools/CEO