



Date: Monday, January 17, 2022

Topic: Update for Parents, Guardians, and Staff

Case Management:

- Public Health has changed the process for reporting and tracking school COVID cases. They will no longer be providing direct support to schools for case management.
- Park West schools will continue to provide informal notification of positive cases in to parents/guardians.
- A new infographic (attached) provides guidance on the management of symptoms, positive cases, and close contacts.

Ventilation:

- Given the recent focus on ventilation of schools, we want to provide a brief overview of the ongoing work to ensure that our ventilation systems are functioning well.
- Early last spring, Park West had Four Seasons Mechanical from Brandon do an assessment of the heating and cooling systems in all divisional schools and buildings. As a result of the assessment, the following work was completed:
 - Improved fresh air intake in a few locations as needed.
 - Repaired exhaust fans, dampers, and air handlers as required.
 - Pressure-washed the coils in HVAC systems and cleaned ducts in several schools.
 - Implemented adjustments to the control management systems in schools requiring it.
 - Upgraded our MERV filters from type 8 to 13 and increased frequency of change from every 3 months to every 6 weeks.
- On January 7, the province announced additional funding for ventilation. With this funding, duct cleaning will occur in three additional schools. The division will also purchase approximately 85 portable air filter units for use in schools.

Spectators:

- The updated guidelines state that spectators should be restricted from attending during this period of high transmission.
- Spectators are permitted to attend indoor school sporting events as per the following restrictions, in place since November 15, 2021 in Park West:
 - There will be a limit of two spectators per student athlete. These spectators must be from the athlete's immediate family / household.
 - Spectators who do not attend school either as a student or staff member must show proof of full vaccination in order to access school facilities.
 - School bus drivers may also be spectators.
 - Spectators must follow all public health measures including physical distancing and mask wearing when in division facilities.