

January 7, 2022

Dear Parents/Guardians of Wainwright High School,

We missed our students and are looking forward to safely welcoming them back to school for in person learning on Monday, January 10th. Staff have been busy preparing for students next week and ensuring the return to school is as safe as possible!

We want to keep you informed about important information and health measures that will be in place when students return.

### **Stay Home if feeling unwell**

All staff and students must fill out the [Alberta Health daily checklist](#) and use it to determine if they should attend school. It is extremely important now more than ever to stay home when not feeling well or have core symptoms from the checklist.

### **Reporting Positive COVID-19 Cases**

The COVID-19 positive case identification has changed with Alberta Health Services as they will no longer inform schools or close contacts of positive cases. You are not required to report rapid test results back to the school.

If you are aware of a positive case in your household, we are asking that you please continue to contact school administration ([vincent.hill@btps.ca](mailto:vincent.hill@btps.ca)). This continues to be an important step to mitigate risk and have a safe environment.

### **Isolation**

If you test positive for COVID-19 or are sick with a [core symptom](#), the isolation rules are as follows:

- Fully vaccinated: Isolate for 5 days from the start of symptoms or until they resolve, whichever is longer
- Not fully vaccinated (1 dose or less): Isolate for 10 days from the start of symptoms or until they resolve, whichever is longer
- If you test negative for COVID-19 but have symptoms, you should stay home until symptoms resolve

Household contacts of a positive case must stay home as school is a high risk area. If students are feeling unwell, they should not attend school.

### **Masks**

All students must wear a mask on a bus and Grades 4-12 students must wear a mask in school. Please send your student to school on Monday with a proper mask. This health guideline will be strictly enforced in all common areas, hallways, and when students are working in groups.

Due to transmissibility of Omicron, Alberta Education has recommended for students and teachers to wear masks at all times, including when seated or facing forward. Masking along with physical distancing will help reduce transmission.

### **Masks and Rapid Test Kits**

The government will be providing medical-grade masks and optional rapid test kits for students and staff. In the initial phase, students will receive kits to test at home twice per week for 2.5 weeks. More information about the tests and what to do with the results are posted on the Alberta Government [website](#), including a [video](#) about how to use the test and a [fact sheet](#)

We expect that these supplies will arrive by the end of next week and we will keep you posted on how they will be distributed. Let us know if you do not want them and we will redistribute them to others.

### **Hand Hygiene**

Our school has hand sanitizer at all entrances and in the classroom. We will be asking students to ensure proper hand hygiene when entering and leaving the classroom and school.

### **Extra-Curricular Activities**

For the next week, our extra-curricular competitions/games will be postponed.

### **Communication**

Visitors are limited in the school. We will continue to keep you informed with newsletters, WHS Facebook page updates, calls, and emails. As we are aware, changes in the guidelines happen quickly and we are committed to keeping our parents, guardians, and students informed. We also want to continue to share with you the exciting activities that our students are doing in their classrooms.

### **Prepare for a shift to At-Home Learning**

Although we are preparing for students to be in the school on Monday, January 10, 2022, we want to remind you that a shift to at-home learning could happen on short notice. We know that this is far from an ideal situation.

### **Transportation**

School bus service may also be impacted on short notice by staffing challenges due to illness. Families should have back up plans if school bus transportation is unavailable. Information regarding bus status can be found at <https://www.btps.ca/departments/transportation/bus-status>.

### **E-Tutoring Hub**

Alberta Education has announced a free e-Tutoring Hub for students in grades 4 to 9 to address pandemic-caused learning disruptions, which will be launched with pre-recorded video tutoring sessions. We will share with you how to access this resource once it is available.

We have taken the time to enhance our COVID-19 protocols for the safety of students and staff. Staff want to ensure our students have a great start to 2022! We are looking forward to seeing our students on Monday!

Sincerely,



Vince Hill  
Principal  
Wainwright High School



Eryn White  
Vice Principal  
Wainwright High School