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January 31, 2021

Dear Ponoka Secondary Campus Parents/Guardians,

A case of COVID-19 has been diagnosed in an individual at Ponoka Secondary Campus. We want to assure you that we are working closely with Alberta Health Services to ensure necessary measures are in place to protect all students and staff.

Parents/guardians of students and staff who have been in close contact with the individual who has COVID-19 are being alerted directly via phone by school staff this Sunday evening and will quarantine at home until the end of the isolation period.

If you **have NOT** been contacted by the school, your child has not been identified as a close contact with this individual and therefore, is not at an increased risk from COVID-19.

All students and staff not identified as close contacts can attend school. Please know that the school remains open and classes will resume.

Please note that our division will follow the <u>Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy</u> where information regarding specific individuals will not be made public.

We know that a confirmed case of COVID-19 in a school can create a level of anxiety, but we want to assure you that these measures to identify and contact families are all in place to minimize risk and spread. We are committed to reinforcing our health and safety measures at the school to make sure everyone remains safe. This includes cleaning and disinfecting all items touched by the individual and removing items that cannot be cleaned or disinfected, such as paper, books, etc. Our maintenance/custodial team have already started moving on all cleaning protocols as directed by Alberta Environmental Public Health.

As part of those measures, we remind parents/guardians of students, as well as any staff/visitors/volunteers to monitor for any signs or symptoms of COVID-19. The Alberta Health daily checklist can be found <a href="here">here</a>. Please remember to complete the checklist each day prior to attending school, or getting on the school bus.

As a reminder, if you/your child have symptoms of illness listed on the Alberta Health daily checklist, please fill out the online <u>Alberta Health Services COVID-19 self-assessment</u> or call Health Link at 811 and stay home/keep your child at home.

We want to thank you for your continued understanding and cooperation. We will continue to provide additional information to parents/guardians as it is available.

Sincerely,

Kathy McTaggart Principal Ponoka Secondary Campus