Robina Baker Elementary School

January 14, 2022

Dear Robina Families:

RE: Omicron Rapid Spread

As you know, Omicron, the latest COVID-19 variant of concern, is spreading across the province. While our school continues to focus on prevention with both administrative and engineering controls like: hand/respiratory hygiene, staff and gr. 4 masking, encouraging masking in K-3, social distancing, signage, eliminating large gatherings, cohorting as much as possible, etc., our school is experiencing an increase in student absences due to COVID-19. Alberta has seen the positivity rate for COVID-19 tests at around 40%; this means that there is a strong likelihood that anyone with COVID-19 symptoms has COVID-19.

Due to limited testing opportunities for Covid-19, many families are isolating with multiple symptoms with the assumption that they have Covid-19. Since we don't have an accurate picture of all Covid-19 positive cases, despite the number of reported illnesses, we will not be sending home individual COVID-19 case notification letters.

We remind you that it is imperative to self-screen your children for symptoms, before coming to school, using the <u>COVID-19 Alberta Health Daily Checklist</u> and follow the protocol as outlined.

In addition, the school would greatly appreciate notification from parents if a child is going to be absent due to either COVID-19 symptoms or a positive test result; this will enable Black Gold School Division to make informed decisions to keep students and staff safe.

For further information regarding COVID-19, please call Health Link at 811 or visit the Alberta Health Services website for <u>COVID-19</u>.

If you have any questions, please give our office team a call.

Sincerely,

Helpschen

Katherine Kloschinsky Principal



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