

## **Statement of Policy**

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Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools are committed to maintaining a healthy and safe environment for all students, families and employees.

## **Rationale**

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While not all individuals exhibiting signs or symptoms of COVID-19 will actually have the disease, a process to mitigate the risk of transmission of COVID-19 must be followed.

## **Authority**

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- Re-Open Saskatchewan Plan, Primary and Secondary Institution Guidelines (2020)
- Sec 175,190, 192, 231 Education Act,1995
- Public Health Act, 1994

## **Procedures/Guidelines**

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In instances where students who present with COVID-19 symptoms are sent home, parent or guardian is instructed to call 811 as soon as possible. The parent or guardian will follow the advice of the Saskatchewan Health Authority.

1. Whenever a student is sent home due to presenting with COVID-19 symptoms at school, the minimum amount of time for return to school would be 48 hours according to the direction received from Saskatchewan Health.
2. When student returns, schools can ask parents if their child has been symptom free for 48 hours. Schools cannot mandate parents or students to share private Health information, such as results of a test.
3. If the student returns to school after the 48-hour period and still has COVID-19 symptoms, the process for response will repeat.
4. If a child tests positive for COVID-19, public health will provide assistance and begin the contact tracing process immediately.
  - a. This process is followed in all identified COVID-19 positive cases and provides guidance on monitoring and isolation to all close contacts.
  - b. Teachers, staff and parents/caregivers of students who are considered to be close contacts of a person with COVID-19 will be contacted directly by public health via the contact tracing process.
  - c. All teachers, staff and parents/caregivers of students in the same classroom (cohort) of a person with COVID-19 will be contacted directly by public health and by their school via email. This notification will occur separate from the contact tracing process.
  - d. Those teachers, staff and parents/caregivers of students in the same cohort who are considered to be non-close contacts will be advised to self-monitor for symptoms and be offered priority testing options.

- e. Public Health will then advise on further actions that may be required, and it is important to note this could vary based on the circumstances of the positively identified case. A positive case in the cohort (classroom) may not present a high risk to the entire cohort.
  - f. Further steps could include requirements for the cohort (classroom) to self-isolate at home and public health will advise in each situation.
  - g. Those teachers, staff and parents/caregivers of students in the school population, outside of the same cohort, can also seek public health advice regarding self-monitoring for symptoms, transmission risk and access to priority testing options at any time.
5. If a parent calls the school to report their child will be absent due to illness, the school does not record any information on the student in the school records for health or ask the parent for information on the illness or any specifics relating to COVID-19 – this is private health information and since the child was not at school with the symptoms, the school does not have a right to request or ask for this information.

**Date Approved**

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September 8, 2020

**Amended**

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September 10, 2020