

Hello Holy Cross Community,

We are always looking for better and more effective ways to communicate information to families. We realize that a sending a monthly newsletter doesn't provide families with timely information and bombarding families with emails throughout the week makes it difficult to keep track of important information. Going forward we are going to send out a weekly Friday Update. Please be patient with us as we work through our new communication system.

### **Sports**

Basketball season for our Middle Years students has been postponed until after Spring Break. The league will re-evaluate prior to Spring Break and decide at that time if the season is able to occur.

We are planning a basketball skills club for interested Holy Cross gr. 7&8 student's. Students interested in participating intramural basketball must sign up with Mr. Herr and provide their vaccination status to the office

Boys-basketball Tuesday, January 25, 3:10-4:45 p.m.

Girls-basketball Wednesday, January, 26 3:10-4:45 p.m.

### **Hats on For Mental Health**

On Wednesday, January 26 staff and students are asked to wear a hat in support of mental health awareness

### **Re-Registration Forms**

Re-registration forms and registration fee of \$150.00 are due this week.

### **Open House**

Registration for new families begins February 1, 2022.

Please encourage families and friends to sign up for our virtual Open House, February 1, 2022.

More information and to sign up visit our website at [www.holycrossschool.mb.ca](http://www.holycrossschool.mb.ca)

### **Masks**

Non-medical masks are required indoors for **all students** prekindergarten to grade 8. All students will need to have a **minimum of 2 masks**. Students will change their masks after lunch. All used masks must taken home and washed at the end of

### **Remote Learning**

Public Health and Manitoba Education have advised all schools that we must return to in-school learning. At this time there is no option for remote learning and all students must attend class in person.

### **Siblings of Symptomatic Children**

Public Health is advising that anyone exhibiting COVID symptoms consider themselves positive and seek testing. All household members are then considered to be close contacts of this presumed positive case. With this change, siblings of a child who exhibits symptoms at school or home must also self-isolate until it is confirmed that the symptomatic child is negative. This holds true for children of symptomatic parents or other household members as well.

### **COVID and Self-isolation**

As you maybe aware, public health is no longer contact tracing for individuals that test positive. Schools will no longer provide close contact notification or letters on individual COVID-19 cases in school, a change that the province says is required due to the emergence of the Omicron variant. Instead, the province has asked schools to communicate this information to families in a more general way. We will share the information with families in weekly emails.

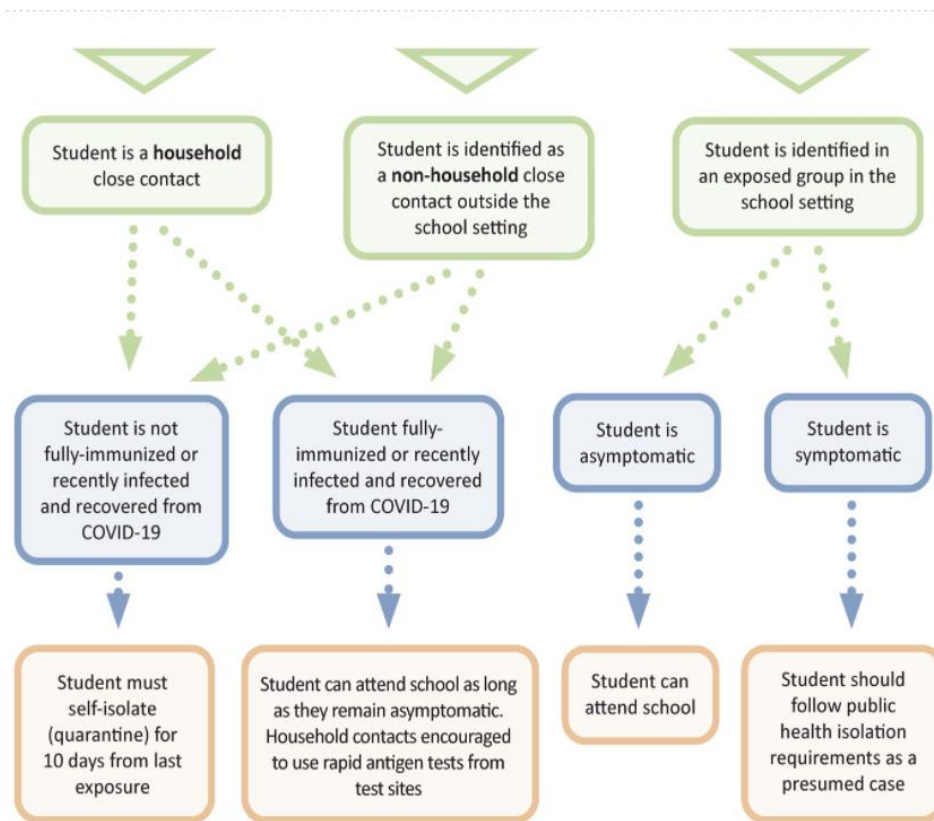
Each week we will provide you with the number of students and staff who are COVID positive and/or self-isolating as Close Contacts, along with a percentage of the entire school population.

This information will be current as of Friday at 12:00 p.m. Most positive cases will be self-reported, resulting from a rapid test. We will also include the information from the COVID in Schools Dashboard, which reports the results of PCR tests conducted on school students and staff. It is important for families to know that in both of these sets of data, it is possible that the affected individuals were not at school during their infectious period. As well, cases reported on the dashboard may have already resolved during those two weeks, especially for fully vaccinated individuals. These cases are updated periodically and do not always reflect the most current information. Regardless of these details, if cases escalate rapidly, we will be in contact with Public Health (or vice versa) and will alert families accordingly.

Along with the weekly reports, parents/guardians can keep up-to-date on confirmed cases of COVID-19 by visiting the [COVID-19 Dashboard](#) for school-aged cases and school staff cases in Manitoba.

Holy Cross School COVID Status	COVID Positive Individuals	Close Contacts Self-isolating	COVID cases reported on the Provincial Dashboard for the two weeks prior to January 18 <sup>th</sup>	Percentage of the School Community
January 21, 2022	4	5		2.4%

Below is helpful self-isolation & close contacts graphic from River East Transcona School Division.



For more information, please see the Manitoba Government website at:

<https://www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/fundamentals/self-isolation.html>