



Peace River School Division

Learning Together - Success for All

October 30, 2020

Dear Parents, Guardians and Staff,

I want to start by saying that I continue to be amazed by students and families as we have navigated through these challenging times over the last seven months due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Peace River School Division has been notified by the Government of Alberta that the COVID-19 Alberta Health daily checklist has been revised; changes are effective beginning November 2, 2020. The updated checklists are available [here](#).

Alberta Education Deputy Minister has said, "There have been important contextual factors that have made it necessary to revise the COVID-19 Alberta Health daily checklist. These evidence-based changes are needed to lessen the number of students who are required to isolate without sufficient cause and to address the growing demand on our health system for symptomatic testing, while maintaining student and staff safety".

The updates to the daily checklist for students will take effect on Monday, November 2, 2020.

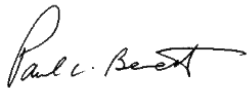
- A new Alberta Health daily checklist for children under 18 will be released and will apply to Albertans under 18. This also applies to individuals who are 18 and over and are attending high school.
- All other Albertans who are 18 and over, including school staff, will continue to use the Alberta Health daily checklist that was previously posted online.
- Symptoms of runny nose and sore throat have been removed from the mandatory isolation checklist for Albertans under 18.
- The core isolation symptoms for children are now **one (or more)** of the following: cough, fever, loss of taste or smell and shortness of breath. If a child has **any** of these core symptoms:
 - They are to isolate for 10 days OR have a negative COVID-19 test result and feel better before they return to school or other activities.
- If a child has **one** of the following symptoms: chills; sore throat or painful swallowing; runny nose or congestion; feeling unwell or fatigue; nausea, vomiting, diarrhea; unexplained loss of appetite; muscle or joint aches; headache; or conjunctivitis (pink eye):

- The child should stay home and monitor for 24 hours.
- If their symptom is improving after 24 hours, they can return to school/activities when they feel well enough to attend. Testing is not recommended.
- If the symptom worsens after 24 hours, or if additional symptoms emerge, or if the child has any **two** symptoms from this second list, they are to continue to stay home, and testing is recommended but not required. The child can return to activities and school when their symptoms have resolved, AND it has been 24 hours or more since their symptoms started.

Alberta Education Deputy Minister also stated, "These changes in the daily checklist will help ensure we focus testing, decrease wait times and get Albertans who are under 18 years of age back into the classroom and participating in activities as quickly and safely as possible, while minimizing the risk of COVID-19 transmission".

I want to thank our families for their continuous support to Peace River School Division and our schools. There has never been a higher level of cooperation and teamwork between families and schools.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul Bennett", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Paul Bennett
Superintendent of Schools
Peace River School Division