



Wild Rose School Division

4912-43 Street, Rocky Mountain House, AB T4T 1P4
Ph: 1-800-771-0537 | (403) 845-3376 | Fax: (403) 845-4287
www.wrsd.ca | [Facebook.com/WRSd.ca](https://www.facebook.com/WRSd.ca) | [@WildRoseSchools](https://twitter.com/WildRoseSchools)

January 22, 2021

Honourable Adriana LaGrange
Minister of Education
228 Legislature Building
10800 - 97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB
T5K 2B6

Dear Honourable Adriana LaGrange:

The Wild Rose School Division Board of Trustees is very impressed with the excellent work our teachers and support staff are doing to keep students safe during this pandemic, while at the same time ensuring they receive an excellent education. We have had 42 positive cases of COVID-19 in our schools since the start of the 2020-21 school year. Nineteen of these cases resulted in multiple close contacts, both students and staff, having to quarantine for the mandatory two weeks. We have had evidence of possible in-school transmission in only one of these 42 cases. This is a credit to the excellent work of our teachers and support staff in terms of implementing our re-entry guidelines and safety protocols.

While our teachers and support staff have expressed appreciation for having students in school, they continue to feel a great deal of anxiety over the increased exposure they experience as frontline, essential workers. When one of our teachers or support staff are required to quarantine due to either contracting COVID-19 or due to being identified as a close contact, it puts much additional strain on our students and staff. It should be noted that teachers and support staff are faithfully working every day with the largest population of unvaccinated individuals in the province and we have seen how quickly COVID-19 enters our schools when positive cases are high in the community.

As Minister of Education, we believe that you must also be both very proud of and concerned for all teachers and support staff across Alberta. As such, we are asking you to advocate on our behalf for all teachers and support staff to be included as a high priority group in the province's COVID-19 vaccine distribution and immunization program.

It is essential that we keep our schools safe and operational. This can only be accomplished if school staff are healthy and protected. Thank you for considering this request.

Sincerely,

Russell Hickman
Board Chair, Wild Rose School Division