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January 6, 2022

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Caregivers,

We have received several calls and questions regarding schools being closed and the current rise in COVID cases.

At the beginning of this week, after carefully assessing the current situation, we decided to move forward with full on-site programming and services. Please know that the health and safety of our clients and staff continues to be our top priority. Currently, we feel confident that the benefit of continuing with on-site services outweighs any risk of potential illness.

If you have concerns or prefer to keep an individual at home for a period of time, please contact us so that we can accommodate by providing virtual programming and/or other modified services.

Please note that as per current AHS requirements, anyone exhibiting symptoms must isolate until 2 negative test results are received from rapid tests taken at least 24 hours apart. *This is required even if an individual is fully immunized.

We are continuing to implement enhanced health and safety protocols for everyone at SBC. Daily health screenings are part of this process.

This morning, all SBC staff met to review the current COVID-19 information from AHS. This information includes updates to isolation and quarantine requirements if someone tests positive for COVID-19, has symptoms, and/or comes in close contact with someone who tested positive for (or has) COVID-19. For detailed information, please go to <https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/topics/Page17308.aspx>

We acknowledged that with the current dominant strain of Omicron, the nature of the virus spread along with health protocols have changed, and the situation has understandably caused stress and confusion for many people. Our Leadership Team provided clarification for staff, and we will continue to email and post updated links on our website. We encourage all staff and caregivers refer to the AHS site for weekly updates and changes.

We have also shared information regarding booster vaccine eligibility and timelines. We are currently encouraging all who are eligible to book appointments for booster vaccinations as soon as possible.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the impact of these changes, or questions regarding an individual's specific schedule changes, please contact an SBC manager directly.

Please continue to contact us via email or view our website for any updates. We will continue to send out both email and paper copy correspondence regarding any changes or updates to SBC operations and programming.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Melrose
CEO