

Medicine Hat High School Fair Notice Letter: Washroom Use and Banned Substances

Dear Families,

We are continuing to deal with isolated incidents of students gathering in washroom stalls, students vaping on campus, and/or students possessing banned substances on campus.

Our response to this concern is in alignment with:

- The [Alberta Education Act](#)
- Medicine Hat Public School Division Policy [relating to banned substances in the school setting](#)
- Medicine Hat Police Services

This letter serves as a reminder to all of our stakeholders that:

Students are not permitted to be in washroom stalls together for any reason. Washroom stalls are not intended to be used beyond individual use due to health and safety concerns. If students are in need of support, they should report to the main office or the Nest to receive support from our student advisors or administrative staff. If students are found to be in washroom stalls together they will be searched and may be suspended for failure to follow school rules.

Students who are caught vaping or found to be in possession of banned substances on campus will be suspended out of school. Vapes, banned substances and associated paraphernalia will be confiscated. These items will not be returned and will be disposed of. Addictions counseling and random or routine backpack checks may be mandated. Where there is a reasonable suspicion that vaping took place, these same consequences will be applied. Police may issue additional consequences at their discretion.

Often there are numerous violations that take place in the context of vape use. It is not uncommon for multiple students to occupy a bathroom stall while vaping takes place. When this occurs, **all** students involved will be considered to have vaped. It is the student's responsibility to avoid placing themselves in situations of this nature. It is not reasonable or possible for school staff to determine who was vaping and who was not.

Vaping and/or the use of, or possession of, other banned substances is not acceptable in school. It does not promote a positive, safe and caring learning environment. It is impossible for a school to determine the contents of any banned substances or paraphernalia being used.

We encourage you to discuss this notice with your student. Thank you for your support.

MHHS Administration