

Light of Christ Catholic Schools (LOCCS) 2021-22 Safe Schools Plan

As we prepare ourselves to begin the 2021/22 school year, the Board of Education would like to welcome all staff, students and families back to school. We would also like to take this opportunity to once again sincerely thank all of our amazing staff for going above and beyond to meet the needs of our students and their families as we navigated the pandemic. To our students, families and communities; thank you for your patience, understanding and support over the last 18 months.

Saskatchewan entered the last phase of the Re-Opening Roadmap effective July 11, 2021 and, as of this date, all public health orders were lifted, including the province-wide mandatory masking order and the limits previously placed on events and gathering sizes. This means that COVID-19 restrictions are no longer in place. Public health officials have determined that it is safe for schools to resume in-class learning.

That being said, as we enter the new school year, the safety of our students and staff continues to be our top priority. COVID-19 continues to spread, and the variants of concern are even more transmissible than the original virus. Because of this, LOCCS will continue to have guidelines in place to mitigate the risk of COVID-19. This includes encouraging staff, students and families to get vaccinated as soon as they are eligible, staying home when you are sick, ensuring hand hygiene and environmental cleaning protocols are consistently used, and creating “mask friendly” schools and work environments for individuals who choose to utilize PPE (see below for these guidelines).

Our schools will continue to have the support and engagement of our local Medical Health Officer (LMHO) in responding to any public health risks in school settings, including COVID-19. Our LMHO can occur, and put in place mitigation and response protocols that align with provincial standards.

We will continue to meet regularly with our local medical health team and adjust our plan as necessary based both on their recommendations and guidance from the medical community.

God Bless,



Cory Rideout
Director of Education

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Return to School Guidelines:

Light of Christ Catholic Schools will return to in-class learning in accordance with the province's Re-opening Roadmap and the guidance of our local medical health officials.

This plan is subject to change should provincial or local circumstances warrant enhanced restrictions. Restrictions could also be lessened or scaled back if the circumstances improve.

Because of the unpredictability of COVID-19, the guidelines below may shift on short notice.

UPDATE – Public Health Order – January 28, 2022

PLEASE NOTE: The Mandatory Isolation Order is not retroactive. Students isolating prior to the date the Order came into effect may not return to school until the period of isolation has been completed.

On January 28, 2022, a new Public Health Order regarding Isolation and Face Covering came into effect for the province of Saskatchewan.

This is what the Order means for Light of Christ Catholic School Division:

- Residents who receive a positive test result on a PCR or rapid antigen test will be **required to self-isolate for five days, regardless of vaccination status**. If you test positive, you are required to self-isolate for five days from the date of test or **24 hours after fever has resolved without the aid of fever-reducing medications and all other symptoms have been improving for at least 48 hours, whichever is later**.
- Close contacts of positive COVID-19 cases **will no longer** be required to self-isolate, regardless of vaccination status.
- Parents and caregivers are no longer required to notify schools about positive test results for the purposes of close contact notification. Those who test positive are required to self-isolate and will be absent from school and activities for the duration of the self-isolation period. Based on this direction, effective today, LOCCS will no longer be sending notifications of positive cases to parents/caregivers, nor will we be posting a list of positive cases, per school, on our school division website.
- If you are currently self-isolating for 10 days because you are an unvaccinated confirmed case, or a close contact of a case, you may be able to amend your self-isolation period as of noon, January 28, in accordance with this policy if asymptomatic. If you are symptomatic, you must continue to self-isolate until your symptoms resolve. If you are a LOCCS employee who falls within this category, you will be contacted by our HR Officer to plan for a return to work

The health and safety of our students, families and employees remains our priority. Thank you for your ongoing understanding and support. We will continue to update and inform you as more information becomes available.

Safe Attendance

Health officials continue to advise us all to self-monitor for symptoms. In addition, for everyone's safety, we should stay home if we are sick and seek a COVID-19 test.

Masks

- Masks are required for **all students and staff**.
- Required to be worn on buses.
- Masks are required for visitors to the schools **and to our Division Office in North Battleford**.
- Masks must be worn when singing.
- Staff sharing office space must wear masks unless a distance of at least two meters can be maintained.
- Refer to Appendix B for masking requirements in regards to extra-curricular activities.

Exceptions

- For outdoor activities such as recess or outdoor gym classes, there is no requirement for students to wear a mask.
- Students do not have to wear masks while playing woodwind, brass, or other instruments operated by breath.
- Masks are not required when staff and students are seated and consuming food or beverage. In this scenario, appropriate distancing should be in place.
- Staff may remove masks while alone in an enclosed area.
- Staff may remove masks to speak if a distance of three meters from others can be maintained.

Please send your child with an adequate supply of reusable or disposable masks. A limited supply of disposable masks will be available at every school and school division facility.

Illness in Care

- Students and staff who are ill should stay home until they are symptom free.
- Guests and parents/guardians should refrain from entering schools if they are ill.
- Every school will have a sign-in procedure to ensure all visitors to the school are documented, along with staff entering the building on weekends.

Schools will:

- Follow existing notification processes related to communicable disease outbreaks.
- Identify an appropriate isolation area for anyone who is ill until they can leave the facility.
- Provide the student with a medical mask to wear.
- Notify the parent or guardian to pick up the student immediately.
- Remain with the student until he/she is picked up.
- Once the student has left, staff in contact with the student should wash their hands thoroughly.
- The areas where the student was located are to be cleaned and disinfected.

Communication

- Communications with families will primarily occur through EDSBY. When this is not possible, our staff will make every effort to contact families through other means.
- Please ensure that you provide the school with the most up to date and accurate contact information for your child(ren), and that you create and EDSBY account.
- Our plan will be posted on the LOCCS website.

Schools will:

- Ensure the school's website and social media feeds are up-to-date.
- Post the school's plan on the school website.

Self Testing Pilot Program

- Saskatchewan is developing a rapid test self-administration pilot to gauge the demand and uptake for self-administered rapid tests for families who may wish to screen for COVID-19 on an ongoing basis.
- The pilot program would see rapid tests provided to families through their schools, along with instructional information on how to properly self-administer the rapid tests.
- Information regarding the rapid test self-administration pilot for families will soon be provided to school divisions for distribution to families.
- It is anticipated that rapid tests for the pilot program will be allocated to areas of the province where COVID transmission is highest.
- While the recommendation to seek testing and stay home at the first-sign of any symptoms will continue, the pilot rapid testing program is intended to gauge public uptake of the use of rapid tests as a self-administered asymptomatic screening tool.

Safe Transportation

- All bus drivers, staff and students on buses are required to wear masks.
- Bus drivers will provide principals and the school division with accurate lists of students riding each bus.
- Bus drivers will implement seating plans on buses.
- Recreational travel requiring vehicles (including school or school division owned vans), such as field trips and extracurricular travel, will occur as it did prior to the pandemic. **Masks must be worn in the vehicle or on the bus.**
- Additional cleaning and disinfection will remain in place and be a standard practice. Disinfection will take place after each and every route. LOCCS buses will also be fogged on a regular basis.

Safe Access

School-day Structure

- No prescribed school-day structure is required.
- Schools will continue to maintain a sign in/sign out procedure for all non-school based staff and visitors.

Safe Facilities

Facilities

- School-wide plan for enhanced cleaning and disinfection will continue to be in place.
- Visual aids demonstrating appropriate hand hygiene techniques and cough etiquette will be displayed throughout schools.
- Ensure hand washing facilities are operational (hot and cold running water) and stocked (soap and paper towel).
- Please see the protocol for disinfecting and cleaning at <https://drive.google.com/file/d/15-ny9mBz3Pk2ofgtAyhyXxM5bAku9DQw/view?usp=sharing>

Safe Classrooms

Hygiene

- Promote appropriate hand hygiene at all times.
- Hand sanitizer stations will be available in each classroom and at the main entrance of all schools and school division buildings.
- Children will be taught how to clean their hands properly using age-appropriate materials.

Physical Contact

- There are no guidelines for physical distancing for students or staff.
- Schools will do their best to space students appropriately in classrooms and common areas.

Instruction

- Full Saskatchewan curriculum will be taught by teachers.
- The Provincial Education Interim Plan provides guidance for this area.

Assessment

- There is no requirement for provincial exams for the 2021-22 school year.

Safe Activities

Sports and Fitness Activities

- Regular activities may resume within the parameters of LOCCS Safe Schools Plan.

Dance, Drama, Band, Choir

- Regular activities may resume within the parameters of LOCCS Safe Schools Plan.

Extra-Curricular Activities and Field Trips

- Extracurricular activities add value to our students' educational experience. Clubs, sports and the arts allow for students to participate in areas of passion.
- Regular activities will resume in the fall within the parameters set out in this plan.
- **For details, please refer to Appendix B.**

Nutrition Programs

- Resume regular activities.
- Continue good practice of controlling areas where children are preparing food and/or eating (seated, hand hygiene, cleaning and sanitation of food surfaces, etc.)

Assessment of Positive COVID-19 Cases

- There is no longer a requirement to notify the school of positive Covid-19 cases

Students Concerns

[Student Requirements to Self-isolate.](#)

All students who test positive for Covid-19 are required to isolate as outline in the current PHO.

Staff Concerns

[Staff Requirement to Self-isolate](#)

All staff must self-isolate if they are diagnosed with COVID-19.

The Right to Ask Questions

The current Public Health Order makes a distinction between what is required by those who have been fully vaccinated and what is required by those who have not. These distinctions affect both students and staff.

Therefore, staff, students, and parents/guardians may be asked to provide the information necessary for the school division to be able to properly apply the provisions of the current Public Health Order.

Acceptable documents to provide proof of vaccination are included in Appendix C.

Other Items

[Photographs](#)

- Individual photos may occur with distancing in place.
- Group photos with masks down cannot occur.

[Vaccinations](#)

High community vaccine uptake is key to protecting children ineligible for a COVID-19 vaccine. Anyone aged 5 and above are currently eligible for vaccines.

- Staff assume the shared responsibility of assisting one another in maintaining healthy and safe workplaces.
- Staff are encouraged to avail themselves of all Ministry of Health recommended vaccinations.
- Staff are encouraged to discuss the efficacy of recommended vaccinations with their personal health care providers.
- Once vaccines are approved and widely available to children under the age of 12, recommendations regarding masking and other measures in schools will be revisited to factor in increased immunity within the student population.
- The Saskatchewan Health Authority will also offer school-based vaccination clinics similar to those offered at the end of the last school year. These clinics will enhance vaccine accessibility for those students or staff who have not been vaccinated, or who have only been vaccinated with a single dose.

[Ongoing Response to COVID-19](#)

- The collaboration between the Saskatchewan Health Authority and schools will continue and will reflect the needs of the school as required.

- All public health agencies respond to localized outbreaks of transmittable diseases like influenza during the course of a year. Public health will continue monitoring and responding to localized COVID-19 outbreaks.
- COVID-19 testing will be available. Testing locations and hours may depend on local rates of transmission and demand.

Contingency Plan

- Although we have planned for a safe and full return to school for students and staff, we must be ready to implement a contingency plan if necessary.
- The ability to move smoothly from in-school learning to at-home learning is critical, and once again, blended learning will allow us to flip from a more open scenario to a more closed scenario as seamlessly as possible.
- We will be ready to move from a return to normal to a more restricted model (levels 2, 3 and 4 of our previous plan) if circumstances warrant us taking this action.

More Information

More information is available at www.saskatchewan.ca

Appendix A: About COVID-19

COVID-19 is a dangerous disease caused by a virus discovered in December 2019. It is very contagious and has quickly spread around the world.

Symptoms of COVID-19 are similar to other respiratory illnesses, including the flu and common cold and may include one or more of the following:

- Fever
- Cough
- Headache
- Muscle and/or joint aches and pains
- Sore throat
- Chills
- Runny nose
- Nasal congestion
- Conjunctivitis
- Dizziness
- Fatigue
- Nausea/vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Loss of appetite (difficulty feeding for children)
- Altered sense of taste or smell
- Shortness of breath
- Difficulty breathing

Appendix B: Extra-curricular Guidelines

*Please note that these guidelines are fluid and are subject to change at any time.

General Guidelines:

- ALL visitors must wear a mask; this includes visiting athletes and coaches
- Individuals who are sick must stay home
- Masks can be removed for on-court competition in high schools but must be worn while off the court (on the benches, in the stands, etc.). Elementary students must wear masks for all indoor activities.
- Officials are required to wear masks. If officials have shown proof of vaccination, they may remove their mask once they have assumed their on-court duties
- Upon arrival, all guests must sign-in at the designated facility
- No canteens or booths shall be in operation at this time

Travel:

- When travelling to another community, it falls upon the coach/leader of a specific team to be aware of the local division guidelines that must be followed upon entry. All teams shall adhere to the guidelines that supersede (whether local division guidelines or visiting guidelines).
- When travelling, all coaches must be aware of the local context of Covid-19 in the participating community. If large numbers are present, coaches/leaders must consult with school admin and their respective superintendent before attending the event.
- Masks are required when travelling on a school bus and in division owned vehicles.

Outdoor Activities:

- There are currently no masking requirements when participating in outdoor activities however, when possible, social distancing should be followed.

Appendix C:

Proof of Vaccination

Proof of Vaccination may be submitted through the following options:

- A copy of the card received when vaccination was given. This is acceptable if there is no question of identity or concerns about authenticity of the document.
- A printout from MySaskHealthRecord confirming vaccinations.
- Any proof of vaccination originating from a system provided by the provincial government.
- A letter from a doctor, pharmacist, or SHA official.

Use of Information Gathered

- Schools will use the information gathered only for the purpose for which it is intended.
- The school/Division will not keep a copy of vaccine verifications.
- The information will be kept for only so long as it is needed. Once there is no longer a reason to distinguish between those who are vaccinated and those who are not, the information will no longer be required and will be safely disposed of.