

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

As we plan to move forward in the next stage of this pandemic, 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 again this 2021/22 school year. To our students, families and communities; thank you for your patience, understanding and support over the last 24 months.

As of February 28, 2022, all public health orders were lifted, including the province-wide mandatory masking order and mandatory self-isolation periods for those individuals either testing positive with or having of COVID-19. This means that COVID-19 restrictions are no longer in place. Our provincially elected officials have determined that it is safe for schools to resume in-class learning without any restrictions in place.

That being said, 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. 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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Cory Rideout', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Cory Rideout  
Director of Education

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## Return to School Guidelines:

This plan is subject to change should provincial or local circumstances warrant enhanced restrictions.

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

## 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 encouraged for all students and staff.
- Encouraged to be worn on buses.
- Masks are encouraged for visitors to the schools and to our Division Office in North Battleford.

Disposable masks will be readily 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.

Schools will:

- Identify an appropriate isolation area for anyone who is ill until they can leave the facility.
- If requested, 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

- 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 an 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 Program

- Rapid Antigen tests will continue to be provided to families who may wish to screen for COVID-19 on an ongoing basis (while supplies last).
- This program will see rapid tests provided to families through their schools, along with instructional information on how to properly self-administer the rapid tests.

- While the recommendation to seek testing and stay home at the first-sign of any symptoms will continue, the 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 encouraged to wear masks.
- Bus drivers will provide principals and the school division with accurate lists of students riding each bus.
- 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 are encouraged to 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.

## 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.

### Dance, Drama, Band, Choir

- Regular activities may resume.

### 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
- 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.

- Effective February 28, 2022, there is no Public Health Order (PHO) in place requiring mandatory self-isolation periods for those individuals either testing positive with or having of COVID-19 symptoms. All students who test positive for Covid-19 are being asked to stay at home and not attend school until they are symptom free.

## Other Items

### Vaccinations

High community vaccine uptake is key to protecting children ineligible for a COVID-19 vaccine. Individuals five years of age and older 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.
- 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

#### 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](http://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:

- Individuals who are sick must stay home.
- Local officiating should be promoted.

### Travel:

- When travelling to another community, it falls upon the coach/leader of a specific team to be aware of the 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 administrators before attending the event.