



November 26, 2020

Dear Chinook Staff and Families,

Once again, we want to thank everyone for your continued effort in helping to keep students, staff, families and communities safe and healthy. Thank you for staying home when you are sick, keeping your children at home if they are sick, isolating when required and following the advice of health professionals.

Since our last update, we have had several cases of COVID-19 in schools. The protective measures that we have in place have lowered the risk of transmission and continue to help protect students and staff in schools. Up until now, masking requirements have differed from school to school. Consistent distancing and masking was a significant factor in how many students and staff were considered close contacts, and in the number of students that were required to move to Remote Learning.

Saskatchewan is continuing to experience a record increase in COVID-19 cases. As you may be aware, on Wednesday the provincial government announced [additional measures](#), including an expanded mask mandate for all students, employees and visitors in all schools.

**Updated mask protocols, listed on page 2, will be implemented in all Chinook schools on Monday, November 30**, as directed by the Government of Saskatchewan. A reminder that there is no school for students on Friday, November 27th in lieu of Parent-Teacher Conferences.

We understand that this may be new for some schools and for our younger students, so it is important to be flexible and patient while they adjust to the new protocol. The schools will continue to work directly with individuals who require accommodations and additional support.

The mask mandate by the government is a proactive measure to ensure our schools remain open, safe and operational. We believe that additional masking could help save face-to-face learning and further minimize exposure risks. We will continue to do our best to keep everyone safe and healthy, while ensuring that learning remains a priority. Understanding and supporting the social-emotional impact on students and staff remains at the forefront for our schools.

Thank you for your continued support. If you have concerns or questions, please feel free to contact your school's principal, superintendent or our central information line at: 306-778-9200 or toll-free 1-877-321-9200.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Benesh".

Mark Benesh  
Acting Director of Education

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kim Pridmore".

Kim Pridmore  
Chair, Board of Education



## **Chinook Schools MASK PROTOCOL**

The Government of Saskatchewan has mandated masks for all students, employees and visitors in all schools. The following guidelines must be enforced and practiced consistently in Chinook schools.

### **PRE-KINDERGARTEN - GRADE 12 STUDENTS**

Masks are required at all times on buses and in schools, including in class (except while consuming food/beverage or engaging in aquatic activities). Teachers may offer mask breaks in class, when all students are working independently at their desks.

### **STAFF**

Masks are required at all times in schools, in Chinook buildings and on buses, unless individuals are working independently in a separate space.

### **VISITORS, PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS**

Masks are required at all times. All visitors will be screened. Only essential, scheduled visits are encouraged.

### **PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

Masks are required, except while engaging in aquatic activities. Lower impact activities will be selected to minimize risks.

### **PERFORMING ARTS**

The Government of Saskatchewan's current Performing Arts Guidelines will be followed.

### **OUTDOORS**

Masks are not required in outdoor spaces. Distancing and class/group cohorting is recommended.