

## Introduction

The provincial government has lifted restrictive measures and Public Health officials have stated that it is safe for schools to resume traditional in-class learning. Chinook School Division will follow provincial health guidelines while continuing to protect the health and safety of students and staff.

The Return to School Plan is based on the Saskatchewan Ministry of Education's 2021-22 *Safe Schools Plan*. We have also consulted with Saskatchewan Health Authority public health officials, including the local Medical Health Officer, to develop the plan, which focuses on continuing enhanced cleaning, improved ventilation and other general practices previously implemented in schools.

**Division and school plans will be reviewed and will evolve as required by emerging health risk assessments and guidance from the SHA, the local Medical Health Officer and the provincial government.**

**Some lifting of measures will be staggered as we monitor the rate of illness and level of risk in schools. The percentage of students who are absent due to illness in a building may require an increase in protective measures, based on guidance from Public Health.**

## Chinook Return to School Plan: 2021-22

### SAFE ATTENDANCE

#### Illness and Symptoms

- Students and staff are asked to screen daily for symptoms and stay home if they are ill.

#### Self-Monitoring and Symptoms

- Staff and students should continue the practice of [monitoring and self-screening for symptoms](#) consistent with COVID-19.

#### Communications

- Multiple modes of ongoing communication will occur when needed.

### SAFE TRANSPORTATION

#### Transportation

- Seating plans on school buses will continue as a normal procedure for safety. Siblings will not be required to sit together.
- Cleaning and disinfection will remain in place and will be a standard practice.
- Weather permitting, windows of the buses can be opened, allowing for improved ventilation.
- All school buses are mask friendly – this means we support all individuals who make a decision to wear a mask or to not wear a mask.

## SAFE ACCESS

### School-day Structure

- Staggered lunch and recesses are no longer required for COVID-19 safety protocols, however schools who have developed effective options for their schedule may choose to continue.
- Cohorts are no longer required at recess.

### Visitors

- Self-screening applies to all parents/caregivers and other visitors. Individuals with any COVID-19 symptoms should not enter the school.
- We are now allowing access to schools for parents/caregivers. This is dependent on the percentage of students at the school who are absent due to illness.
- Chinook schools are mask friendly for all parents/caregivers and other visitors.
- Schools will maintain a log of all visitors to the school, including parents, visitors and others. This will continue as a standard practice.

## SAFE FACILITIES

### Masks

**Effective Monday, February 28, the public health order requiring masking indoors is removed.**

- Chinook schools and buses are **mask friendly** – this means we support all individuals who make a decision to wear a mask or to not wear a mask.
- Public Health states that masking is one of the best protective measures in keeping students safe and maintaining the health of our school populations as well as minimizing disruption to in-person learning.
- Protective measures may be increased in individual schools or division-wide, as necessary to mitigate the risk of COVID-19 and we will follow the recommendations by the provincial government and Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA).

### Facilities

- A school-wide plan for enhanced cleaning and disinfection will continue similar to the previous year, including frequently touched surfaces and shared equipment.
- All mechanical equipment in Chinook schools and offices is well-maintained, serviced and readied for operation. Chinook has consulted with industry experts to ensure our systems maximize outside fresh air into the buildings.
- Chinook monitors and makes adjustments to most mechanical and ventilation equipment through our direct digitally controlled (DDC) building management systems. Additionally windows are opened whenever possible, and the division has focused on increasing fresh air through mechanical ductwork and filters in each school.
- Several schools are currently receiving significant mechanical upgrades as a result of provincial stimulus funding. This also includes improvements to the ventilation and air quality in Chinook schools. The air quality has been greatly improved with the recent addition of Jade Air Purifiers and ventilation equipment outfitted with Bipolar Ionization Units.
- Hand sanitizer and hand washing facilities will be accessible and stocked with supplies.



## Common Areas

- Foot traffic flow and markings through entrances and hallways will remain in schools.
- Water fountains will not be used, but bottle fill-up stations will continue to be used.

## SAFE CLASSROOMS

### Hygiene

- Respiratory etiquette will be promoted and proper hand hygiene expectations will be enforced when entering and exiting the school and classrooms, before and after eating.
- Students may carry their own personal hand sanitizer, in addition to products approved by Health Canada that will be made available by the schools for general use.

### Physical Distancing

- In all grades, physical distancing is encouraged where possible and practical.
- Seating plans will continue in all grades as a standard practice (not related to contact tracing).

### Instruction

- Full Saskatchewan curriculum will be taught by teachers.
- The Provincial Education Interim Plan provides guidance for this area.
- Mixing of classrooms for instructional purposes is not recommended for K-5.
- Individual classrooms or entire schools may be required to move to remote learning, in consultation with Public Health.
- Parent-Teacher conferences may occur by phone, Google Meet or in person. This is dependent on the percentage of students at the school who are absent due to illness.

### Assessment

- Provincial exams are optional for the 2021-22 school year.

## ACTIVITIES

### Extra-Curricular, Fine Arts and Special Activities

- Library, laboratory, dance, drama, band, choir, sports and fitness activities, nutrition programs, extracurricular activities and field trips, before and after school programs, and other special activities are allowed, with optimal spacing where possible.
- Schools will follow the updated [Return to Sport Protocol](#) and [Performing Arts Guidelines](#).

### Meals and Nutrition Programs

- Schools will ensure students are following safe food handling guidelines when preparing food.
- Elementary schools will continue to have students eat meals/snacks within their classrooms.
- Schools will ensure that students follow safe practices when eating (seated, hand hygiene, cleaning and sanitizing of surfaces, etc.).
- Public Health continues to advise against sharing food, utensils, or other supplies in the classroom, lunchroom and cafeteria.



- School wide or classroom meals may resume with food in individual servings, with precautions for safe food handling.

### **School Events**

- Assemblies, events and large gatherings may be allowed based on the size, layout and needs of each school. This is dependent on the percentage of students at the school who are absent due to illness.

## **LEARNING DELIVERY OPTIONS**

- Chinook School Division has expanded our distance learning through the Chinook Cyber School as an option for Chinook students in grades 1-12 for the 2021-22 school year.
- The option to transfer to the Chinook Cyber School was made available for students enrolled in Chinook schools and residing within the boundaries of the division.

## **PUBLIC HEALTH INFORMATION**

### **Vaccinations**

- Public Health recommends that every eligible person in Saskatchewan receive a completed vaccine series, as this is one of the most effective ways to protect ourselves and our community from COVID-19.
- The Saskatchewan Health Authority may also continue to offer school-based vaccination clinics.

### **Rapid Testing**

- Rapid tests are currently available to Chinook staff and they are encouraged to self-screen daily and test when they have symptoms or are identified as close contacts.
- The Government of Saskatchewan has implemented a rapid test self-administration program for families and students in the province, with test kits available for pick up at several community locations, including schools.

**We will be prepared to increase protective measures in individual schools or division-wide, as necessary to mitigate the risk of COVID-19 and will continue to follow the recommendations by the provincial government, local Medical Health Officer and Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA).**

If you have any questions regarding protective measures at your school, please contact your school administrator.