



August 26, 2021

Dear Chinook staff and families,

The new school year starts on September 2, 2021. We are all especially eager to welcome back students and staff to all of our buildings this year. Unfortunately we are still being impacted by COVID-19, which has required our board to examine our procedures and protocols for a safe return to school.

In creating our Return to School Plan, Chinook School Division reviewed the Government of Saskatchewan's *2021-2022 Safe Schools Plan* and [news release with updated recommendations](#) and we also consulted with the local Medical Health Officer. Public Health continues to provide health and safety information and guidance that we will use to maximize safe learning in our schools. The Chinook Return to School Plan is supported and has been approved by our Board of Education.

Beginning September 2, 2021:

- Students and staff should monitor for symptoms and stay home if they are ill.
- Many school activities will resume, including extracurricular activities.
- Masks are **recommended** for all PreK-12 students and staff in classrooms. Students and staff who wear masks will be supported.
- Masks are **required** for all PreK-12 students and staff on school buses and in hallways, washrooms, and common spaces when other classes are present.
- Masks are **required** for all visitors, including parents/caregivers.
- Protective measures may be increased in individual schools or division-wide, as necessary to mitigate the risk of COVID-19.
- Where possible, physical distancing will be maintained and large gatherings will be avoided.
- Cleaning, disinfecting and hand hygiene practices will be continued and enforced.
- Improvements have been made to the ventilation and air quality in Chinook schools.
- We will work with local Public Health personnel to facilitate and inform parents about access to vaccination and rapid testing. We will also continue to support Public Health with contact tracing and communication regarding COVID-19 cases in schools.

In consultation with local public health officials, we will continually monitor COVID-19 and variant cases closely and adjust mask requirements and other guidelines based on public health direction. The [Chinook Return to School Plan](#) is available for staff, parents/caregivers and the public on our website.

We are looking forward to a new school year with a continued focus on student learning, mental health and well-being. We want to ensure a smooth transition for everyone at the start of this new year, and we are committed to providing regular updates to parents. Thank you all for your patience and support.

Sincerely,

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

Mark Benesh  
Director of Education