



February 10, 2022

Chinook Families and Staff,

Tuesday's announcement by the Premier of Saskatchewan will bring changes to our approach for controlling the spread of COVID-19 in Chinook School Division. You can read the government news release [here](#).

Please review the following details so that you and your family can be prepared.

Proof of Vaccination

A province-wide public health order requiring proof of vaccination or a negative test before entering certain establishments will be lifted at midnight on February 13, 2022. The Ministry of Education has advised us that school divisions are expected to stop seeking proof of vaccination prior to individuals entering a school building after that date.

Effective February 14, 2022, the Administrative Policy requiring vaccination or proof of a negative test for employees of Chinook School Division and other individuals (AP 405.1 - Vaccination and COVID-19 Testing Protocols) will be rescinded and will no longer be in effect.

Public Health continues to strongly recommend those who are eligible get vaccinated as soon as possible. Those between the ages of 12 and 17 years are now eligible to get their COVID-19 booster shots.

Masking

The public health order requiring masking indoors will expire on February 28, 2022. The Government of Saskatchewan has informed us that they expect school divisions to remove their mask mandates when the public health orders are rescinded. Therefore, effective Tuesday, March 1, 2022, masks will no longer be required to attend or visit a school in our division.

However, Public Health and the provincial government are continuing to strongly recommend mask use for as long as individuals feel it is necessary, based on their own personal risk factors. Our schools will remain mask friendly schools – this means we will support all individuals who make a decision to wear a mask or to not wear a mask. Both choices will be supported.

We will be reviewing and updating the Chinook Return to School Plan. Masks will continue to be available at schools for personal use for individuals who choose to wear them. We remind everyone to continue basic hygiene practices like frequent hand washing, coughing into your elbow, distancing when possible and using rapid antigen tests and we will continue to follow our cleaning and sanitizing protocols along with practicing hand hygiene in schools. Most importantly, we ask you or your children to please stay home when sick.

We would like to thank you for your cooperation and support during this difficult period, as we worked to keep schools open for our children. Because of that cooperation, we were able to help ensure schools were safe and maintain in class learning as much as possible.

We ask that everyone continue to be kind and respectful of each other and honour the current measures in place until the changes take effect.

Sincerely,



Mark Benesh
Director of Education



Kim Pridmore
Chair, Board of Education