



LIGHT OF CHRIST

Catholic Schools

LOCCS

SAFE SCHOOLS

PLAN

2021-2022

Updated October 7, 2021

Please Note: Division plans will evolve as required by emerging health risk assessments.

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

As we prepare ourselves to begin the 2021/22 school year, the Board of Education would like to welcome all staff, students and families back to school. 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. To our students, families and communities; thank you for your patience, understanding and support over the last 18 months.

Saskatchewan entered the last phase of the Re-Opening Roadmap effective July 11, 2021 and, as of this date, all public health orders were lifted, including the province-wide mandatory masking order and the limits previously placed on events and gathering sizes. This means that COVID-19 restrictions are no longer in place. Public health officials have determined that it is safe for schools to resume in-class learning.

That being said, as we enter the new school year, 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. Our LMHO can occur, and put in place mitigation and response protocols that align with provincial standards.

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,



Cory Rideout
Director of Education

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Return to School Guidelines:

Light of Christ Catholic Schools will return to in-class learning in accordance with the province's Re-opening Roadmap and the guidance of our local medical health officials.

This plan is subject to change should provincial or local circumstances warrant enhanced restrictions. Restrictions could also be lessened or scaled back if the circumstances improve.

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

UPDATE – Public Health Order – Mandatory Isolation

PLEASE NOTE: The Mandatory Isolation Order is not retroactive. Students isolating prior to the date the Order came into effect may not return to school until the period of isolation has been completed.

On September 30, 2021, a new Public Health Order regarding Mandatory Isolation and Face Covering came into effect for the province of Saskatchewan.

This Order allows **fully vaccinated persons (those who have completed 14 days or more after receiving the second dose of a two-dose COVID-19 immunization series or the first dose of a single-dose immunization series)** to be exempt from the requirement to self-isolate if they are a close contact and provides exceptions from self-isolation for school-aged children, to reduce the societal burden associated with parental or guardian absence from work and to ensure children can continue in-person learning.

This is what the Order means for Light of Christ Catholic School Division:

Mandatory Isolation

1. Everyone who tests positive for COVID-19 must immediately self-isolate.
2. Everyone who is a close contact of an individual with COVID-19 must self-isolate for 14 days from the date of his or her last exposure to the virus.
3. Everyone who become symptomatic while in self-isolation must call HealthLine 811 and follow all HealthLine directives.

Exemptions

Staff and Students Who Are Fully Vaccinated:

1. Staff who are fully vaccinated at the time they become a close contact do not have to self-isolate and may attend work unless they develop symptoms. Staff are still required to follow all Division and school rules regarding safety, including wearing masks.
2. Students who have been fully vaccinated are not required to self-isolate unless they develop symptoms. They can come to classes, take school buses, and participate in extracurricular activities without restrictions. They will still be required to follow any Division and school rules regarding safety, including wearing masks.

Students Who Are Not Fully Vaccinated:

1. A student who is not fully vaccinated, and is a close contact of an individual with COVID-19 due to exposure, is exempt from self-isolation if:
 - a) The student does not have or display symptoms; **and**
 - b) The student wears a mask at all times while attending school. The mask may only be removed when the student is seated and eating or drinking.

2. A student who is not fully vaccinated:
 - a) Must attend only the school he or she usually attends.
 - b) May attend classes and ride the bus (while wearing a mask) but **may not** participate in extra-curricular activities.
 - c) Must follow the provincial self-isolation directions outside of school hours.

The exemption ceases if the student is exposed to a household case. At this point, the student CANNOT attend school and must-self-isolate. The exemption also ceases if the student displays COVID symptoms. At this point, the student must self-isolate, contact HealthLine 811 and follow public health requirements.

To view the Order of September 30, 2021, please go to <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/-/media/files/coronavirus/public-health-measures/public-health-orders/provincial-order---masking-and-isolation-september-30-2021.pdf>

We are now one month into the school year, and unfortunately COVID-19 is still present and highly prevalent in our communities. Please remain vigilant. If children are sick, please keep them at home.

The health and safety of our students, families and employees remains our priority. Thank you for your ongoing understanding and support. We will continue to update and inform you as more information becomes available.

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 required for **all students and staff.**
- Required to be worn on buses.
- Masks are required for visitors to the schools **and to our Division Office in North Battleford.**
- Masks must be worn when singing.
- Staff sharing office space must wear masks unless a distance of at least two meters can be maintained.
- Refer to Appendix B for masking requirements in regards to extra-curricular activities.

Exceptions

- For outdoor activities such as recess or outdoor gym classes, there is no requirement for students to wear a mask.
- Students do not have to wear masks while playing woodwind, brass, or other instruments operated by breath.
- Masks are not required when staff and students are seated and consuming food or beverage. In this scenario, appropriate distancing should be in place.
- Staff may remove masks while alone in an enclosed area.
- Staff may remove masks to speak if a distance of three meters from others can be maintained.

Please send your child with an adequate supply of reusable or disposable masks. A limited supply of disposable masks will be 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.
- Every school will have a sign-in procedure to ensure all visitors to the school are documented, along with staff entering the building on weekends.

Schools will:

- Follow existing notification processes related to communicable disease outbreaks.
- Identify an appropriate isolation area for anyone who is ill until they can leave the facility.
- 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

- Communications with families will primarily occur through EDSBY. When this is not possible, our staff will make every effort to contact families through other means.
- 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 and 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 Pilot Program

- Saskatchewan is developing a rapid test self-administration pilot to gauge the demand and uptake for self-administered rapid tests for families who may wish to screen for COVID-19 on an ongoing basis.
- The pilot program would see rapid tests provided to families through their schools, along with instructional information on how to properly self-administer the rapid tests.
- Information regarding the rapid test self-administration pilot for families will soon be provided to school divisions for distribution to families.
- It is anticipated that rapid tests for the pilot program will be allocated to areas of the province where COVID transmission is highest.
- While the recommendation to seek testing and stay home at the first-sign of any symptoms will continue, the pilot 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 required to wear masks.
- Bus drivers will provide principals and the school division with accurate lists of students riding each bus.
- Bus drivers will implement seating plans on buses.

- 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 must 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.
- Schools will continue to maintain a sign in/sign out procedure for all non-school based staff and visitors.

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 within the parameters of LOCCS Safe Schools Plan.

Dance, Drama, Band, Choir

- Regular activities may resume within the parameters of LOCCS Safe Schools Plan.

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 in the fall within the parameters set out in this plan.
- **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.)

Self-isolation in Schools

In the event of contact with a positive case, a flow chart (Appendix C) provides a visual of the steps to consider and implications for students as noted in the updated Public Health Order.

Assessment of Positive COVID-19 Cases

- Public Health will assess if the positive case is a student or staff member and if they attended school while infectious (potential exposures).
- Public reporting of cases in schools will continue to be available at Saskatchewan.ca.

Contact Notification

- Public Health will continue to notify schools of potential exposures and work with the case and school to identify affected classrooms or other settings such as bus routes.
- Public Health will provide communication for affected classrooms that schools will disseminate through their existing distribution lists.
- Public Health communication will use template letters as notification to parents and guardians of the exposure in the school setting that will include guidance on self-monitoring, exemptions from self-isolation, testing and vaccination.

Outbreaks in Schools

If a Medical Health Officer (MHO) declares an outbreak in a school setting, Public Health will notify the school and will provide communication to go to the entire school that the school will disseminate through existing distribution lists.

- MHOs may order to implement specific outbreak control measures.
- Public disclosure of outbreaks in schools will continue to be available on Saskatchewan.ca.

The Ministry of Health and MHOs will continue to monitor school case rates and transmission patterns.

Students Concerns

[Student is a Close Contact of Someone with COVID-19](#)

Please note: if a student is identified as a close contact outside of the school setting, families MUST notify the school principal.

Fully Vaccinated Student

Students who are fully vaccinated at least 14 days before the contact are exempt from self-isolation.

They can return to school without any restrictions, except those imposed by school and Division rules and other provisions of the Public Health Order.

This means fully vaccinated students must wear masks indoors except while consuming food and beverage, participating in athletic or sports activities for the duration of the sport or activity, or taking part in a band program. They do not have to wear masks outdoors. Proof of vaccination will be required.

Students Not Fully Vaccinated

Students who are not fully vaccinated (ie. who do not have any vaccine or who have only one dose of a two dose vaccine) may attend school provided that they do not have or display COVID-19 symptoms. These students are subject to the following conditions:

- They must only attend the school they ordinarily attend.
- They must always wear masks, including when participating in athletics, band, and when outdoors.
- They must not participate in extra-curricular activities and must leave the school when classes have ended.

The exemption ceases if the student displays COVID-19 symptoms. At this point, the student must self-isolate, contact HealthLine 811 and follow public health requirements.

Students with Mask Exemptions for Medical Reasons

If a student who has a mask exemption in place, and is using some form of accommodation, is deemed a close contact, the situation will be assessed on a case-by-case basis. Options will be considered and approved by a Medical Health Officer.

Staff Concerns

[Staff Requirement to Self-isolate](#)

All staff must self-isolate if they are diagnosed with COVID-19. Staff who are close contacts may be able to return to work depending on their vaccination status:

Staff Fully Vaccinated

Staff who are fully vaccinated at the time they have close contact with an individual with COVID-19 are not required to self-isolate unless they have symptoms. They can come to work with out restrictions except those imposed by school or Division rules and other provisions of the Public Health Order. Proof of vaccination will be required.

Staff Not Fully Vaccinated

The exemptions that apply to students who are not fully vaccinated do not apply to staff. If staff are in close contact with a person who has COVID-19, they must self isolate.

The Right to Ask Questions

The current Public Health Order makes a distinction between what is required by those who have been fully vaccinated and what is required by those who have not. These distinctions affect both students and staff.

Therefore, staff, students, and parents/guardians may be asked to provide the information necessary for the school division to be able to properly apply the provisions of the current Public Health Order. Acceptable documents to provide proof of vaccination are included in Appendix D.

Other Items

Photographs

- Individual photos may occur with distancing in place.
- Group photos with masks down cannot occur.

Vaccinations

High community vaccine uptake is key to protecting children ineligible for a COVID-19 vaccine. Anyone turning 12 this year and all those who are 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.
- Once vaccines are approved and widely available to children under the age of 12, recommendations regarding masking and other measures in schools will be revisited to factor in increased immunity within the student population.
- 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

- The collaboration between the Saskatchewan Health Authority and schools will continue and will reflect the needs of the school as required.
- All public health agencies respond to localized outbreaks of transmittable diseases like influenza during the course of a year. Public health will continue monitoring and responding to localized COVID-19 outbreaks.
- COVID-19 testing will be available. Testing locations and hours may depend on local rates of transmission and demand.
- Contact tracing is a common practice for disease investigation and will continue for COVID-19.
- Cases and close contacts who are not fully immunized will be advised by public health officials.

- Notifications from our Medical Health Officer will be provided through the schools too:
 - Staff and parents/guardians of student in an affected class, **and**
 - Staff and parents/guardians of students in the entire school

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

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.
- ALL visitors, athletes, and coaches must wear masks.
- Masks can be removed for on-court competition but must be worn while off the court (on the benches, in the stands, etc.).
- Officials are required to wear masks.
- Local officiating should be promoted.
- Upon arrival, all guests must sign-in at the designated facility.
- No canteens or booths shall be in operation at this time.
- Any students who have been identified as a close contact must provide proof of full vaccination to continue to participate during isolation time.

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.
- Masks are required when travelling on a school bus and in division owned vehicles.

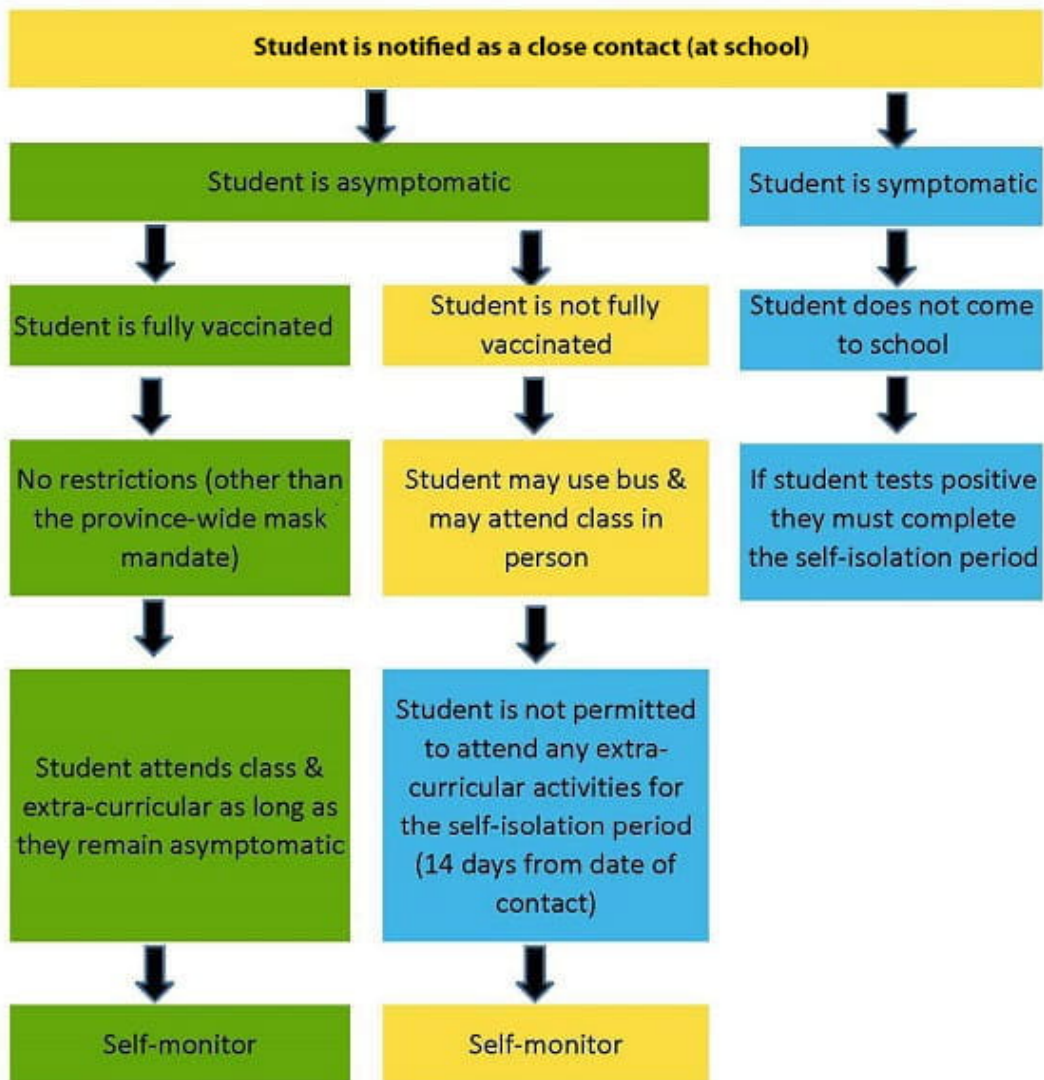
Outdoor Activities:

- There are currently no masking requirements when participating in outdoor activities; however, when possible, social distancing should be followed.

Appendix C:

Saskatchewan Schools: Student Close Contact Protocol

Province-wide mask mandate applies to all students per new masking order



saskatchewan.ca



Appendix D:

Proof of Vaccination

Proof of Vaccination may be submitted through the following options:

- A copy of the card received when vaccination was given. This is acceptable if there is no question of identity or concerns about authenticity of the document.
- A printout from MySaskHealthRecord confirming vaccinations.
- Any proof of vaccination originating from a system provided by the provincial government.
- A letter from a doctor, pharmacist, or SHA official.

Use of Information Gathered

- Schools will use the information gathered only for the purpose for which it is intended.
- The school/Division will not keep a copy of vaccine verifications.
- The information will be kept for only so long as it is needed. Once there is no longer a reason to distinguish between those who are vaccinated and those who are not, the information will no longer be required and will be safely disposed of.