

September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Dear Parents:

As we look forward to the second month of the school year, the health situation in our schools allows us to make some adjustments to our initial plan. Today we would like to outline the expansion of people who will be allowed into schools as well as some school and community program expansion. These adjustments have been approved by local Public Health officials, and we believe we can maintain the levels of safety for students and staff with these changes in place.

### **Essential Visitors**

The following groups and individuals are allowed in Prairie South Schools effective October 1<sup>st</sup>:

- School students and staff
- Parents as necessary in individual circumstances
- SCC volunteers when specifically supporting LIP projects
- Family Outreach workers
- Emergency Services Personnel – police, fire, ambulance, social workers
- Division administrative and learning staff
- Autism Support workers
- Mental Health workers
- SWIS Settlement workers
- Public Health/Homecare workers
- Wascana Rehabilitation Centre support workers
- Hunger in Moose Jaw workers
- Delivery staff (school deliveries only)
- Contractors (by appointment only)

### **Preschools / Playschools**

In the event that a school is normally a host to a community based or community run preschool or playschool, and if there is a dedicated space for this purpose, these partnerships may begin again in October after consultation with the school principal. No sharing of space or materials is allowed between the preschool/playschool and any Prairie South program. Preschool/playschool children will need to be dropped off and picked up outside the school entrance and parents will need to adhere to established COVID guidelines.

### **Prekindergarten**

Prekindergarten nutrition programming may resume in accordance with the guidelines in Re-open Saskatchewan, Workplace Food and Accommodations Guidelines. The designated staff member shall serve all food, and children and staff are not to share food or drink. Virtual family events for Prekindergarten are permitted however physical gatherings continue to be suspended.

## **Mask Protocol**

Over the past week, through a review of mask use with school staff, the Chief Medical Health Officer and local Public Health officials, we have determined that the current protocol continues to be appropriate. As a result of feedback regarding the need for occasional mask breaks, we have incorporated this into the protocol at the discretion of the classroom teacher.

Continuing with students in cohorts, hand hygiene, cleaning and limited physical contact are critical elements of school safety in 2020-2021 regardless of mask protocol. Mask protocol represents a minimum expectation – visitors, staff and students may mask in other circumstances.

<b>Group</b>	<b>Mask Protocol</b>
Grades PreK to 3 Students	Masks are not required. Parents may choose to provide masks for their children and school staff will support their use as practical during school hours.
Grades 4-12 Students	Masks are required during indoor transitions (hallways, bathroom visits, etc.) and on the school bus. Masks are required in classrooms where 15 or more staff and students are present. Teachers may choose to offer “mask breaks” when all present in the classroom are working independently at their desks.
Grades PreK to 3 Classroom Staff	Masks are not required in the classroom. Staff may choose to wear a mask. Masks are required during indoor transitions (hallways, bathroom visits, etc.)
Grades 4-12 Classroom Staff	Masks are required during indoor transitions (hallways, bathroom visits, etc.). Masks are required in classrooms where 15 or more staff and students are present. Teachers may choose to offer “mask breaks” when all present in the classroom are working independently at their desks.
Classroom Staff Working with Multiple Cohorts	Masks are required during indoor transitions (hallways, bathroom visits, etc.). Masks are required in classrooms where 15 or more staff and students are present. Teachers may choose to offer “mask breaks” when all present in the classroom are working independently at their desks.
Non-classroom staff and visitors to the school	Masks are required when students are present in common areas and during indoor transitions. Masks are required in classrooms when visiting multiple student cohorts however the teacher may choose to offer “mask breaks” when all present in the classroom are working independently at their desks.
Outdoors	Masks are not required outdoors.
Gymnasiums	Physical education teachers are planning for activities where physical contact can be reduced. During these activities, masks are not required in gymnasiums.

## **Mask Exemptions**

1. In circumstances where students of any age require physical support, PPE (including masks) may be used at the discretion of the student support team planning for that student.
2. Students or staff with a medical condition that makes mask use inappropriate or unsafe are exempt from this protocol with written permission from their doctor.
3. In the case of Practical and Applied Arts curricular spaces where the use of a mask creates a safety hazard, masks are not required.

As promised last week, we will have some additional information on extra-curricular opportunities for students in the coming days.

Thank you,



Anthony D. (Tony) Baldwin  
Director of Education



Robert Bachmann  
Chair, Board of Education