

Prairie South Schools Mask Protocol Updated 18 April 2021

Preamble

This update to the Prairie South mask protocol is based on information received from the Government of Saskatchewan, the Saskatchewan Health Authority, local Public Health staff and a review of safety process compliance.

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. COVID Variants of Concern are more easily transmitted than the original strain of COVID, and heightened attention is required related to masking at this time. Mask compliance is required by all staff, students and visitors as a condition of being in a school in Prairie South.

Only non-medical and cloth masks that fully cover the face from below the chin to the bridge of the nose are allowable. “Gaiter” masks, bandanas and hard plastic masks are not acceptable.

Protocol

Group	Mask Protocol
Grades PreK -12 Students	Masks are required in all classrooms and other learning spaces including gymnasiums, during indoor transitions (hallways, bathroom visits, etc.) and on the school bus. “Mask breaks” indoors are not allowed.
All School Staff	Masks are required in all classrooms when students or other staff are present and during indoor transitions (hallways, bathroom visits, etc.).
Visitors to the School	Masks are required at all times.
Outdoors	Masks are not required outdoors when students remain in their classroom cohorts.
Mask Exempt Students	Students with a medical condition that makes mask use unsafe may be exempt from parts or all of this protocol with written permission from their doctor. Staff who are working with unmasked students are required to wear a medical grade disposable blue mask and a faceshield. Individual circumstances will determine whether mask exempt students attend school in person or remotely.
Mask Exempt Staff	Staff with a medical condition that makes mask use unsafe may be exempt from parts or all of this protocol with written permission from their doctor. Under no circumstance is any staff member to attend work unmasked without prior written consent from the Superintendent of Human Resources.

Exemptions

1. In circumstances where students of any age require additional support, additional PPE is to be used at the discretion of the student support team planning for that student.
2. School activities that preclude masking for safety reasons are not allowed.