



August 14, 2020

Dear Living Sky School Division Families:

Re: Update to Return to School Plans – Mask Protocol

During the August 11th provincial press conference related to school opening, the Chief Medical Health Officer provided guidance for school divisions exploring measures in Level 2.

After further consultation with our regional public health team this week, LSSD Board of Education came to a consensus to approve the use of masks within our schools. We made the decision to implement these additional safety measures to enhance provisions already in place to protect students and staff.

The following mask protocol will be implemented:

| Group | Mask Protocol |
|---------------------------|---|
| All Students | All students will be required to wear a mask on buses. |
| 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 to 12 Students | Masks are required where physical distancing is not possible. This means masks must be worn upon entry to or exit from the school, while in classrooms, hallways or common areas when 2 metres of physical distancing is not possible. Masks are not required for outside activities as long as physical distancing is in place. |
| All Staff | All staff are required to wear masks where physical distancing is not possible (some masks will be provided). |

There will be opportunities in school for students to learn about the proper way to wear, remove and store masks. There will be times during the day, when possible, for outside learning and play so students can have breaks from wearing a mask. Teachers may allow students to take their masks down for a while when students are front facing and working from their desks.

A supply of disposable face masks will be available for all students and will be provided on the first day of school (on buses for those students who ride). Students are also encouraged to bring their own non-medical cloth masks. Mask guidelines can be found in the Re-Open Sask Plan here:

<https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/health-care-administration-and-provider-resources/treatment-procedures-and-guidelines/emerging-public-health-issues/2019-novel-coronavirus/re-open-saskatchewan-plan/guidelines/cloth-mask-guidelines>

Students who require a medical exemption from wearing a mask may make an application to the school principal. Please note that students and staff who prefer not to wear a mask will not be exempt. The mask protocol is a safety measure for all students and staff, so only medical exemptions will be available.

All protocols, including masks, will be re-evaluated as the medical situation in Saskatchewan evolves. We will continue to communicate with you on a regular basis.

Thank you for your continued patience as we prepare to restart school in September.

Sincerely,



Ronna Pethick, Board Chair



Brenda Vickers, Director of Education

P.S. Attached is a resource page with links to articles and videos with tips on practicing mask wearing, particularly for younger students.