

Dear Parents/Guardians,

LPSD continues to plan for the safe return of our students and staff. As we do, we continue to be supported by both provincial Ministries of Education and take our guidance from the Chief Medical Health Officer in Saskatchewan.

Over the last week, Alberta and Saskatchewan have announced that students from Grades 4-12 should wear masks in order to minimize the spread of COVID-19 in schools. The use of masks in grades 4-12 aligns with our primary goal of keeping staff and students safe through the reentry process and will allow us to continue delivering the high quality education that you have come to expect from our schools.

With the support of masks and PPE being provided by the Provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan, the Board of Trustees for LPSD has motioned to approve the use of masks within our schools. The degree of mask use within LPSD schools to start the school year has been established, however, this direction may change over time based on emerging evidence around virus transmission or any future direction from the Chief Medical Health Officer.

What does this mean for your child and what should you expect as a parent/guardian?

- All students and staff in LPSD will receive two reusable cloth face masks when they arrive at their school on September 1st. The provision of two masks will allow students to have one at school while their second mask is being cleaned at home.
- All students in grades 4-12 will be required to wear their masks where physical distancing is not possible. This means masks must be worn upon entry to or exit from the school, in classrooms, hallways or common areas. However, students and staff may remove their masks once they are seated in their classroom and engaged in individual work.
- Masks are not required for outside activities or play.
- Students in pre-kindergarten to grade 3 will be provided with masks and encouraged to wear them while in the areas mentioned above, but not required to do so.
- All LPSD students who require transportation, regardless of age will be required to wear a face mask while on the school bus.
- Students who require a medical exemption from wearing a mask may make an application to the school principal to do so.
- All parents/caregivers and visitors to LPSD schools will be required to wear a mask.

The LPSD Board of Education and Administration feel that the above measures will reduce the risk of illness for both students and staff and ensure our schools are able to stay open.

We appreciate the feedback that we have received since releasing our plan. This step is about prevention but it is not the only step we have taken. I would encourage you to read the <u>Reopening</u> <u>LPSD Schools Plan</u> to see all the other measures the Board of Education has undertaken to enhance the safety of our schools. We look forward to continuing to keep you informed of any changes to our plans for school re-entry throughout the remainder of August.



Sincerely yours,

Kelim

Todd Robinson Director of Education