



LLOYDMINSTER PUBLIC SCHOOL DIVISION

Safe School Plan
2021-22

RETURN TO SCHOOL

The start of the school year is upon us and we are eager to welcome your children back to school! We are excited to bring back extra-curricular programming, regular high school scheduling, and returning to classrooms that promote group work and collaborative activities.

Last week we communicated our conditions for the return of students and staff to LPSD schools. Unfortunately over the last week, the prevalence of COVID-19 in our community and region has increased significantly. This change in the number of active cases, and the test positivity rate has led our Local Medical Health Officer (LMHO) to advise school divisions in Lloydminster to add additional protective measures to their Return to School plans.

We understand there are strong opinions on masking and other covid mitigation strategies in our community. Our schools are home to families on both sides of these issues and as a result, depending on your personal views, we may have to agree to disagree on some of the measures in our plan.

LPSD will continue to seek guidance for health-related decisions from our LMHO and make decisions out of genuine concern for the health and safety of Lloydminster Public students and staff. We will continue to meet regularly with our local health team and adjust our plan based on their recommendations.


Thank you for your support and cooperation over the last year. Although we are all growing weary of covid and yearn for a return to a pre-pandemic state, we aren't there yet. The following layers of protection have been added to our Return to School Plan which is available on the LPSD website.

when a student or staff member contracts COVID-19, Public Health will complete an investigation and provide guidance to families on whether or not they are advised to self-isolate. All of the changes mentioned above will mitigate the potential impact of these investigations and lead to less disruptions in the learning process for our students.

We understand that the timing of these changes is less than desirable and we will work with all our families as we transition to these new expectations. Masks will be available on all buses and at all schools on Wednesday morning.

Thanks in advance for your cooperation!

Sincerely,



Todd Robinson
Director of Education

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SAFE ATTENDANCE

Health officials continue to advise us all to self-monitor for symptoms and to stay home if we are feeling unwell.

Masking

- Masks must be worn in Elementary schools, including College Park. Masks must be worn in common areas such as:
 - Hallways
 - Libraries
 - Lunch Rooms/Cafeteria's
 - Washrooms
- Masks can be removed when students are in their classroom, seated at their desks, and engaged in individual work.
- Masks are not required for Physical Education.
- Masks must be worn by all staff and students regardless of age when on LPSD school buses.
- All visitors to LPSD schools must wear a mask.
- Masks are highly recommended to be worn in Middle Schools, LCHS, and Avery Outreach schools.

Illness in Care

- Students and staff who are ill will be asked to stay home.
- Parents will be asked to pick up children who may become ill during the school day.

Communications

- Communications with families will primarily occur through school email and the EDSBY parent portal where available.
- When this is not possible, our staff will make every effort to contact families through other means.
- It is important that parents/caregivers provide/update their child/children's schools with accurate contact information.

SAFE ATTENDANCE - CONT'D

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

Transportation

- Additional cleaning and disinfection will remain in place and become standard practice. Disinfection will take place after morning and afternoon routes on all LPSD busses.
- Students will be required to register for bussing and be assigned a seat. Students are asked to sit only in this designated seat.
- All staff and students must wear a mask while on a school bus.

SAFE ACCESS

School-Day Structure

- Schools will return to a traditional timetable structure.
- Schools will continue to maintain a sign-in/sign-out procedure for all non-school based staff, visitors, and contractors.
- All visitors and contractors will be asked to complete a Covid-19 self-screen prior to entering an LPSD facility and wear a mask.

SAFE FACILITIES

School-Day Structure

- Staff assumes the shared responsibility of assisting one another in maintaining healthy and safe workplaces.
- A school-wide plan for enhanced cleaning and disinfection will continue to be in place.
 - Cleaning and Disinfection Guidelines
- All schools will ensure handwashing facilities are operational and fully stocked with required cleaning products (soap and paper towels).

SAFE CLASSROOMS

Hygiene

- Staff will promote appropriate hand hygiene at all times.
- Hand sanitizer stations will be available in each classroom and the main entrance of all schools and school division buildings.

SAFE CLASSROOMS - CONT'D

Physical Contact

- Although there are no guidelines for physical distancing for students and staff, schools will do their best to space students appropriately in classrooms and common areas.
- Schools will be asked to manage the size of indoor cohorts beyond core instruction.
- Directional markings will be installed in all schools to assist with traffic flow in hallways.

Instruction

- Full Saskatchewan curriculum will be taught by teachers.
- The Provincial Education Interim Plan will provide the required guidance for this area.

Assessment

- Provincial exams are optional for the 2021-22 school year.

SAFE ACTIVITIES

Sports and Fitness Activities

- Resume regular activities under the guidance of the LPSD Return to School Plan.

Dance, Drama, Band, Choir

- Resume regular activities under the guidance of the LPSD Return to School Plan.

SAFE ACTIVITIES - CONT'D

Extra-Curricular Activities and Field Trips

- Resume regular activities under the guidance of the LPSD Return to School Plan.
- Spectators must wear a mask for all indoor activities.
- All coaches and athletes are strongly recommended to wear a mask while in common areas.

Nutrition Programs

- Resume regular activities under the guidance of the LPSD Return to School Plan.
- Staff will promote best practices in areas where children are preparing food and/or eating (seated, hand hygiene, cleaning and sanitation of food surfaces, etc).

OTHER ITEMS

Vaccinations

- Staff are encouraged to avail themselves of all Ministry of Health recommended vaccinations.
- Staff are encouraged to discuss the efficiency of recommended vaccinations with their personal health care providers.

Contact Tracing and Quarantining

- The collaboration between the Saskatchewan Health Authority and schools will continue and will reflect the needs of both Public Health and LPSD.

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 as seamlessly as possible is critical.
- We will be ready to move from a return to normal to a more restricted model if circumstances warrant us taking this action.

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