



REGINA CATHOLIC SCHOOLS RETURN TO SCHOOL 2021-2022

Division plans will evolve as required by emerging health risk assessments.



Know, Love, Serve

*Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm.
He said to them, "Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?" ~ Mark 4:39-40*

September 1, 2021



Introduction:

The Regina Catholic School Division (RCSD) is committed to working closely with the Ministry of Education and the Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA) to ensure that safety protocols are implemented to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission during the 2021-2022 school year. This includes regular consultation with Regina Medical Health Officers Dr. Maurice Hennink, Dr. Lanre Medu and Dr. Tania Diener, for support and guidance in the creation and execution of our local plans. Their in-depth knowledge of the Regina medical health risk assessment informed this plan and our ongoing efforts to respect and apply provincial guidelines through a local lens.

This guide will be reviewed on an ongoing basis as the division regularly consults with the Local Medical Health Officers for the most current risk assessment.

RCSD will continue to provide students quality educational opportunities that are faith-based, student-centered, and results-oriented. We will work collaboratively with our employee groups honouring provincial and local contracts while providing flexible and fluid protocols, procedures, and delivery models to address COVID-19 concerns. Student and Staff mental health and well-being will be emphasized as one of three provincial priorities for the 2021-2022 school year.

There are lessons to be learned from the 2020-21 school year. While many are excited to leave much of that experience behind, we are committed to self-reflection to ensure valuable insights and new ways of addressing our academic and well-being goals. Student and staff safety remains our priority.

Government Guidelines:

The Government of Saskatchewan released its initial [2021-22 Safe Schools Plan](#) in July and provided an update on [August 20](#). The following are areas of focus:

- **Safe Attendance**
- **Safe Transportation**
- **Safe Access**
- **Safe Facilities**
- **Safe Classrooms**
- **Safe Activities**
- **Other Items**

Masking:

At the recommendation of the Local Medical Health Officers, masks will be **required** for all students, staff, and visitors in elementary schools. Approximately 80% of the students in our elementary schools are not fully vaccinated, the majority of those currently ineligible for a vaccine. In consultation with our Local Medical Health Officers, we believe this is the most prudent step to maintain the general health of this vulnerable population and to minimize disruption to in-person learning. Students will not be required to wear masks on the playground.

High school students, staff, and visitors are **strongly encouraged** to wear masks at all times. Our Medical Health Officers indicate the goal for full vaccination in this age group is 80-85%. The current rate in Regina for high school age students is approximately 60%. The SHA's vaccination campaign will continue to target this population.

Activity-specific masking guidelines are outlined in other parts of this document.

Government of Saskatchewan 2021-22 Safe Schools Plan

Safe Attendance

Illness in Care

- Students, staff, families who are ill should stay home.

Communications

- Multiple modes of ongoing communication should occur.

All staff and students who are feeling unwell and/or exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 will remain home.

Staff Wellness

- All staff should direct any inquiries regarding personal wellness to immediate supervisors and/or Human Resource Services to ensure individual needs are met in a timely and appropriate manner.
- Best practices for hand hygiene, sanitization, and social distancing as per Saskatchewan Health Guidelines are strongly encouraged.

Reporting

Absenteeism rates greater than or equal to 10% must be reported to public health immediately.

Human Resources

RCSD's [Administrative Application 7900 Staff COVID-19 Absence Guidelines](#) provides guidelines for precautions and procedures. The protocols provided in the administrative application will continue to be adjusted as necessary following the general direction of the Government of Saskatchewan and the specific risk assessment of the Regina Public Health team.

RCSD will ensure that all protocols and procedures for employees are within the expectations of provincial and local contract agreements.

Employee Assistance Program

RCSD will continue to support all employees with its Employee Assistance Program. Updates appear on the Human Resources website for all staff to access.

- STF Members – Members Family Assistance Plan offered by ComPsych 1-833-485-4245 or 1-800-667-7762.
- Non-STF Members Family Assistance Plan offered by ComPsych call 1-833-515-0766
- Catholic Family Services – 306-525-0521 cfsregina@cfsregina.ca
- Mental Health – 1-306-786-0558
- Canada Crisis Line: 1-800-668-6868
- SaskHealth Hotline: 811
- www.Saskatchewan.ca/Coronavirus
- 211 Saskatchewan <https://sk.211.ca/>

Safe Transportation

Transportation

- Cleaning and disinfection should remain in place and be a standard practice.

RCSD will work with the new transportation provider, First Student, to continue enhanced cleaning and disinfecting protocols. Attendance and seating plans will be maintained.

All students and staff must wear a mask while riding the bus.

Government of Saskatchewan 2021-22 Safe Schools Plan

Safe Access

School-day Structure

- No prescribed school-day structure is required.

Safe and orderly environments have always been a primary consideration for operational plans. RCSD will follow the guidelines and recommendations of the Chief Medical Health Officer and our local Public Health officials to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19. With support from division personnel, every school will develop safety and emergency plans specific to COVID-19 and appropriate for the school community (staff, students, parents), the facility, and its playground/outdoor spaces.

School-based administration will work within the planning framework for two days in August as part of the Catholic Leadership Annual Summer Seminar (CLASS) to finalize each school's safety plans. Students will arrive September 2 or 3 utilizing staggered starts for kindergarten through grade 12 to provide small group orientation sessions to accommodate updated education pieces around safety for students and parents.

Arrival and Departure to School

Current start and end times will be retained as per each school's bell schedule. Schools' site-specific plans will consider the following:

- Outdoor Spaces/Playgrounds
- Busing Arrival/Departure Protocols
- Parent or Guardian Drop-off/Student Arrival
- Student Entrance to Building
- Student Exit of Building
- Student Integration and Inclusion
 - St. Luke School
 - EFAP and FIP classrooms- student integration
 - Miller High School – Alternative Education

Main Office/Visitors

- Registration applications will occur online. Schools will schedule virtual or face-to-face registration interviews.
- Main Office Safety Considerations:
We are excited to welcome families back to our school community. Pre-scheduled visits allow us to engage fully in dialogue to support your families' needs and to avoid unnecessary crowding in any areas of our facilities.
- Family Backpack & drop-off Classroom Visit – will not be held this school year.
- Form Collections:

- Digital collection whenever possible

Recesses/Breaks and Mealtime

- Recesses/Breaks will be adjusted as needed to fit the needs of the school.
- Lunchroom Considerations
 - Assigned eating areas.

Assemblies, Liturgies, Staff Meetings

- Assemblies, liturgies, and meetings may be adjusted based on size, layout, and needs of the school.

Safe Facilities

Facilities

- School-wide plan for enhanced cleaning and disinfection should continue to be in place.
 - Ensure hand washing facilities are operational (hot and cold running water) and stocked (soap and paper towel).
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- Adequate disinfectant and hand sanitizer as well as cleaning products and supplies will be readily available in all facilities.
 - Schools have standard HVAC air flow systems that are regularly maintained and windows are opened when possible
 - Visitors – all visitors will comply with school specific guidelines for wellness and be familiar with the safety protocols (hand washing, limited access to school and school community).
 - Signage will promote the monitoring of health and protocols/procedure for staff, students, or visitors who begin to feel unwell.
 - Community Joint Use/Facilities - The school division will continue to work with our Regina Public partners, as well as with the City of Regina around the SHA guidelines to examine access and safety protocols around joint use agreements and community booking protocols.
 - Water fountains will be capped – water bottle fill stations will be used.

Washroom Procedures

- Assigned washroom locations for pods/classrooms of students.
- Increased cleaning/disinfecting by caretaking staff – morning, noon, end of day.
- Use of paper towels as opposed to hand dryers.
- School procedures in place to limit the number of students in the washroom.

Government of Saskatchewan 2021-22 Safe Schools Plan

Safe Classrooms

Hygiene

- Promote appropriate hand hygiene.

Physical Contact

- There are no guidelines for physical distancing for students or staff.

Instruction

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

Assessment

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

Instruction

Schools will reopen with face-to-face instruction, the full Saskatchewan curriculum, and in alignment with the new Provincial Education Interim Plan. The Saskatchewan Curriculum will be implemented in high schools through a five-period instructional day with early bird and lunch hour course offerings across two semesters.

RCSD Student Services will initiate the Student Duty to Accommodate process in collaboration with parents and doctors for students requiring accommodations due to health and medical concerns. RCSD Learning Online will support any fulltime remote learning needs of students as part of this process.

Teachers will continue to be supported with professional development in best practice instruction and assessment and the use of 21st Century Technology such as Microsoft Teams, *Flipgrid*, *Seesaw*, and *MyBlueprint*.

RCSD will work with families to provide assurance children will be returning to safe classrooms. Much was learned from the 2020-2021 school year and RCSD is prepared for fluid transition between instructional models as may be required and directed by the Government of Saskatchewan and the SHA.

Classrooms at all grade levels will maintain current seating plans to ensure accuracy should contact tracing be necessary.

Safe Activities

Sports and Fitness Activities

- Clubs, activities, sport teams, and extra-curriculars are permitted. Inter-school sports and activities will resume.

Dance, Drama, Band, Choir

- Resume regular activities.

Extra-Curricular Activities and Field Trips

- Resume regular activities with some adjustments at the elementary level based upon the age and vaccination eligibility of participants.
- Single day and overnight field trips will be considered in accordance with the RCSD Administrative Applications.

Nutrition Programs

- Resume regular activities. Children are not involved in the preparation of food.
- Continue good practice of controlling areas where children are eating (seated, hand hygiene, cleaning, and sanitation of food surfaces, etc.).

[Extracurricular Activities and Intramurals](#)

RCSD recognizes that extracurricular activities are a critical part of a school's culture and identity. RCSD will continue to follow the recommendations of the Government of Saskatchewan and the Saskatchewan Health Authority as they pertain to extracurricular activities as well as the Saskatchewan High School Athletic Association (SHSAA) and the Regina High Schools Athletic Association (RHSAA), and the affiliated sport governing bodies.

At the elementary level, masking is required for indoor extracurricular activities.

Fine Arts Programming

RCSD is committed to continue to provide quality fine arts education which adhere to current Government of Saskatchewan and SHA guidelines which allow the return of all activities.

At the elementary level, masking is required for indoor fine arts activities.

Other Items

Vaccinations

- Staff assume the shared responsibility of assisting one another in maintaining healthy and safe workplaces.
- Staff are encouraged to avail themselves of all Ministry of Health recommended vaccinations.
- Staff are encouraged to discuss the efficacy of recommended vaccinations with their personal health care providers.
- Anyone turning 12 this year and older is currently eligible for vaccines.

Testing

- Early case finding remains a cornerstone of the COVID-19 response. Where cases are identified either in a classroom, school, or bus, public health recommends testing for all exposed persons, including those who have received a completed vaccine series. The drive-through test site remains open at this time, and testing options in additional communities, and should the new COVID-19 case trend dictate this, onsite testing may be provided.
- 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.
- There will be no requirement to report test results in this self-administered rapid test pilot.

Contact Tracing and Quarantining

- The collaboration between the Saskatchewan Health Authority and schools will continue and will reflect the needs of the school as required.
- When cases are identified in schools, schools and school divisions will continue to be notified by public health officials in order to inform students and parents. Contact tracing will continue to occur, and unvaccinated close contacts may be directed to self-isolate as deemed appropriate by public health.

Rapid Testing (current information from the Government of Saskatchewan)

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.