



# 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***

February 8, 2022

# RCSD Return to School Plan

## Version History

Version	Date	Change Description
2	Sept. 3/21	Added required masking in high schools, no rapid test pilot sites.
3	Sept.21/21	Added required masking in all facilities, updated rapid testing section.
4	Feb. 8/22	Removal of public health order for mandatory masks at indoor public places effective March 1, 2022 Proof of vaccination or negative COVID test removed effective February 14, 2022

## 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 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:

On February 8, 2022 the Government of Saskatchewan released its latest [Public Health Order](#) update:

- Mandatory masking for indoor public spaces will be removed at 12:01 a.m. on Monday, March 1, 2022.
- Proof of vaccination or a negative test removed at 12:01 a.m. on Monday, February 14, 2022

## 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**

Mass illness related to absenteeism rates of 10% or more of the student school population must be reported to Public Health immediately as per Saskatchewan Health Authority Communicable Disease Surveillance Policy.

#### **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](mailto:cfsregina@cfsregina.ca)
- Mental Health – 1-306-786-0558
- Canada Crisis Line: 1-800-668-6868
- SaskHealth Hotline: 811
- [www.Saskatchewan.ca/Coronavirus](http://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 transportation provider, First Student, to continue enhanced cleaning and disinfecting protocols. Attendance and seating plans will be maintained.

## 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.

#### *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.
- 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.
  - Semester I - Course Finalization was adjusted according to risk assessments and operational considerations.
  - Semester II - TBD

#### **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 21<sup>st</sup> 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.



## *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.
- 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.

### **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.

## *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.
- Anyone turning 5 this year and older is currently eligible for vaccines.
- Third doses are available to anyone 12 years and older effective February 8, 2022.

### ***Testing***

- Use of rapid tests – information from the Government of Saskatchewan website.

### ***Mandatory Self - Isolation***

- Immediate self-isolation is required for anyone who tests positive for COVID-19 through a PCR or at-home rapid antigen test.

### ***Graduations***

Graduation planning will be based on current provincial guidelines and subject to change – contingency planning recommended.