



# COVID-19 PARENT INFORMATION GUIDE

SEPTEMBER 2021



Welcome Back! There are many lessons to be learned from the 2020-21 school year. Staff and student safety remains our priority and as per the Government of Saskatchewan Safe Schools Plan 2021-2022, we will focus on the following:

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

## SAFETY & HEALTH MEASURES IN SCHOOLS

### Masks

- At the recommendation of the Local Medical Health Officers, masks will be required for all students, staff, and visitors in elementary schools.
- Please see the *RCSA Return to School Plan* for activity-specific masking guidelines.

### Safe Facilities

- Caretakers will disinfect high touch areas throughout the day.

### Safe Classrooms

- Classroom routines will include:
  - Hand hygiene
  - Disinfecting shared learning materials
  - Disinfecting shared spaces
  - Staff and student mask use is mandatory

### Safe Transportation

- Busses will follow an enhanced cleaning protocol of disinfecting high-touch surfaces (for example, handrails, seatbacks).

### Safe Access

- We are excited to welcome families and visitors back to our school community according to safe school protocols.

### Safe Activities

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

## HELPING STUDENTS TO KNOW WHAT TO EXPECT

Talk to your child to help them prepare for the first day of school:

- Sanitize hands before entering school and classrooms (hand hygiene stations will be at entrances and in all classrooms)
- Do not share food
- Personal items/toys should be left at home
- Cough and sneeze into the elbow
- Tell staff if feeling sick at school
- Some recess/breaks may be at different times to reduce hallway traffic for operational purposes

## SAFE ATTENDANCE: PARENTS' ROLE IN KEEPING SCHOOL SAFE

### Screen for symptoms every morning

- Please see the SHA webpage [When to Get Tested](#) and the [COVID-19 Self-Assessment Tool](#) if your child has any symptoms.

### Stay home when sick or if in contact with someone who is sick

- Students, parents, or family members must not enter school if they feel sick, have symptoms of COVID-19, or have been advised by SHA to remain home

### Entering the school

- Refer to your school's plan to find out how the school and parents can work together. We wish to create a welcoming environment and pre-scheduled meetings allow us to be fully present and attentive to the needs of your child.

### Pick up students promptly if they show symptoms at school

- You will be asked to pick up your child from school immediately if they show symptoms and call 811 to be assessed for a test.
- The school must be able to contact you at all times during the school day. Please ensure the school has your most up-to-date contact information, including a back-up contact. The student will be asked to wear a mask (if safe to do so) and will be supervised in the Illness in Care room until you get there.

### When unsure – please contact us

- We will navigate these very different times together as things evolve.
- School Website and contact information <https://www.rcsd.ca/school/StMary>

# École St. Mary School

## COVID-19 PARENT INFORMATION



### Welcome back!

We look forward to a great 2021-2022 school year. We are excited to be starting the year with in-person learning. We are committed to following school division and SHA guidelines to keep everyone safe and mitigate the spread of COVID-19. This comprehensive information plan is intended to provide information regarding the safe return to schools.

### RETURN TO SCHOOL Virtual Communication

In lieu of a Backpack Drop-off or Parent Information Night, teachers will communicate their classroom procedures, expectations, and safety protocols with students as part of the staggered start and virtually to parents when students return.

### STAGGERED STARTS

Students will have a staggered start for the first two days of school on September 2<sup>nd</sup> and September 3<sup>rd</sup>. All students will attend on Tuesday, September 7<sup>th</sup>.

Thursday, September 2<sup>nd</sup> – Families with last names beginning with A to L only

Friday, September 3<sup>rd</sup> – Families with the last names beginning with M to Z only

### ARRIVALS & DEPARTURES

All busses will drop off students at St. Mary from 8:45-8:50. Students will assemble in cohort zones at the beginning of the day and will enter the school through designated entrances at the 8:55 bell. At the end of the day, students will gather in designated locations at the front of the school to board busses. The staff parking lots North and South of the school will continue to be closed for the upcoming school year to ensure safe arrival and departure of students.

### RECESSES, BREAKS & MEALTIME

Recesses and lunch will be staggered to minimize the number of students on the playground. At the end of recess, students will return to their designated classroom zone to begin a staggered entrance. Students will eat lunch in their own classroom.

### CLASSROOM PROCEDURES

Teachers review COVID-19 safety protocols with students as part of classroom orientation and share this information virtually with families. Classrooms will follow return to school guidelines as provided from SHA and Regina Catholic Schools. Mask use, hand hygiene and cleaning protocols will be similar to last year. Teachers will communicate regularly through online digital platforms such as Seesaw, Microsoft Teams, and/or email.

### GATHERINGS: ASSEMBLIES, CSCC, PARENT MEETINGS

Assemblies and large school gatherings will be virtual until further notice. Virtual parent meetings will also be encouraged. CSCC meetings may be a combination of virtual and in-person.

## MAIN OFFICE PROCEDURES

We are excited to welcome families back to our school community. Pre-scheduled and virtual visits allow us to engage fully in dialogue to support your families' needs and to avoid unnecessary crowding in any areas of our facilities. Please contact the office to schedule virtual or in-person meetings. Registration applications will continue to occur online for the 2021-2022 school year.

## ILLNESS IN CARE ROOM

- The principal or designate shall, as soon as reasonably possible:
  - a. call parents or caregivers to pick up and remove their child from the school to a location where the child may self-isolate, and instruct them to call 811 as soon as possible;
- Please see [Administrative Application Illness in Care and Students with COVID-19 Symptoms in School](#)