

Parent Update

September 8, 2021



Hello everyone,

I just wanted to take a moment to update you regarding the government announcement on Friday, September 3rd with respect to the latest Provincial COVID-19 protocols.

As we have previously mentioned, we rely on and follow the advice of Dr. Deena Hinshaw, the Chief Medical Officer of Health, for her expertise and guidance with respect to the pandemic. In the September 3rd announcement, while masks were mandated in all indoor public spaces and workplaces, they were not mandated in schools. As a result, Chinook's Edge School Division will not be mandating our staff or students to wear masks in schools. We simply do not feel we have the necessary medical expertise to justify going beyond what has been recommended by Alberta Health Services (AHS).

It is important to note, however, that we fully support those students and staff who choose to wear a mask in their school. Also, if the Provincial protocols change, or if AHS has advised us that a particular school or community requires a modified approach, we will respond swiftly with additional measures that they direct.

As well, the front doors will be open at our schools, but parents and visitors are asked to make a prior appointment with the school office. All parents and visitors to the school will be required to wear a mask.

A friendly reminder that one of the most effective ways to reduce the spread of any illness, including COVID-19, is for students and staff who are sick to stay home. Please complete the [Alberta Health Daily Checklist](#). We will continue to send students and staff home if they are exhibiting symptoms upon arrival at school or if symptoms develop throughout the school day.

More detailed information about our COVID-19 protocols can be found [here](#).

For your awareness, we received historic levels of feedback from parents particularly with respect to mask usage. I sincerely thank those parents who were able to find time to share their views.

In closing, I have had the distinct pleasure of visiting many of our schools at the start of the year. It is so uplifting to see the positive energy that our students and staff bring each and every day. We continue to truly appreciate what is possible when we can come together and learn inside any one of our Chinook's Edge Schools.

Yours truly,

Kurt Sacher
Superintendent, Chinook's Edge School Division