

Parent Update

November 10, 2021



Dear Parents,

I am writing to inform you that earlier today the Board of Trustees for Chinook's Edge School Division (CESD) made a decision to support our recommendation for a **temporary [COVID-19 Harm Reduction Administrative Procedure](#)** in response to the current public health crisis.

This procedure will outline new expectations for all **CESD staff, contractors, practicum students, and volunteers** to either provide proof of full vaccination for COVID-19 or commit to regular rapid testing to verify that they are COVID-19 negative, effective January 10, 2022.

This decision was made after careful thought and much deliberation over a wide variety of factors.

The key factors are as follows:

- 1) COVID-19 recently became defined as a workplace hazard from Occupational Health and Safety, and they state that having a fully vaccinated staff is an effective and prudent response.
- 2) In October, Alberta Health and Alberta Education issued a [renewed call](#) to all school authorities to implement a mandatory vaccination protocol.
- 3) Insurance providers have expressed concern with liability related to COVID-19 which may cause an increase in premiums for school divisions without a harm reduction procedure for staff.
- 4) From a legal standpoint we are expected to do everything considered reasonable and prudent with respect to the safety of our students and our staff.
- 5) We believe these steps will help preserve in-person learning and uninterrupted operations of our schools.

We continue to strongly encourage all staff to become fully vaccinated for their safety and the safety of others. That said, COVID-19 testing options exist for those staff members who have chosen not to become vaccinated at this time.

It is important to note that this new procedure only applies to employees, contractors and volunteers. **It does not apply to parents, visitors, or students.** There are other risk mitigation factors that are in place such as limiting capacity and access to the building for parents and visitors that still apply. This administrative procedure is temporary and will be reviewed as needed.

We greatly appreciate everyone's ongoing efforts to make our school division as safe as it can possibly be.

Kurt Sacher
Superintendent of Schools