

Date: February 8, 2022

Parent/Guardian Letter Regarding Provincial Shift to Managing COVID-19

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As you may already be aware, Premier Kenney has just announced important changes to provincial health requirements and COVID-19 measures.

On February 8, 2022, Premier Kenney announced the government's decision to take steps to begin relaxing COVID-19 protocols. The premier stated that health restrictions were never intended to become a permanent part of our lives, and current vaccination and viral treatment programs have positioned Albertans with the ability to live with this virus.

A summary of the government's three step shift to managing COVID as it relates to Horizon school division practices is outlined below.

Step 1

Effective Monday, February 14, 2022

- Masking requirements will be removed for all children and youth in schools and on school buses.
 - At this time, provincial masking requirements will still be required for adults including teachers, other school staff, school bus drivers, and parents while in schools or on school buses.
 - Students wishing to continue to wear masks will have that decision respected, and will not be stigmatized for their choice.
- Capacity limits have been removed
 - As such extra-curricular spectator limits are removed.
- At this time expectations around daily screening continue to be in place. This means that sick children should stay home and those who test positive for COVID should isolate for either 5 or 10 days dependent on vaccination status.

Step 2

Effective March 1

- Remaining provincial school requirements will be removed.
- Daily screening will no longer be required.
- Limits on social gatherings will be removed.
- Provincial mask mandate will be removed for all adults.

Step 3

- To be determined based on hospitalization rates continuing to trend downwards

We recognize the negative impact this pandemic has had on our children, our staff, and our school community. As we transition to a new normal we will continue to balance the safety and mental wellness of students and staff. I encourage everyone to continue to exercise good judgement and make good decisions so that the reduction of health measures are not short lived.

If you have further questions or comments regarding how provincial health measures impact your child(ren)'s education please contact your school.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W. Tymensen', written over a horizontal line.

Dr. Wilco Tymensen
Superintendent