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**To:** Horizon Families & Staff  
**From:** Kevin C. Garinger, Director of Education  
Jim Hack, Board of Education Chair  
**Cc:** Horizon Board of Education  
**Date:** August 25, 2021  
**Re:** Horizon School Division 2021-2022 COVID-19 Strategy

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Good evening Horizon Families and Staff,

We hope that you have enjoyed a very well-deserved and restful summer break. We are excited to welcome students back for the first day of school on September 1, and we look forward to a new school year full of opportunities, learning, and growth. Unfortunately, this year will not be without its challenges related to the COVID-19 pandemic, and we will once again require the efforts of our schools and communities to keep one another safe.

We continue to encourage vaccination for all eligible students, staff, and families – including anyone born in 2009 or prior. We encourage you to visit [COVID-19 Vaccine](#) for more information on where to access vaccination in Saskatchewan.

Today, we are sharing our 2021-2022 COVID-19 Strategy for Horizon School Division. This strategy is based on the recommendations found in the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education's [guidance to school divisions from August 20, 2021](#), and the provincial 2021-22 Safe Schools Plan.

[Horizon School Division's 2021-2022 COVID-19 Strategy can now be found on our website](#). Within this plan, we will begin the 2021-2022 school year at Level 1. The main measures found in Level 1 of this plan include:

## **Access to School**

Students, staff, and visitors who feel ill or have any symptoms of COVID-19 are required to stay home.

- Before coming to school each day, families should help their child conduct a [COVID-19 Self-Monitoring checklist](#) to determine whether they can attend or should stay home.
- Staff must complete a [COVID-19 Self-Monitoring checklist](#) before entering their facility.
- School visitors must complete the [COVID-19 Access Screening Tool](#) prior to entry.

## Masks

Horizon School Division promotes a **MASK-FRIENDLY** environment for all students and staff. Masks have been proven to prevent the transmission of the virus, and so we encourage students and staff to wear them at all times.

***These guidelines may be revisited to respond to varying levels of concern in our schools or communities.***

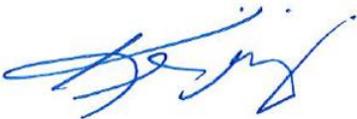
- Masking in Horizon Schools will be required in common areas – such as hallways, washrooms, lunch rooms, and libraries, when single cohorts are not able to be maintained.
- Masks are mandatory on buses. Masks are mandatory on other modes of school transportation for all students, staff, and visitors, as per the Horizon School Division COVID-19 Strategy.
- Once students are seated in their classrooms, it is appropriate to remove masks. Masking is encouraged in these environments but not required. This is subject to change based on the level of concern in the school or community.
- For outdoor activities such as recess or outdoor gym classes, there is no recommendation for students to mask, at this time.

## Cohorts and Grade Groupings

- Schools will group Pre-Kindergarten to Grade 6 students together in cohorts as a safety strategy, since children under 12 are currently not eligible for COVID-19 vaccinations. A student's assigned class will be considered their cohort.
- Schools will keep Grade 7 to Grade 12 students in no more than three student groupings for instruction during the course of the day.
- Physical contact will be minimized and physical distancing of 1 metre will be maintained, where possible. Sanitization of surfaces and equipment will continue, and proper hand hygiene will continue to be promoted and followed.
- Educational trips, noon period clubs, and intramural sports will be allowed to occur within designated cohorts.

Thank you for your patience as we have worked to finalize this plan. Please do not hesitate to reach out to our office by phone (306 682 2558) or email ([horizon@horizonsd.ca](mailto:horizon@horizonsd.ca)) with questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Kevin C. Garinger, B. Ed, M.A. Ed  
Director of Education/CEO  
Horizon School Division No. 205



Jim Hack  
Board of Education Chair  
Horizon School Division No. 205