



Phone: 1-306-682-2558
Toll-free: 1-866-966-2558
Fax: 1-306-682-5154
10366 8th Avenue
PO Box 40
Humboldt, Saskatchewan
S0K 2A0

To: Horizon Families & Staff
From: Kevin C. Garinger, Director of Education
Jim Hack, Board of Education Chair
Cc: Horizon Board of Education
Date: September 16, 2021
Re: New Saskatchewan Public Health Order

Good evening, Horizon Families and Staff.

Earlier today, [the Government of Saskatchewan announced a number of additional health measures for our province](#), including mandatory masking in indoor public spaces.

Masking in Schools & Facilities

Schools and other school division facilities fall within the government mask mandate. Therefore, **all Horizon School Division students and staff will begin masking while indoors on Friday, September 17.**

Masks will, of course, be removed for eating or drinking while in schools and facilities. In addition, within the government order, “exempt from the masking order will be indoor youth athletics for those under the age of 18 while they are actively engaged in athletic activity. Masking in venues hosting youth athletics will remain required for general entry and exit into the facility, for athletes and spectators.”

Many peer-reviewed studies have shown that masks are both safe and effective to limit the spread of COVID-19. As adults, we have a major impact on how our children feel about wearing masks in school and other public settings. As we learned last year, children are often very understanding when we explain that wearing a mask will keep us and our friends from spreading germs. We have also learned that our children are resilient, adaptive, and want to do what’s right. In so many ways, Horizon students have been heroes throughout the past 18 months.

We will be publishing updates to our [2021-2022 COVID-19 Strategy](#) on [horizonsd.ca](#). This document will continue to evolve, so please continue to refer to our website for the most up-to-date information.

Vaccination

We continue to strongly encourage vaccination for all eligible students (born in 2009 or prior), staff, and caregivers. Vaccination protects ourselves and those around us from this virus, including those children 11 and under who are not yet eligible for vaccination.

We want to thank each one of you for the continued care, attention, and patience you have shown throughout this pandemic. We had certainly hoped that we would be out from under the shadow of COVID-19 for this school year. Luckily, we know what we can do to get this current wave under control. We know we will rise to the occasion, once again, to protect our incredible students, families, staff, communities, and health care workers in the weeks ahead.

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