



NORTHERN LIGHTS SCHOOL DIVISION No. 113

Bag Service #6500

La Ronge, Saskatchewan

S0J 1L0

Telephone: (306) 425-3302

Fax: (306) 425-3377

February 27, 2022

Good morning,

The Government of Saskatchewan announced changes to the public health orders.

Northern Lights School Division will continue to follow the direction of our expert health officials and the Government of Saskatchewan.

- NLS#113 will no longer require Proof of Vaccination or Negative Testing **effective 12:01 AM, February 28, 2022.**
- NLS#113 will no longer require Mandatory Masking **effective 12:01 AM, February 28, 2022.**

The Northern Lights School Division COVID-19 Strategy will cease, effective 12:01 AM, February 28, 2022. Proper hand hygiene, and sanitization will continue to be best practice for Northern Lights.

All schools will continue to have the support and engagement of local Medical Health Officers (MHOs) in responding to any public health risks in school settings, including COVID-19. These MHOs can provide locally tailored approaches to respond to the presence of COVID-19 in school settings, should that occur, and put in place mitigation and response protocols that align with provincial standards.

The following effective layers of protection are recommended by the MHO, to ensure that our schools remain safe and healthy learning environments for our northern children and staff.

1. Schools are strongly encouraged to remain mask-friendly environments. That means that all staff and children should be encouraged to continue wearing masks while they are at school. Evidence shows that masks reduce the spread of COVID-19 and other viruses such as influenza and rhinovirus, and are still recommended by experts including the Canadian Pediatric Society and The Public Health Agency of Canada.
2. We encourage all staff to get vaccinated (including with a booster dose of COVID-19 vaccine), to ensure that they have the best protection against the currently dominating Omicron variant of concern.
3. Everyone should continue monitoring themselves and their children for COVID-19 symptoms, and to stay home if they are sick.
4. Staff and families are encouraged to test for COVID-19 regularly using rapid antigen test kits. If a child tests positive for COVID-19 on either a PCR or rapid antigen test, they should still self-isolate, even if it is not a requirement under a Public Health Order.
5. Schools should continue to monitor absenteeism and report suspected outbreaks to the Office of the Medical Health Officer, to ensure that the appropriate outbreak measures are implemented (as per the Saskatchewan Public Health Act, 1994 and the province's Disease Control Regulations).
6. Other health measures that we know work, must continue. These include hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette, and environmental cleaning.

The current approach is subject to change if there is change in risk or epidemiology.

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Jason Young

Director of Education

Northern Lights School Division#113