

COVID-19 PARENT INFORMATION GUIDE

August 26, 2020

Prevention with a Purpose : Returning to School



Students will return to school with safety and health measures for everyone. These measures may aid in reducing the risk of COVID-19.

We all can play a role learning together, staying safe and keeping apart. LCSO will teach students safe practices using Prevention with a Purpose.

Safety and Health Measures in Schools

Cleaning

- Caretaker time has been increased in our schools to allow for increased cleaning;
- Caretakers will disinfect high touch areas throughout the day;
- Division and School wide procedures in place on shared materials use and cleaning;
- Illness in Care Room(s) have strict procedures on use and cleaning;
- Classrooms have materials and furnishings removed to aid in better distancing and improve cleaning routines;
- Classrooms routines will include:
 - Hand washing and/or sanitizing;
 - Entering/exiting school spaces;
 - Assigned eating spaces;
 - Staggered recess or rotating recess spaces;
 - Disinfecting before sharing a device;
 - Physical distancing when possible;
 - Mask use and storage

Inside our School

Management of physical distancing may include:

- Staggered transition times between classes to avoid crowded hallways and bathrooms
 - Floor markings (distancing reminders and direction of travel)
 - Designated doors and boot rooms
 - Maximized space between seating
 - Students, and staff, in cohort groups
 - Dividers when at tables
- *When physical distancing is not possible, extra emphasis will be on hand hygiene, covering your mouth with elbow, cleaning and disinfecting and wearing a mask.

Cohort

A cohort is a group of students and staff who remain together. The size of the cohort will depend on the school size and schedule.

Safety within a Cohort

Limiting exposure within a cohort

- Students and staff will stay within their designated and consistent assigned spaces
- High school students will eat lunch in their cohort group
- Minimized of the number of staff movement within multiple cohorts.

Safety on the bus

Limiting exposure on the bus

- Students will be assigned consistent seating and will be asked to sit with siblings
- Buses will be sanitized between trips
- All students will be asked to wear masks

Safety built into the school schedules

Limiting contact and exposure by staying in a small group, instead of mixing with the whole school

- Students will remain in a consistent cohort
- Student schedule stays consistent for whole term
- Homeroom cohort in elementary
- High School class cohorts are designed by course selection

Significant reduction in School Visitors

Limiting exposure from visitors and guests

- Parents will be asked to avoid visiting the building or if necessary, schedule visits
- A record (sign-in) of all visitors must be kept
- If invited, a visitor will be: asked to use the self-screening tool, stay in assigned area, make an appointment, reduce the number of touch points and wear a mask.
- Presentations/Assemblies will be virtual

PARENTS' ROLE IN KEEPING SCHOOL SAFE

Screen for symptoms every morning

- Use the [assessment tool](#) to check every morning to see if your child has any symptoms.

(<https://public.ehealthsask.ca/sites/COVID-19/>)

- If "yes" is answered to any of the questions, your child (and possibly siblings) must stay home
- Call 811 to be directed. A recommendation or negative test will allow your child(ren) to return to school.
- Please notify the school as soon as possible of a positive test for COVID-19
- All communications are confidential.
- If a case is of COVID-19 is suspected or confirmed, the Division will take direction from public health

If a student has symptoms related to a pre-existing condition

- Talk to our principal to see if anything needs to be in place at the school.
- If tested for COVID-19 and is negative, these symptoms can be considered a baseline and no future testing is necessary unless symptoms change.

Taking your child to school

If your child normally takes the bus, consider driving/walking them directly to school if you can. This will help with physical distancing on the bus. Please use school drop off zones.

Stay home when sick or if in contact with someone who is sick

Students, parents or family members, and staff must not enter school if they:

- Feel sick or have symptoms of COVID-19
- Had close contact with someone who is ill with a cough and/or fever
- Have anyone in the household who has been in close contact in the last 14 days with someone who is being investigated or confirmed to have COVID-19
- Have traveled outside of Canada in the last 14 days
- Had close contact with someone who has travelled outside of Canada in the last 14 days and who is ill.

You are legally required to isolate for a minimum of 14 days, if you have symptoms (unrelated to a pre-existing medical issue) or if you test positive for COVID-19

Safety for students with underlying medical conditions or family risk factors

Parents should consult their child's physician to consider the health risks and discuss what will best support the child. Contact your child's school to discuss available options and support.

Pick up students promptly if they show symptoms at school

- You will be asked to pick up your child from school immediately if they show symptoms and call 811 to be assessed for a test.
- The school must be able to contact you at all times during the school day. Please ensure the school has your most up-to-date contact information, including two back-up contacts. Students who are ill will be asked to wear a mask (if safe to do so) and will be supervised in an isolated room until you get there.

Avoid entering the school

To reduce exposure, all parents, guardians and visitors are asked to avoid entering schools. If a visit is necessary, schedule an meeting. If a visit is required, you will be asked to complete the self-assessment prior to entering and wear a mask.

When unsure – please contact us

We will navigate these very different times together as things evolve.

Sign up for your school newsletter at: www.lcsd.ca and like your schools Facebook page.

Keep a safe distance

To minimize contact please be mindful of keeping 2 meters from others who may not be in your child's bubble.

HELPING STUDENTS TO KNOW WHAT TO EXPECT

Your child may feel nervous about returning to school. There will be changes we can help prepare students for. Also, it will be important to focus on what will stay the same. Students will learn in class with their teacher and see friends. Your child's teacher(s) will send you a message in early September to welcome them and show them some special things about their class.

Talk to your child about some of the new health measures to help them prepare for the first day of school:

- Before school - review the Daily Screening Questionnaire every morning;
- Show them how to wear and store their mask;
- Plan to have mask(s) to wear during the day
 - On the bus
 - For entering the school (Gr4-12)
- Sanitize hands before entering school and classrooms (sanitation stations will be at entrances)
- Keep a distance between others and follow marks in hallways
- Do not share food or personal items
- Cover coughs and sneezes
- Tell staff if they are feeling sick
- Some recess/breaks may be at different times to reduce hallway traffic
- Stay in your cohort during class and lunch time to decrease contact with others
- Students who take the bus will have to sit in the same seat every day
- Students will continue to have assigned doors to enter the school



We will have a staggered entry for our students. This was done to ensure that we would have smaller groups in order for teachers and administration to go over new procedures and protocols due to COVID-19. The following is the schedule for entry:

- Last name: A-L on Tuesday, September 8th, 2020.
- Last name: M-Z on Wednesday, September 9th, 2020.
- Last name: A-L on Thursday, September 10th, 2020.
- Last name: M-Z on Friday, September 11th, 2020.
- All students begin on September 14th, 2020.
- Pre Kindergarten, Little Learners and Kindergarten each have their own start date; please contact the school if you are not sure.

We will begin learning instruction on your child's first day. The day will include classroom procedures, Prevention with a Purpose, and **LEARNING!!**



MASKS IN LCSD

In LCSD, students taking the bus will wear masks. All students in grades 4 to 12 will wear masks outside the classroom in common areas (hallways, buses, etc.) where 2m distancing may not be possible. Therefore, we will be asking these students to be vigilant about wearing their masks in specific areas and how to properly store their mask.

Please remind your child of proper mask usage:

- Wash/sanitize hands before donning mask
- Wash/sanitize hands after taking mask off
- Store in a container or plastic baggie.

Lloydminster Catholic School Division has **Prevention with a Purpose** which includes handwashing instruction. Teachers will be using this program to instruct prevention on a continual basis.

What if I do not have a mask for my child?

The schools will have 2 reusable masks for every student and some disposable masks available. Masks will be provided the first day or can be picked up ahead of time-check your schools pick up time.

Parents and guardians are asked to wash reusable student masks according to appropriate guidelines. [Here is more information](#) on mask etiquette and maintenance provided by the Government of Canada.

All staff members are also required to wear masks on buses and when working within a school facility when physical distancing, front facing instruction, or instruction approved by the MHO cannot be maintained.

HOW TO SAFELY USE A NON-MEDICAL MASK OR FACE COVERING

DO'S



DO wear a non-medical mask or face covering to protect others.



DO ensure the mask is made of at least two layers of tightly woven fabric.



DO inspect the mask for tears or holes.



DO ensure the mask or face covering is clean and dry.



DO wash your hands or use alcohol-based hand sanitizer before and after touching the mask or face covering.



DO use the ear loops or ties to put on and remove the mask.



DO ensure your nose and mouth are fully covered.



DO replace and launder your mask whenever it becomes damp or dirty.



DO wash your mask with hot, soapy water and let it dry completely before wearing it again.



DO store reusable masks in a clean paper bag until you wear it again.



DO discard masks that cannot be washed in a plastic-lined garbage bin after use.

DON'TS



DON'T reuse masks that are moist, dirty or damaged.



DON'T wear a loose mask.



DON'T touch the mask while wearing it.



DON'T remove the mask to talk to someone.



DON'T hang the mask from your neck or ears.



DON'T share your mask.



DON'T leave your used mask within the reach of others.

DO YOUR PART.

Wear a non-medical mask or face covering to protect others when you can't maintain a 2-metre distance.

NON-MEDICAL MASKS ARE NOT RECOMMENDED FOR:

- People who suffer from an illness or disabilities that make it difficult to put on or take off a mask
- Those who have difficulty breathing
- Children under the age of 2

DON'T JUDGE OTHERS FOR NOT WEARING A MASK.

Kindness is important as some people may not be able to wear a mask or face covering.

REMEMBER, wearing a non-medical mask or face covering alone will not prevent the spread of COVID-19. You must also wash your hands often, practise physical distancing and stay home if you are sick.



What if my child cannot or does not want to wear a mask? These situations will be assessed on individual basis and a medical note may be required. Please work closely with your school-based administrator to determine options for your unique situation.

Are students to wear masks at all times, like during recess and during lunch? There will be circumstances during the day where students will have to remove masks and physical distancing protocols are to be implemented during these times as much as possible.