

March 10, 2022

Dear Families,

As you are most likely aware, several health and safety restrictions will be lifted in schools immediately following the March Break. This announcement was made by the Chief Medical Officer of Health on March 9, 2022.

Please find below a brief overview of these changes, that come into effect on Monday, March 21, 2022.

MASKING

Students, staff, and visitors will no longer be required to wear a face mask on school buses or in schools.

Though masking will no longer be mandatory, we know that many students and staff may choose to continue to wear masks at times, or consistently for the remainder of the school year. We respect and appreciate the personal decision of students and staff in this regard, and will ensure that our schools are safe, respectful, welcoming, and inclusive places for all. Kindly note that all schools will have a supply of face masks readily available for student and staff use.

A reminder that under [current federal travel requirements](#), upon return from international travel, individuals must, wear a mask at all times when in public spaces (including schools and child care), maintain a list of all close contacts for your first 14 days in Canada, and monitor yourself for signs and symptoms of COVID-19.

CONFIRMATION OF DAILY SCREENING

Though students and staff will no longer be required to confirm completion of the daily COVID-19 self screen, it is important that families continue to perform the screen on a daily basis.

The [screening tool](#) has been updated and provides very detailed guidance on isolation requirements and it confirms an individual's ability to safely attend school. Please use the screen daily.

RETURN TO LARGER GROUP EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Our schools will gradually re-introduce assemblies, school-wide liturgies and prayer services, and other in-person activities with our school communities and families. We will continue to be thoughtful in our planning and look forward to welcoming our families back into our schools for in-person scheduled events in the near future. This will also include end of year celebrations and graduation.

Though some protective strategies are being lifted, we can confirm that the following health and safety measures will continue for the remainder of the school year:

Hand Hygiene and Respiratory Etiquette

Appropriate hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette will continue to be promoted and practiced throughout the school day.

Enhanced Cleaning and Disinfecting

Schools and school vehicles are expected to continue with enhanced cleaning protocols already in place.

Ventilation Measures

Significant improvements have been made to ventilation and filtration through the implementation of various measures across all schools, including improvements to existing ventilation systems, deployment of standalone HEPA filter units and other ventilation devices, upgrades to school ventilation infrastructure, and increased transparency for students, parents and staff. Further upgrades to optimize air quality will continue through implementation of ventilation improvement measures.

Updated Case and Contact Management Guidance

Further to the updates mentioned above, the Ministry of Health has updated guidance for close contacts in the community and in households:

- Asymptomatic individuals who are close contacts of a case or a symptomatic individual in the community are no longer required to isolate but must self-monitor for 10 days following last exposure. During the self-monitoring period, close contacts must wear a well-fitted mask in all public settings and avoid activities where they need to take off their mask (for example, playing a wind instrument in music class or playing high-contact sports).
- Asymptomatic household contacts of a case or a symptomatic individual are also not required to isolate if they are 17 or younger and [fully vaccinated](#); 18 and older and have already received their COVID-19 booster; or tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 90 days and have completed their isolation period. Asymptomatic household contacts who are not required to isolate are also required to self-monitor for 10 days following last exposure, as outlined above. Children under 5 who are asymptomatic household contacts are required to isolate for 5 days.

Finally, we fully understand that our staff, students, and families will accept these changes to varying degrees. We ask that everyone commit to showing compassion, empathy, and kindness as we transition to a more traditional approach to learning and teaching in our schools.

Let us work together as best as possible to ensure safe and welcoming spaces so that we may continue to live out our mission of learning together, striving for excellence, and being in service to God and each other.

I wish you and your families a restful, enjoyable, and safe March Break.

Sincerely,

Tricia Stefanie Welty

Director of Education