

Safe School Plan

2021-22 School Year
Parent/Caregiver Guide



**GREATER
SASKATOON
CATHOLIC
SCHOOLS**

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Introduction



Since March 2020, pre-kindergarten – Grade 12 education in Saskatchewan has seen many changes and challenges because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The sudden shift to online supplemental learning gave way to in-person learning for the 2020-2021 academic year. Students, families and staff from Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools had the monumental task of navigating a myriad of limits and public health restrictions to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19 and keep students and staff safe. The guidance and advice of local Medical Health Officers was, and continues to be, essential as the health and safety of students and staff continues to be our top priority.

As of July 11, 2021, all provincial pandemic public health orders have been lifted as laid out in the Re-Opening Roadmap. While this is both significant and exciting, our responsibility to adopt prudent measures in the unique environments present in the pre-kindergarten to Grade 12 sector remains.

Guided by the provincial 2021-22 Safe Schools Plan and the Saskatchewan Health Authority's Return To School Guidance for 2021-22, Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools has developed plans congruent with each of that plan's four levels:

Safe School Response Levels



Level 1: Full in-class learning

Pre-pandemic learning with some additional measures in place to ensure student and staff safety



Level 2: Full in-class learning with additional protocols

Measures such as use of masks, student cohorts, and limited community access to buildings may be initiated if advised by local MHOs



Level 3: Reduced in-class learning

A combination of in-person and online distance learning



Level 4: Distance learning for all students

Use of facilities for staff to be determined

Through consultations with local Medical Health Officers, it has been decided to start the year at Level 2. We will share plans for other levels with parents/caregivers if there is a need to change.

Division processes and protocols will be based on the provincial plan's categories:

- Safe Attendance
- Safe Classrooms
- Safe Access
- Safe Transportation
- Safe Facilities
- Safe Activities
- Other items

Recognizing additional student supports are needed, we have added Safe Supports.

All GSCS facilities will begin the 2021-2022 academic year in Level 2.

The relatively low level of in-school transmission last school year may indicate that the control measures in schools worked to limit viral transmission, implying that masking, enhanced hygiene, and physical distancing were effective.

Verbal comment from MHO

Should there be changes to the COVID-19 landscape in our communities or specific schools, GSCS is prepared to work with our local MHOs and the Ministry of Education to implement any additional public health measures. There is much reason for optimism as we enter the school year. As always, we must be ready to respond to a number of potential scenarios.

Each school will use the division plans and develop site specific protocols as needed.

The Saskatchewan Health Authority will continue their public health response and activities when a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19.

To start the school year, it is unlikely entire classes will be isolated when an individual in the class tests positive.

The school division will continue to work closely with SHA as they conduct their investigation to determine close contacts.

Class and school letters may be sent when a positive case is identified. Close contacts will require self-isolation for a period of time, and testing will be recommended.

Vaccination status and other factors (such as mask use) will affect who is considered a close contact. Because students born after 2009 are not eligible for vaccinations, they are more likely to be considered close contacts.

Plans will be re-evaluated mid-October in consultation with local MHOs.

"Anyone who is not fully vaccinated and has shared an indoor space with a case for a prolonged period of time (e.g., social gatherings, workplaces, etc.), without adhering to appropriate individual-level and any setting-specific risk mitigation measures."

Government of Saskatchewan website:
[What is a close contact?](#)

Level 2: Full in-person learning with additional protocols



Safe Attendance

- Students, staff, and visitors are required to:
 - Self-Screen using the [COVID-19 Health Screening Questionnaire](#) prior to entering all GSCS facilities.
 - Practice good hand hygiene.
 - Stay home when sick and return once symptom free.
- Students at school who are ill will be monitored by staff in a separate room and parents/caregivers called to pick up their child.
 - Staff monitoring an ill child should wear a medical grade mask and ensure proper hand washing hygiene. If it is safe to do so, children should be given a mask to wear until they are picked up from school.
- Staff will support students who need to be away from face-to-face classes.
- Teachers will use a Learning Management System (LMS) such as Google Classroom or Edsby during face-to-face instruction. Students and families should be familiar with the LMS in the event that distance learning needs to take place.
- Online education is available to families who choose this option **by August 30, 2021**. Contact your home school for details. A second online block from January to June 2022 will be available for those who register prior to Christmas break.

Level 2: Full in-person learning with additional protocols (cont'd)



Safe Classrooms

Masks

- **Elementary:**

- Masks are required indoors for all students, staff and visitors.
 - Staff may remove masks when working alone in a classroom or office.
- Masks are required while riding the bus.
- Masks are required for staff and students in Before and After School Programs.
- If students require a medical exemption, speak to your teacher or school principal.

- **High School:**

- Masks are required indoors for all students, staff and visitors.
 - Staff may remove masks when working alone in a classroom or office.
- If students require a medical exemption, speak to your teacher or school principal.
- MHOs will continue to monitor closely and will adjust guidance as needed.
 - We will re-evaluate mask use in schools in mid-October.
- Disposable masks will be available for those who do not bring their own.
- [The Government of Saskatchewan website has information on mask types and fit.](#)

Hygiene

- Promote appropriate hand hygiene.
- Hand sanitizer at entrances and in every classroom.
- Sharing of material is permitted as long as good hand hygiene is practiced before and after use. Disinfecting of shared materials is recommended when possible.
- **Instruction**
- Full Saskatchewan curriculum will be taught by teachers.

Level 2: Full in-person learning with additional protocols (cont'd)



Safe Access

Cohorts

- Student cohorts are recommended, particularly for elementary students at various times, such as recess or lunch time, depending on their local circumstances..
- Schools may choose to cohort students at various times, such as recess or lunch time, depending on their local circumstances.
- Efforts should be made to limit large group assemblies, particularly for elementary students.
- If mingling of classes is required for student instruction, teachers are to note interactions for contact tracing purposes.
- Staggered starts/ends/breaks are no longer necessary, but are encouraged at the school level as appropriate.(September staggered start days are approved.)



Safe Transportation

- Buses can run at full capacity.
- Bus seating plans are required.
- Masks are required for students riding buses.
- When weather permits, windows should be open to increase ventilation.
- Continued sanitization on a daily basis.



Safe Facilities

- Adequate soap and sanitizer must be available.
- School-wide plan for enhanced cleaning is in place focusing on high touch areas. Additional rotational caretaking support has been scheduled for each facility.
- Water fountains will continue to be out of service. Only water filling stations are to be used.

(continued on next page)

Level 2: Full in-person learning with additional protocols (cont'd)



Safe Facilities (cont'd)

- Plexiglass dividers are not required.
- Ventilation:
 - HVAC and air flow systems will maximize intake of fresh air in classrooms.
 - Opening windows when possible will help increase the flow of fresh air.
- Facility rentals will resume as normal.
- Follow any Public Health guidelines that are in place.



Safe Supports

Students with Intensive/Additional Needs

- Strategies will be in place for providing service or additional precautions for those with compromised immune systems.

Mental Health

- Mental health and well-being will be a focus within the Provincial Education Interim Plan.

Level 2: Full in-person learning with additional protocols (cont'd)



Safe Activities

- Sports and Fitness Activities: Resume regular activities
- Dance, Drama, Band, Choir: Resume regular activities with appropriate PPE.
- Extra-Curricular Activities and Field Trips: Resume regular activities.
- In-school presentations from external groups/organizations: Resume regular activities
- Mass/Divine Liturgy and other liturgical celebrations, in school and at parishes, may resume.
 - More than one school may attend the same Mass/Divine Liturgy if distancing between students from different schools can be maintained.
- CSCC meetings: Resume regular activities
- Community gatherings (such as welcome back breakfasts or BBQs): Suspend until further notice or advice from MHOs.
- Division and school professional learning can take place face to face.
- Sharing of food (including utensils and condiments):
 - Elementary students should not be sharing food/utensils/condiments until further notice or advice from MHOs.
- Hot lunches for students can resume.
- Congregated lunch rooms/areas:
 - Elementary students are to eat in their classrooms.
 - High school Students are able to access school cafeterias.
- Nutrition Programs:
 - Food service workers are required to wear masks.
 - Students are not to help prepare food.
 - Continue good practice of controlling areas where children are eating (seated, hand hygiene, cleaning and sanitation of food surfaces, etc.).

Level 2: Full in-person learning with additional protocols (cont'd)



Other Items

Vaccinations

- Staff assume the shared responsibility of assisting one another in maintaining healthy and safe workplaces and learning environments.
- Staff are encouraged to avail themselves of all Ministry of Health recommended vaccinations.
- Staff are encouraged to discuss the efficacy of recommended vaccinations with their personal health care providers.

Rapid Testing

- At this time, rapid tests are not available for students; GSCS staff will have access to rapid tests in each facility.













Contact Tracing and Self-Isolation

- The collaboration between the Saskatchewan Health Authority and schools will continue and will reflect the needs of each school as required.

Health Screening Questionnaire

All people entering schools must conduct a health screening before entering any GSCS school or building. If you have any of the following symptoms DO NOT enter the school or building. Stay at home until you are symptom free.

(For students unable to do their own assessment, parents/caregivers must answer questions for their children daily.)

| | | | |
|--|---|--|------------------------------------|
| Fever |  |  | Nausea/vomiting/ diarrhea |
| Cough |  |  | Unexplained loss of appetite |
| Shortness of breath/ Difficulty breathing |  |  | Loss of sense of taste or smell |
| Chills |  |  | Muscle/joint aches |
| Sore throat/ Painful swallowing |  |  | Conjunctivitis/ Pink eye |
| Runny nose/ Nasal congestion |  |  | Headache |
| Feeling unwell/ Fatigued |  |  | Dizziness |