

Safe School Plan

2021-22 School Year
Parent/Caregiver Guide

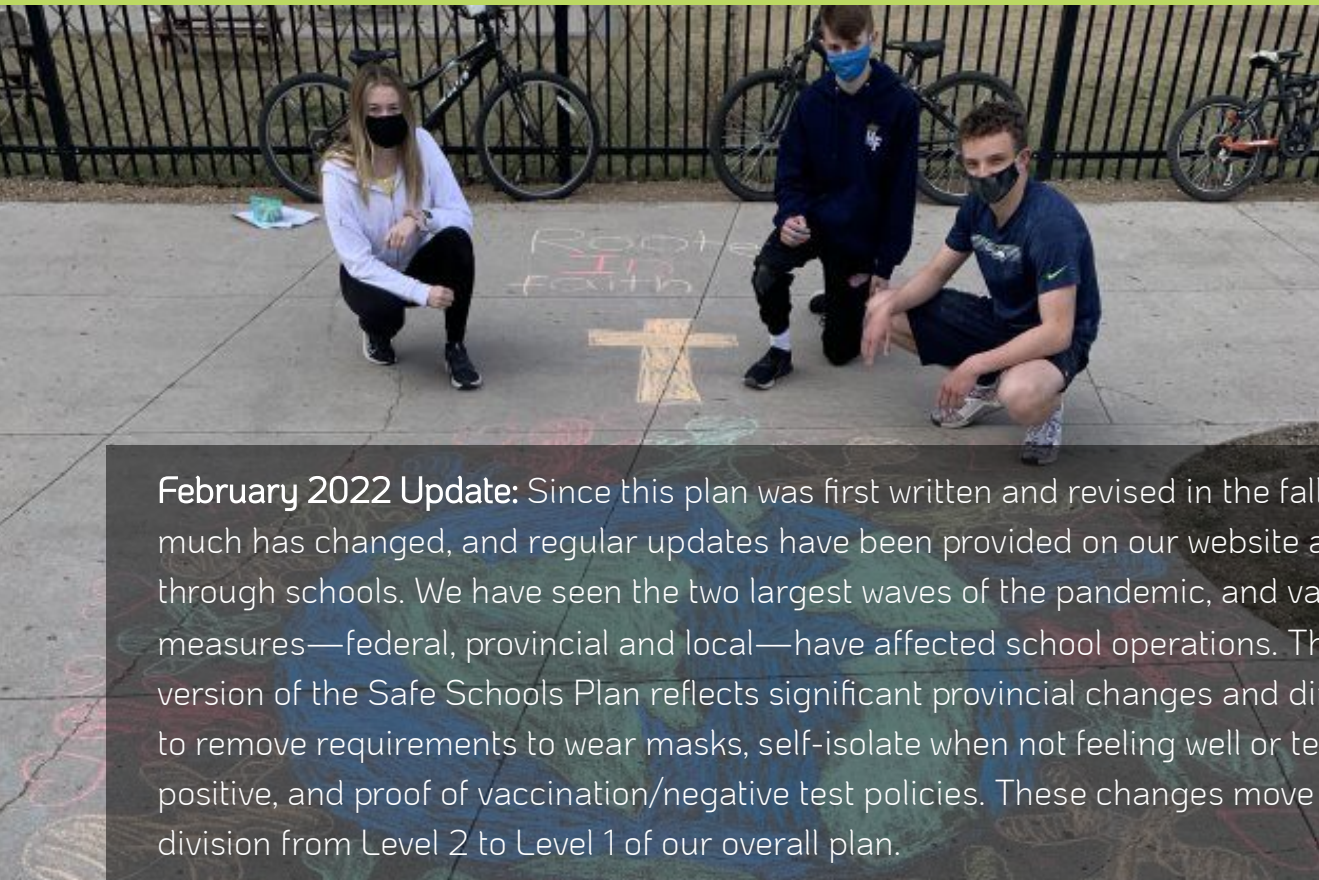


**GREATER
SASKATOON
CATHOLIC
SCHOOLS**

Table of Contents

01	Introduction
02	Four Response Levels
04	Level 1 Plan
09	Health Screening Questionnaire

Introduction



February 2022 Update: Since this plan was first written and revised in the fall 2021, much has changed, and regular updates have been provided on our website and through schools. We have seen the two largest waves of the pandemic, and various measures—federal, provincial and local—have affected school operations. This latest version of the Safe Schools Plan reflects significant provincial changes and directives to remove requirements to wear masks, self-isolate when not feeling well or testing positive, and proof of vaccination/negative test policies. These changes move the division from Level 2 to Level 1 of our overall plan.

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

February 2022 Update: Much of the information on this page is no longer relevant. It maintained in this document for reference only.

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 1: Full in-person learning



Safe Attendance

- Students, staff, and visitors are asked to:
- Self-screen using the COVID-19 Health Screening Questionnaire prior to entering all GSCS facilities.
- Practice good hand hygiene.
- Stay home if you test positive for COVID-19 or are not feeling well.
- Public Health continues to recommend individuals self-isolate for five days following a positive test. If symptoms persist after five days, individuals should remain at home until symptoms have improved for 48 hours.
- If a student becomes ill while at school, parents/caregivers will be called to pick up their child; a wellness space will be provided for the child until parents/caregivers arrive.
- 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.
- Teachers will not duplicate in-class learning in the LMS.
- Follow any Public Health orders and/or guidelines that are in place.

Level 1: Full in-person learning



Safe Classrooms

Masks

- Masks are recommended for all students, staff and visitors when indoors.
- MHOs will continue to monitor closely and will adjust guidance as needed.
- Disposable masks will be available.

Hygiene

- Promote appropriate hand hygiene.
- Hand sanitizer at entrances and in every classroom.
- There are no guidelines for physical distancing for students or staff.
- 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.



Safe Access

- Strict student cohorts are not necessary.
- Schools may choose to cohort students at recess, lunch, or in other situations as required.
- Assemblies, liturgies and other events can be done virtually or in-person.
- Staggered starts/ends/breaks are no longer necessary.

Level 1: Full in-person learning



Safe Transportation

- Buses can run at full capacity.
- Bus seating plans are not required.
- Masks are recommended 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.
- Plexiglass dividers for office staff are optional. These should be stored at the school for the time being if not being used.
- Facility rentals will resume as normal.

Ventilation:

- HVAC and air flow systems will maximize intake of fresh air in classrooms. Routine inspections and cleaning will be conducted to ensure air flow and efficiency.
- Open windows when possible to help increase the flow of fresh air.



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 1: Full in-person learning



Safe Activities

- Sports and Fitness Activities: Resume regular activities
- Dance, Drama, Band, Choir: Resume regular activities.
- Extracurricular Activities and Field Trips: Resume regular activities (destination's COVID-19 protocols must be followed).
- Assemblies, liturgies and other events can be done virtually or in-person.
- Three-way conferences may be done virtually or in-person.
- Parent volunteers are allowed in schools.
- In-school presentations from external groups/organizations maybe done virtually or in-person.
- In-school events such as kindergarten or Gr. 9 open houses may be done virtually or in-person.
- Grade 8 farewell and high school graduation celebrations may resume.
- CSCC meetings may be done virtually or in-person.
- Division and school professional learning can take place virtually or in-person.
- Community gatherings (such as welcome back breakfasts or BBQs) may resume.
- Sharing of individually-served food or treats (including utensils and condiments) may resume.
- Hot lunches for students may resume.
- Congregated lunch rooms/areas may be used.
- Nutrition Programs: Students may not help prepare food.

Level 1: Full in-person learning



Other Items

Vaccinations

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

Rapid Testing

- At-home rapid antigen tests are available through your school and are recommended for regular monitoring.

Reporting and Self-Isolation

- Reporting of positive COVID-19 cases is not required.
- Public Health continues to recommend individuals self-isolate for five days following a positive test. If symptoms persist after five days, individuals should remain at home until symptoms have improved for 48 hours.

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/guardians must answer questions for their children daily.)

Fever



Nausea/vomiting/
diarrhea

Cough



Unexplained loss
of appetite

Shortness of breath/
Difficulty breathing



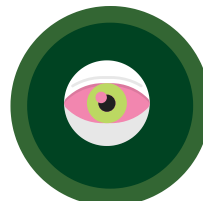
Loss of sense
of taste or smell

Chills



Muscle/joint aches

Sore throat/
Painful swallowing



Conjunctivitis/
Pink eye

Runny nose/
Nasal congestion



Headache

Feeling unwell/
Fatigued



Dizziness