

## THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE REGINA SCHOOL DIVISION NO. 4 OF SASKATCHEWAN

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February 10, 2022

**Dear School Families:** 

I am writing to you today to provide you with some information as outlined in the Tuesday, February 8<sup>th</sup> announcement by the Government of Saskatchewan regarding the elimination of the provincial requirement to provide proof of vaccination or negative tests in Saskatchewan as of February 14, 2022. You can read that announcement <a href="here">here</a>.

## **Proof of Vaccination**

The province-wide public health order requiring proof of vaccination or a negative test before entering certain establishments will be lifted on Monday, February 14, 2022. The Ministry of Education has advised us that school divisions are expected to stop seeking proof of vaccination or negative test result prior to individuals entering a school building as of that date. As a result of this announcement, Regina Public Schools will no longer have this requirement.

Similarly, the Administrative Procedure requiring vaccination or proof of a negative test for employees of Regina Public Schools (AP140: COVID-19 Vaccination) will be suspended, effective February 14, 2022.

We continue to strongly recommend those who are eligible to get vaccinated or boosted do so as soon as possible. Those between the ages of 12 and 17 years are now eligible to get their COVID-19 booster shots.

## Masking

The Government of Saskatchewan has also mandated that masks will no longer be required to attend or visit schools as of March 1, 2022. Until then, our requirement that every adult and student in our schools, buildings and transportation must wear a mask remains in place. As of March 1<sup>st</sup>, we are strongly recommending continued mask use by staff and students and we will continue to provide masks to schools. We ask parents to engage in the conversation at home to honour and support the personal choices of students and staff.

## **Safety Measures**

We remind everyone to continue basic hygiene practices, such as frequent hand washing, coughing into your elbow, distancing when possible.

We would also encourage continued use of rapid antigen tests, these will still be made available to staff and families. Most importantly, we continue to ask your child to stay home when sick and that you notify the school of any absences. Please monitor your child for any cold-like symptoms, including cough, sore throat and sneezing without fever. Families are encouraged to inform schools of any positive rapid antigen test results, however, this is not a requirement.

Regina Public Schools will continue to maintain enhanced cleaning protocols in all schools, buildings, and buses.

Throughout the pandemic, I have seen the kindness and understanding of all school families who, want what is best for children – for them to be educated in a safe, nurturing environment. I ask that we all continue to work together, as families and educators to make the rest of this school year a positive, safe, and successful one for all students.

Please have a safe and relaxing Saskatchewan Family Day and February break!

In health and learning,

Greg Enion, Director of Education Regina Public Schools