

Christ the Teacher Catholic Schools

Parent Information Guide—Health & Safety Measures

The return to classes this school year will see some new guidelines and protocols in place intended to enhance the safety and health measures for everyone, and reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission. Thank you for your support.

This planning document and any accompanying documents outlining school-specific details will be updated on an ongoing basis as needed in consultation with the Ministry of Education and the Chief Medical Health Officer of Saskatchewan.

SAFETY & HEALTH MEASURES IN SCHOOLS

Keeping School Safe

Screen for symptoms

Use the assessment tool to check every morning to see if your child has any symptoms.

- If “yes” is answered to any of the questions, your child (and possibly siblings) must stay home and call 811 to be directed.
- Please notify the school as soon as possible of a positive test for COVID-19.
- All communications are confidential. If a case of COVID-19 is suspected or confirmed, the Division will work with public health to determine appropriate responses and communications.
- If a student has symptoms related to a pre-existing condition, the student is encouraged to be tested at least once before attending. If negative for COVID-19, these symptoms can be considered a baseline and no future testing is necessary unless symptoms change.



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

Students, parents, or family members must not enter the 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.

Avoid entering the school

- Although parents, families, and volunteers in schools are important to the success of our students, at this time, the health and safety of the students and staff will take precedence, so parent engagement will look different.

- To reduce exposure, all parents, guardians, and visitors are asked to avoid entering schools. If a visit is necessary, schedule a meeting. Refer to your school’s plan to find out how the school and parents can work together. If a visit is required, you will be asked to complete the self-assessment, to wear a mask, and to remain in limited areas of the facility.
- Community access / rental of facilities will be restricted.

Illness in Care

Procedures for supporting students who become symptomatic while at school:

- Parents will be asked to pick up their child from school immediately if they show symptoms and call 811 to be directed.
- 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 an emergency contact.

Learn together by staying apart

Allow for physical distancing when possible:

- Staggered transition times between classes to avoid congested hallways.
- Visual cues, signage, plexiglass, protocols for required use of shared resources, reduced furniture, etc. will all be in place in our facilities. Staff members will be explicitly teaching students new routines, such as how to circulate in our schools to increase distance between people and reduce physical contact.
- Designated entrances and exits.
- Maximized physical distancing and student front-facing classrooms.
- Cohorting—keeping defined groups of students together—is a practice that will be used throughout school to reduce the co-mingling of students. Students will go about their day with the same group of students as much as possible.
- Reduce the number of staff in close and sustained contact with a cohort.
- Staff will support students to use designated and consistent assigned spots in the classroom.
- Schools will not gather for assemblies or celebrations at this time.
- All activities that require adults to group together (e.g. School Community Council meetings, parent meetings, etc.) will be done virtually whenever possible.

Safety & Health Measures

- Students and staff will engage in frequent handwashing and sanitization requirements upon entering the school, classroom, when changing activities or physical spaces, before and after using equipment, before and after eating, and other times as determined by the school.
- All surfaces and equipment will be sanitized between users or cohorts.
- Schools will determine guidelines regarding storage of personal items.
- Enhanced sanitization and cleaning of school facilities will occur.

Personal Protective Equipment

Christ the Teacher Catholic School Division in consultation with public health has decided to begin the school year at Level 2 of the Safe Schools Plan which includes the use of masks:

- All Grade 4-12 students are required to wear a mask when using CTTCS transportation.
- Students in Prekindergarten to Grade 3 will be encouraged, but not required, to wear masks while in school or when using CTTCS transportation.
- It is strongly recommended that students in Grades 4 and up wear a mask in high traffic areas and all other areas where physical distancing is not possible.
- Masks will be required for all students and staff in Grades 9 to 12 at Dreambuilders High School and Sacred Heart High School in high traffic areas and wherever physical distancing is not possible.
- It is recommended that all staff wear a mask and/or face shield.
- Students are welcome to bring their own masks. Additional disposable masks will be made available to students when needed and required.
- In some situations, wearing a mask may not be possible for a student. In these instances, staff members will work with parents/ caregivers to consider accommodations.
- Staff will support students in the proper procedures to wear a non-medical mask or face covering.
- Review the CTTCS Return to School Fall 2020 plan for additional details on use of personal protective equipment guidelines.

COVID-19 Prevention Tips



WASH
Wash your hands frequently - for at least 20 seconds



COVER
Use tissues when you cough or sneeze and dispose of them immediately, use your elbow if a tissue not available



AVOID
Do not touch surfaces and then your mouth, eyes or nose



DISTANCE
Practice social distancing by not shaking hands, hugging, etc.



ISOLATE
Stay home if you become ill and prevent the spread of the illness

Transportation

Families are strongly encouraged to transport their own children when possible. For students who require transportation to/from school, the following guidelines will be in place:

- All Grade 4-12 students are required to wear a mask when using CTTCS transportation.
- Students in Prekindergarten to Grade 3 will be encouraged, but not required, to wear masks while in school or when using CTTCS transportation.
- Students will be assigned seats.
- Family members may be required to sit together.
- All surfaces will be sanitized between trips.
- Field trips and extra-curricular activities/travel will be on pause. The status of these activities will be revisited regularly throughout the school year.

Student Wellness

Students and staff returning to school do so with a varying range of emotions. Christ the Teacher Catholic Schools is preparing to welcome students back with a focus on the social and emotional needs of students. Strategies to support self-regulation, manage anxiety, and build resilience will be shared with school teams and students.

Student support services and counsellors will be available.

Summary

Ensuring the health and safety of students and staff remains a guiding principle in Christ the Teacher Catholic Schools' return to school plan. This document highlights the initial stage of the school division's plans that are subject to change pending direction or guidelines from the Ministry of Education and/or Chief Medical Health Officer of Saskatchewan. School-specific plans are being developed and will be shared with families by August 26th.

As we enter into the return to school phase, it is important to acknowledge that the return to school may be met with anxiety for students, families, and staff. It is in working together as one Christ the Teacher Catholic Schools family that we will provide the safe, welcoming, faith-based learning environment that has always been a cornerstone at Christ the Teacher Catholic Schools.