



RETURN TO SCHOOL

2021-2022

Updated August 2021

Division plans will evolve as required by emerging health risk assessments.



Believe...Belong...Become

Introduction:

The 2021-22 Return to School Plan is intended to support stakeholders as we begin the school year informed by the guidance Local Medical Health Officers and the provincial Safe Schools Plan. The intent of the plan is to ensure student and staff safety while allowing schools to incorporate valuable learnings achieved during the COVID-19 pandemic in a way that benefits students in each local context.

In the 2020-21 school year, the relatively low level of in-school transmission may indicate that the control measures in schools were effective in limiting viral transmission, implying that masking, enhanced hygiene, and physical distancing were effective. Since the end of the school year, there have been significant changes in the COVID-19 landscape. Effective COVID-19 vaccines have become readily available to all eligible populations (individuals born in 2009 and older). The provincial public health order and many public health measures and associated restrictions were removed July 11, 2021. While case numbers and case rates dropped over the early summer, newer and more infective variants have emerged, and cases in many areas have begun to increase again.

The Christ the Teacher Catholic Schools Safe School Plan was developed with considerations from the Government of Saskatchewan [2021-22 Safe Schools Plan Updated August 20, 2021](#), Government of Saskatchewan [Living with COVID-19](#), and also in consultation with Local Medical Health Officers, and a review of effective practices from the 2020-21 school year plan. Plans may change to incorporate additional measures depending on COVID activity in our communities and will be considered in consultation with Local Medical Health Officers.

CTTCS will continue to provide students quality educational opportunities that are faith-based, student-centered, and results oriented. We will work collaboratively with our employee groups honouring provincial and local contracts while providing flexible and fluid protocols, procedures, and delivery models to address COVID-19 concerns. Student and staff mental health and well-being will be emphasized as one of three provincial priorities for the 2021-2022 school year.

There were many lessons to be learned from the 2020-21 school year. While many are excited to leave much of that experience behind, we are committed to provide a safe and successful year of learning.

Student and staff safety remains our priority.

Government Guidelines:

The Government of Saskatchewan released its [2021-22 Safe Schools Plan](#) on August 20. The areas of focus are:

- **Safe Attendance**
- **Safe Transportation**
- **Safe Access**
- **Safe Facilities**
- **Safe Classrooms**
- **Safe Activities**
- **Other Items**

The Government of Saskatchewan released additional detail in its [Living with COVID: Long-Term COVID-19 Precautions Updated](#).

Masking

- Masking of students and staff was an important part of the successful return to school prior to the availability of vaccines for adults and youth.
- The Government of Saskatchewan together with the Saskatchewan Health Authority have recommended that school divisions implement masking strategies to ensure the safety of students and staff. This recommendation, together with a review of vaccination levels in Christ the Teacher Catholic Schools communities, informs the updated masking protocol for CTTCS.
- Mask protocol requirements represent a minimum expectation – visitors, staff, and students may mask in other circumstances as they are comfortable.
- Masks will be **required** for all students in **Grades 6 and lower**. In consultation with our Local Medical Health Officer, we believe this is the most prudent step to maintain the general health of students and staff and to minimize disruption to in-person learning. Students are encouraged to but not required to wear masks while outdoors. Staff are required to wear masks when students are present.
- **Students in Grade 7 and above** will be **required** to wear masks when in common spaces (i.e., hallways, washrooms, libraries, etc.). Students are **strongly encouraged** to wear masks once seated in their classrooms. Masks are not required when outdoors. Staff are required to wear masks when in common spaces when students are present. It is strongly encouraged that staff wear masks when in class.
- **Visitors** will be **required** to wear masks for indoor events at all schools and CTTCS facilities.

Vaccinations

All staff and students with the birth year of 2009 or earlier are encouraged to be vaccinated in accordance with Ministry of Health recommendations and guidance from family physicians. Staff and students who are fully vaccinated contribute to safer schools and communities for everyone.

Physical Distancing

With students – especially younger children – maintaining physical distance is challenging. Schools will encourage physical distancing when possible.

Schools may choose to continue the practice of staggered entrance and exit times, recess times, or use separate entrances.

Student Grouping

As much as possible, student groups will remain consistent in elementary schools to limit the number of student interactions during the school day.

In elementary schools, these groups will be the student's classroom.

Sacred Heart High School will implement a quint system, while Dreambuilders High School will utilize a trimester system to reduce student interactions.

Schools should minimize large gatherings where students are in close proximity to one another. Smaller grade specific or cohorted assemblies are recommended. Schools with smaller enrolments that can provide proper distancing can proceed with gatherings.



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Safe Attendance

Screening

- Staff and students should continue the practice of self-screening for symptoms consistent with COVID-19.
- All staff and students who are feeling unwell and/or exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 shall remain home.

Student & Staff Wellness

- Saskatchewan Health Guidelines best practices for mask utilization, hand hygiene, sanitization, and social distancing are strongly encouraged.
- All staff should direct any inquiries regarding personal wellness to their immediate supervisors and/or Human Resources to ensure individual needs are met in a timely and appropriate manner.

Human Resources

CTTCS Administrative Procedures related to COVID-19 provides guidelines for precautions and procedures. The administrative procedures will continue to be adjusted as necessary following the direction of the Chief Medical Health Officer of Saskatchewan in accordance with the most current Saskatchewan Public Health Guidelines.

[AP177 – COVID-19](#)

[AP178 – Illness in Care](#)

[AP182 – Staff and COVID-19](#)

CTTCS will ensure that all protocols and procedures for employees are within the context of provincial and local contracts

Employee Assistance Program

CTTCS will continue to support all employees with its Employee Assistance Program. Updates will be provided by Human Resources for all staff to access.

- STF Members – Members Family Assistance Plan
- Catholic Family Services – 306-525-0521 cfsregina@cfsregina.ca
- Mental Health – 1-306-786-0558
- Canada Crisis Line: 1-800-668-6868
- SaskHealth Hotline: 811
- www.Saskatchewan.ca/Coronavirus
- 211 Saskatchewan <https://sk.211.ca/>

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Safe Transportation

- CTTCS will continue enhanced cleaning and disinfecting protocols.
- Attendance and seating plans will be maintained.
- Masks are required for all students and staff when using CTTCS transportation.

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Safe Access

Safe and orderly environments have always been a primary consideration for operational plans. CTTCS will follow the guidelines and recommendations of the Chief Medical Health Officer and also in consultation with Local Medical Health Officers to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19. With support from division personnel, every school will develop Covid-19 safety and emergency plans that are appropriate for the school community (staff, students, parents), the facility, and its playground/outdoor spaces. Planning for the reopening of schools will be led by school division personnel and will occur throughout the month of August.

Arrival and Departure to School

Current start and end times will be retained as per each school's bell schedule. Schools' site-specific plans will consider the following:

- Outdoor Spaces/Playgrounds
- Busing Arrival/Departure Protocols
- Parent or Guardian Drop-off/Student Arrival
- Family Backpack & drop-off Classroom Visit
- Student Access and Exit of Building

School Office/Visitors

- Visitors to the school are required to wear a mask.
- Visitors to the school will be required to self-screen for symptoms consistent with COVID-19.
- Registration applications are available online. Schools will schedule virtual or face-to-face registration interviews.

Recesses/Breaks and Mealtime

- Recesses/Breaks will be adjusted as needed to fit the needs of the school
- Lunchroom Considerations
 - Assigned eating areas.
 - Sharing of food / utensils / etc. is not recommended.

Assemblies, Liturgies, Meetings

- Assemblies, liturgies, and meetings may be adjusted based on size, layout, and needs of the school.

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Safe Facilities

Facilities

- School-wide plans for enhanced cleaning and disinfection will continue to be in place.
- Adequate disinfectant and hand sanitizer as well as cleaning products and supplies will be readily available in all facilities.
- Signage will promote the monitoring of health and protocols/procedure for staff, students, or visitors who begin to feel unwell.
- Students will be responsible for their own school supplies. Sharing of personal items and food will be discouraged.
- Students are asked to bring a reusable water bottle. This water bottle is for personal use and must not be shared with others.
- Students will be able to use lockers for storing personal items.

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Safe Classrooms

Hygiene

Schools will continue to promote appropriate hand hygiene.

Classroom Dynamics

Schools may consider plans for elementary grade classroom cohorting.

Assigned seating plans will be maintained.

Consideration for physical distancing is encouraged.

Instruction

Schools will reopen with a return to face-to-face instruction, the full Saskatchewan curriculum, and alignment with the new Interim Provincial Education Plan.

Teachers will continue to be supported with professional development in best practice instruction and assessment and the use of technology such as google classroom and SeeSaw. Students will be introduced to these platforms early in the school year.

CTTCS will work with families to provide assurance children will be returning to safe classrooms. CTTCS is prepared for a fluid transition between instructional models as may be required and directed by the Government of Saskatchewan and the SHA.

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Safe Activities

Extracurricular Activities

Clubs, activities, athletics, and extra-curriculars are permitted. Inter-school sports and activities will resume.

CTTCS recognizes that extracurricular activities are a critical part of a school's culture and identity. CTTCS will continue to follow the recommendations of the Government of Saskatchewan and the Saskatchewan Health Authority as they pertain to extracurricular activities as well as the Saskatchewan High School Athletic Association (SHSAA) and the East Central District Athletics Association (ECDAA), and affiliated sport governing bodies.

All spectators are required to wear a mask for all indoor extra-curricular activities.

Additional general and sport-specific guidelines will be communicated by schools.

Co-Curricular Programming

Performing Arts programming (e.g., dance, drama, band, choir) will resume. Instruments, including accessories (e.g., drumsticks, mallets) should not be shared. If sharing instruments and accessories is required, they will be thoroughly cleaned and sanitized between users, and good hand hygiene practices will be followed.

CTTCS is committed to continue to provide quality educational experiences which adhere to current Government of Saskatchewan and SHA guidelines which allows the return of all activities.

- Single day field trips will be considered in accordance with the CTTCS Administrative Applications.

Nutrition Programs

Assigned eating areas.

Sharing of food / utensils / etc. is not recommended.

Self-serve or family style meal service is not permitted at this time. Food is to be served in individual portions.

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Other Items

Vaccinations

Staff assume the shared responsibility of assisting one another in maintaining healthy and safe workplaces.

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.

Anyone turning 12 this year and older is currently eligible for vaccines.

Contact Tracing and Quarantining

Collaboration between the Saskatchewan Health Authority and schools will continue and will reflect the needs of the schools as required.

When cases are identified in schools, schools and school divisions will continue to be notified by public health officials in order to inform students and parents. Contact tracing will continue to occur, and unvaccinated close contacts may be directed to self-isolate as deemed appropriate by public health.

Testing

Early case finding remains a cornerstone of the COVID-19 response. Where cases are identified either in a classroom, school, or bus, public health recommends testing for all exposed persons, including those who have received a completed vaccine series. The drive-through test site remains open at this time, and testing options are available in some communities.