

March 11, 2022

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As public health orders begin to ease, the division has been in communication with the province regarding how this will impact our schools. The division, based on the advice of Public Health and Manitoba Education, will be mirroring what is happening in the community. It's important to note the following changes and dates that have taken place or will take place:

- **March 1:** New public health orders came into effect that removed all remaining proof of vaccination requirements for public places. Proof of vaccination and testing requirements for designated public sector employees, including education, child-care, and health-care workers, have also ended.
- **March 15:** Public health will no longer require people who test positive for COVID-19 to isolate; however, it will continue to be recommended that people with symptoms should stay home when they are sick. The [provincial isolation guidance can be found here](#).
- **March 15: RETSD is strongly recommending that both staff and students continue to wear masks.** In response to the Manitoba Public Health announcement that effective March 15, masks will no longer be required in indoor places including schools, RETSD is strongly recommending staff and students continue to wear masks when indoors and when riding on a school bus.

*As mask requirements are removed, it is important to note that anyone can continue to choose to wear a mask, based on their individual risk and personal preference. We will continue to make disposable masks available.*

As the public health orders change, we must continue to show compassion, tolerance, understanding, and respect for everyone, regardless of whether they choose to wear a mask. Staff will continue to support all students and families with whatever decision they make—it is our responsibility as educators.

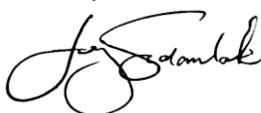
As spring break approaches, please ensure you are up to date on any travel restrictions that may be in place at the time. See our [travel infographic](#) for a quick reference guide.

As we look to the future, there will undoubtedly be other changes. These may include less stringent physical distancing, altered cohort requirements and specific programming criteria may relax. As we consider these possibilities, we will continue to communicate with you.

It's important we all continue to follow the fundamentals, such as getting vaccinated, staying home when you are ill, performing regular handwashing/sanitizing, and practicing proper cough/sneeze etiquette. We will continue to model this for all our students and encourage you to do the same.

Please contact your child(ren)'s school if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Jerry Sodomlak  
Chair, Board of Trustees



Kelly Barkman  
Superintendent/CEO