

April 4, 2022

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We welcome back all students and staff from Spring Break and want to share an update on our protocols as Public Health and Manitoba Education allow us to ease our COVID-19 restrictions to the “Green” level of the Pandemic Response System.

Some protocols that have been established will continue to the end of the school year such as: keeping our youngest students in cohorts as much as possible, monitoring congestion and “traffic flow” of people in our schools, and learning outdoors whenever feasible. RETSD will continue to keep physical distancing to the greatest extent possible in all our schools and buildings.

We have also heard from parents that having a virtual parent/teacher meeting option was important. Virtual options will be available as much as possible now and into the future to best support our families.

Masks Strongly Recommended

One of the most visible changes is that masks are **no longer required** in indoor places—this includes RETSD schools and buses. Anyone can continue to choose to wear a mask or not, based on their individual risk and personal preference. **RETSD strongly recommends staff and students continue wearing masks** and we will continue to make disposable masks available to staff and students.

Phased-In Approach to Programming

One of the areas our middle and senior years students and families can look forward to is the return of spectators for some games/events on a monitored and limited basis. Middle and senior years schools will be in contact with their school communities regarding how they will be monitoring spectators. Music programming is also an area many students are excited to return to more normalcy. Music students will continue to have access to and may choose to use personal protective equipment.

Community Use of Schools & Visitors

Schools are an important part of our community. As mentioned above, we are phasing in spectators and visitors to our schools in a monitored approach. At this time, general community use is not yet a part of our plan. We are continuing to monitor the situation and will provide an update on our website when community use (via permits) is reinstated.

Fundamentals Still Apply

It's important we continue to [follow the fundamentals](#), such as getting vaccinated, staying home when ill, performing regular handwashing/sanitizing, and practising proper cough/sneeze etiquette.

Thank you for continued support as we navigate this new chapter in the pandemic. If you have questions regarding the phased-in approach and what that means for your child(ren)'s programming, please contact their school(s) directly.

Sincerely,



Kelly Barkman
Superintendent/CEO