

February 28, 2022

Dear parents, guardians and families,

Over the weekend, the [provincial government confirmed](#) that it will continue to ease COVID-19 public health measures by moving ahead with [Step 2](#) of their [three step plan](#).

This means all provincial measures for Pre-K–Grade 12 schools and yellow buses will be lifted. I wanted to share some updates with you about how this impacts our schools and students.

### Masks

Students in our schools have not been required to wear masks since February 14. Starting March 1, 2022, the province no longer requires adults in schools to wear masks, including teachers, school staff, visitors, parents and yellow bus drivers.

We continue to encourage masks to help protect our collective health and safety. However, students, staff and visitors in our schools and buildings will make their own decisions about whether wearing a mask is right for them and those decisions should be respected.

### Provincial guidelines for schools

The province has lifted the remaining COVID-19 guidelines for schools, such as cohorts and physical distancing. After nearly two years with these health measures in place, it will take our schools some time to adjust their routines and your patience while your children’s schools work through these new details is appreciated.

### Continued safety measures

We will continue to make the health and safety of our students, staff and communities a priority. While this new direction from the province means there will be some changes to our approach, we will continue to layer health strategies for our collective safety, including:

- enhanced cleaning and disinfecting in schools
- encouraging healthy habits among students and staff, such as washing and sanitizing hands and covering coughs and sneezes
- enhancing school ventilation systems—HEPA filters are planned to arrive in March and filtration systems continue to be upgraded to MERV 13 filters
- [daily health screening](#) for students, staff and visitors and staying home when sick

### **Moving forward**

Lifting these provincial health measures marks a big shift in how we continue to navigate COVID-19 moving forward. As a Division, we look forward to being able to bring back many of the events and activities that help make schools an engaging, fun and enriching environment for students. It is more important than ever that we continue to show each other kindness and respect as we work together to keep each other safe.

Once again I want to offer my sincere appreciation for your partnership and everything you do to support students.

Sincerely,



Darrel Robertson  
Superintendent of Schools

