

## February 2022

On February 8, 2022, Premier Jason Kenney announced that a number of public health restrictions would be ending, including some that directly impact our staff, students and school communities.

Elk Island Catholic Schools will continue to support our school communities in maintaining a safe and healthy environment for all students and staff.

## Effective Monday February 14, 2022

### Responding to Illness

- The single most important thing each of us can do to support our schools is to continue to review the [Alberta Health Daily Checklist](#) (*February 9, 2022*) before coming to school each day. Students and staff exhibiting any symptoms must remain at home until symptoms resolve.
- Students and staff that have any of the [core symptoms](#), are legally required to isolate. If they test negative on a rapid covid test, they must still stay home and away from others until symptoms resolve.
  - For fully vaccinated students and staff (2 doses) who test positive on a rapid test for COVID-19:
    - Isolate for 10 days from the start of symptoms or until they resolve, whichever is longer, if symptoms are not related to a pre-existing condition.
      - Fully vaccinated students may return to school after five days if non symptomatic and have made arrangements to be masked at school 100% of the time (including during lunch).
  - For students not fully vaccinated (1 dose or less) who test positive for covid on a rapid test:
    - Isolate for 10 days from the start of symptoms or until they resolve, whichever is longer, if symptoms are not related to a pre-existing condition.
- Additional isolation information can [be found here](#).
- To keep our schools as safe as possible, please continue to inform your school if your child has tested positive on COVID-19 test, is exhibiting symptoms or will be staying home from school for any reason. Schools will continue to monitor school absenteeism due to illness.

### Respiratory Etiquette / Masking

- There will be no masking requirements for children and youth in schools or on school buses in Alberta. This applies to early childhood services (ECS) to Grade 12.
- Children and youth can continue to wear masks if they choose. Schools should support children and youth who choose to wear masks, and those that chose not to.
- At this time, masking will still be required for adults, including visitors.

### COVID-19 Rapid Test Kits and Masks

All Elk Island Catholic School students and staff will continue to receive their second rapid test kits, and masks supplied by the Alberta government.

### Environmental Measures

- Cohorting, hand sanitizing and enhanced cleaning protocols will continue.

### School Activities

- School operations and activities will continue, guided by public health measures.
- Field trips may continue providing all health measures are adhered to, and students are not mixing with members of the public in order to maintain their cohorts.

### Extra-Curricular Activities:

- Indoor sports/performance/recreation/special activities are permitted with requirements for masking and for two-metre physical distancing, where possible.
  - Masks must be worn in all school areas including the change rooms / locker rooms.
  - Masks may be removed during warm up and while participating in the game.
  - Masks may be removed during physical activity.
  - Masks must be worn by the coach and players on the bench.
  - Spectators are allowed in the schools/gymnasiums as of February 17, 2022. We encourage families to sit together and masks are still required with current Alberta Government public health regulations.
- During outdoor events, modeling of mask use by coaches is strongly recommended.
- Parent planning meetings are to occur virtually.
- Masks must be worn when being transported to and from the event

### Transportation

- Continued cleaning of high touch surfaces will occur.
- Seating plans are to be maintained, cohorts are encouraged.

### School Access

- Before entering the school, visitors must screen for any signs or symptoms of Covid-19 using the [Alberta Health Daily Checklist](#) (February 9, 2022).
- **All parents, volunteers, and guests are required to wear masks while in our schools.**
- Parents and guardians may be allowed into the school on an individual basis, for a specific purpose. Gatherings outside of classrooms or hallways are not to occur.

**e-Tutoring Hub**

The government announced a new [e-Tutoring Hub](#) to support student learning in Grades 4-9, specifically in literacy and numeracy.

**Mental Health and Well-Being**

Support for students and parents can be found on our [website](#). School support teams will continue to be available to students, staff and families within Elk Island Catholic Schools.

Any future changes to school operations will be communicated based on guidance information received from the Alberta Government. Further changes are anticipated on March 1, 2022.