



# Palliser School Division

## Palliser Centre

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### Communication re: additional health measures - September 7, 2021

As you have learned through various means, Alberta Health has enacted a new health order (<https://www.alberta.ca/covid-19-public-health-actions.aspx>) related to masking requirements in most indoor spaces effective Saturday, September 4. School jurisdictions continue to be able to make decisions around masking and other protocols in schools across the province. Our senior administration met with school administrators on September 7 to review these new measures. To align with the new provincial health measures, we have modified our Palliser COVID-19 School Guidance plan and have included a summary of the requirements and our division's response.

#### Provincial Masking Requirements

- Masks are mandatory in all indoor public spaces and workplaces. Employees must mask in all indoor work settings, except while alone in work stations.
- Schools are not required to implement masking, but school boards will continue to implement COVID-19 management policies as they deem appropriate.

#### Palliser Response

- Masks are to be worn for all students and staff where schools cannot effectively reduce the number of individuals in high-traffic areas through school routines (e.g. staggering recess and bell times)
- Masks will be mandatory for all bus students from Kindergarten to Grade 12.
- Masks will be mandatory for visitors, including parents and guardians, who enter Palliser schools, division office and maintenance offices, as these spaces are not included within the provincial school exemption.
- Palliser will continue to support individuals who choose to wear a mask while in the classroom or outside.
- Persons seeking a mask exemption at a school should discuss their request with school administration.

#### Provincial Gathering Restrictions

- Albertans are encouraged to limit in-person contacts.
- Unvaccinated Albertans are strongly recommended to limit indoor social gatherings to close contacts of only 2 cohort families up to a maximum of 10 people.

#### Palliser Response

- Schools will limit large indoor gatherings (assemblies and in-person school-wide events).
- Schools may continue with indoor extra-curricular events. All spectators and coaches will be required to wear a mask.
- Outdoor events may continue, and attendees will need to comply with public health measures.
- School and division meetings shall have the option for people to participate virtually.

*Together we will ensure learning success for all students  
to develop their unique potential as caring citizens in a changing world.*

- Rentals of facilities and schools will remain operational. Masking is mandatory for all rental groups.

### **Provincial Isolation Requirements**

- Isolation is still legally required for people who have COVID-19 symptoms or have tested positive.

### **Palliser Response**

- All students, staff, and visitors shall continue with daily screening using the [Alberta Health Daily Checklist](#). There is a checklist for students and children under 18 and a checklist for adults 18 and older.
- Anyone that has COVID-19 symptoms must stay home and is encouraged to get tested.

The safety of our staff and students remains our top priority, and are continuing enhanced cleaning and hygiene protocols in Palliser facilities. We recognize that there are a variety of opinions on additional health measures. We will continue a balanced approach that recognizes individual community context and transmission rates as we support the learning, social, and emotional needs of students while addressing provincial health measures. Please see our updated Palliser COVID-19 School Guidance plan for more information on our response. As we move into the 2021-22 school year, we will remain mindful of our strategy and continue to re-evaluate our plan based on direction received from Alberta Education or Alberta Health Services. The government has announced that current restrictions will be re-evaluated by September 27. As more information becomes available, we will also review our strategy.