



January 6, 2022

Dear Families,

As a new year passes, we are grateful for the sustained community support our NESD schools and their staffs continue to receive. While the COVID-19 pandemic evolves, NESD will continue to utilize enhanced safety measures including mandatory masks in all schools and buildings, increased sanitation protocols, and a focus on hand hygiene. While the Omicron variant of COVID-19 is spreading from person to person more easily, we are experiencing high student absentee rates and staff shortages that may significantly impact our ability to sustain in-person learning.

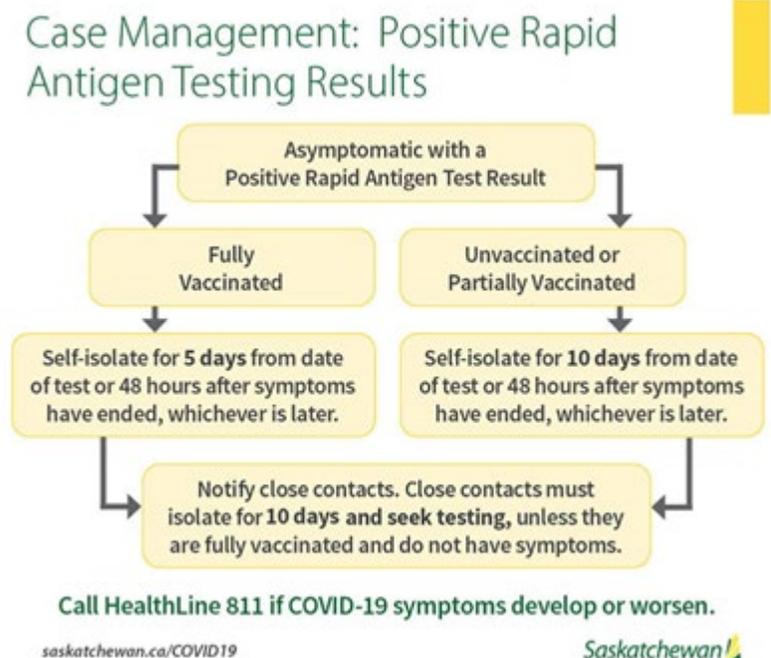
In consultation with our partners within the Saskatchewan Health Authority, the following enhanced precautions will be implemented immediately across all NESD schools to best protect our students, staff and in-person learning. These include the following:

- **A temporary suspension of all extra-curricular travel outside of our school community – reviewed weekly**
- Cohorting classrooms and recesses/breaks
- Students go home for lunch, if possible
- Increased use of medical grade masks (which are available at school), not cloth masks
- Masks will be used for indoor Physical Education/Wellness classes
- No multi-class activities
- Cancellation of events involving the entire school
- Continuation of enhanced cleaning and handwashing

We encourage all families to utilize at-home *rapid antigen tests*. **If your child(ren) tests positive on a rapid antigen test, please inform your school administrator as soon as possible.** Letters of notification to close contacts will be issued by school administration. The current [Public Health Order](#) provides direction for individuals after a positive rapid test result and this direction is summarized in the graphic:

If students are a close contact, the Saskatchewan Health Authority would strongly recommend your child(ren) take an at-home rapid antigen test, which are [readily available](#) to families across the province. Please test your child prior to attending school.

In addition, please see the Student Close Contact Protocol on the following page. For additional support or questions related to self-isolation requirements and close contacts, please contact Healthline at 811.



Thank you for your continued partnership as we work to keep schools healthy and safe for students and staff. Our goal is to maintain in-person learning and we look forward to lifting these added measures as soon as possible.

Respectfully,

Stacy Lair
Acting Director of Education

Saskatchewan Schools: Student Close Contact Protocol

Province-wide mask mandate applies to all students.

