

April 20, 2022

As we emerge from some of the more restrictive COVID-19 health and safety measures that have been in place over the past two years, we recognize that the pandemic continues to impact students, staff and families and that we must remain vigilant in our health and safety practices within our schools.

While DPCDSB remains in alignment with the lifting of mandatory masking in school settings by the provincial government and our local public health units (i.e., the wearing of masks is at the discretion and personal preference of the parent/student or staff member), we are also mindful that Dr. Kieran Moore, the Chief Medical Officer of Health indicated last week, “... **a strong recommendation to continue wearing a well-fitted three-layer mask or a medical mask in all public indoor settings.**”

Additionally, we continue to stress the importance of proper hand hygiene with students and ask that parents/guardians, as well, remind your children about the importance of hand hygiene as a protective measure. No one thing on its own is 100% effective at preventing the spread of COVID-19 but layering public health measures provides the best protection.

As per our public health authorities, layers of protection include:

- Getting vaccinated.
- Staying home when sick.
- Washing hands frequently.
- Practicing proper respiratory etiquette by covering coughs and sneezes.
- Using a high-quality mask when necessary.

You are further encouraged to let your child’s school know if the child is absent with COVID-19, or has symptoms of COVID-19, so the community can be apprised of a presumptive positive case in the class/school.

Thank you for your attention to these important reminders as we navigate through the final months of the 2021-2022 school year.

May God continue to bless you and your loved ones.

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