



Hello everyone.

You have likely heard that Premier Jason Kenney lifted many of the COVID-related restrictions that have been in place for Alberta. Some of those changes impact schools and I want to share that information with you.

The Restriction Exemption Program has ended. At the request of Alberta Education and Alberta Health, our school division implemented a program which required school visitors to provide proof of COVID vaccination or negative COVID test result, just as many other public facilities, organizations and businesses were required to do. Effective February 9, the province-wide Restriction Exemption Program has been discontinued. As a result, NGPS has also discontinued this practice effective (February 14, 2022). Visitors to schools will no longer be required to provide any documentation prior to entering schools or attending school-based events. However, at this time, visitors must still make appointments, prescreen for symptoms prior to entry, come in through the main doors, and fill in the Visitor Log. Please be aware that students in Kindergarten to Grade 6 must remain in cohorts until March, so we are still required to limit their exposure to others at this time. This means we will continue to limit visitors, to some extent, for a little while longer. Many schools will return to more in-person activities. We also expect live streaming of events to continue at most locations, as that option has been very well received by parents.

Mask laws are changing. Starting Monday, February 14, students will not be required to wear a mask at school or on the bus. However, please note that AHS requires all individuals, including students, who test positive for COVID to wear a mask, at all times, when in a public place or otherwise in the company of other persons, *with no exceptions*. Adults are still required to wear masks in all public places, including schools, both during and after regular school hours, until March. This includes all NGPS bus drivers, school-based and division-wide staff, as well as visitors. We will enforce this law until it is lifted.

The AHS [Daily Checklist](#) linked here, which was revised a few days ago, remains in effect. Parents are expected to keep students home if they are not well. All staff and visitors should refrain from coming into the school if they are not well. Please familiarize yourself with the updates in the [Back to Normal Plan - Feb. 11](#) as linked here.

We are aware there is a wide range of opinions and feelings about the pandemic, the restrictions that have been in place, and these most recent changes. We recognize the negative impact this pandemic has had on children, families, staff, and the school community. As we transition to a new normal, we will carry forward focusing on the safety and mental wellness of students and staff. We encourage everyone to continue exercising good judgment and decision making, so that students can remain learning in-person and the reduction of health measures are not short lived. Here at Fox Creek School, we will continue to focus on providing a positive and caring environment, in which students can learn.

If you have further questions or comments regarding how provincial health measures impact your child(ren)'s education, please contact the school.

Ian Baxter - Principal and Ronica DeCiccio - Assistant Principal