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Sept. 6, 2021

Dear RVS Parents/Guardians,

On Sept. 3, 2021, the Government of Alberta announced a series of temporary health measures being implemented province wide to reduce transmission of COVID-19 and prevent the health care system from being overwhelmed. The Board of Trustees and Senior Administration met this weekend to review these new measures. After careful consideration, RVS is making some changes to our Return to School Operational Plan.

To align with the new provincial health measures, RVS is strengthening masking requirements for RVS schools and sites. Effective immediately, a non-medical face mask will now be required while inside RVS schools and sites for:

- All students (pre-Kindergarten - Grade 12)
- All staff members
- All visitors/volunteers

Masks for students and staff can be removed indoors while:

- Engaging in instruction in a classroom
- Consuming food or drink
- Participating in physical exercise, music, band, or arts performances

Masks will not be required outdoors at RVS schools and sites and RVS will support individuals who choose to wear a mask while in the classroom or outside.

We are aware that a small number of individuals may not be able to wear masks due to sensory or health issues. If you require a mask exemption for your child, parents/guardians can complete the [mask exemption request form](#) and send it to their principal.

As per the provincial requirements, masks continue to be required for all individuals (students, drivers, volunteers, and staff) on a school bus. A copy of the same exemption form can be sent to [Transportation Department](#) if a mask exemption is requested for your child on the bus.

RVS will continue to monitor the evolving situation and the new masking measures will be reviewed when there are changes in the provincial directions related to masking.

We recognize that there will be a variety of opinions on these new measures. RVS continues to find a balanced and thoughtful approach as we support the social, emotional, physical, and learning needs of our students while addressing provincial efforts to protect our healthcare system and reduce transmission of COVID-19.

Thank you for taking the time to review this information and we wish you a great start to the new school year this week.

Sincerely,

Fiona Gilbert  
Board Chair

Greg Luterbach  
Superintendent of Schools