

COVID Related Frequently Asked Questions  
October 19, 2020

**1) Does my child have to wear a mask outside?**

The advice from SHA is that everyone should wear a mask anywhere and anytime. Based on SHA's observations; masks are the #1 intervention that reduces transmission in the community. Therefore, SHA recommends that masks be worn outside as well.

Masks must be worn anytime social distancing (2 meters or more) cannot be maintained. This applies to being inside and outside. This means a couple of things:

- If students are stationary and going to remain stationary, and they can be spaced a minimum of 2 meters apart, they do not need a mask. But if they are moving, **maintaining** the 2 meter distance can be pretty tough, so they will generally need a mask in this situation.

**2) If a child is positive or identified as a close contact, should my child stay home for 14 days?**

Saskatchewan Health Authority would advise you when it is safe for your child to return to school.

There is no magic number of days – two weeks is a starting point, but each individual responds differently, and Public Health is responsible for determining when the student is fit and well enough to return to school.

**3) How does contact tracing work at the school in the event of a positive case?**

Saskatchewan Health Authority will conduct contact in the event that an individual tests positive for COVID. They will want to know:

- 1) Did the student wear a mask when within 2 meters of other individuals? If so, then many people can be eliminated as close contacts. (So thank you for being diligent about your child wearing a masks when social distancing cannot be maintained!)
- 2) Were materials shared between the COVID-positive individual and other classmates? This is why limiting shared materials and hand hygiene is paramount.
- 3) Where has the student been and who would they have come into contact with? This is why seating plans and restricting cohorts is important.

**4. If travelled outside the province, should our family self-isolate?**

Currently travel to other Canadian provinces outside of Saskatchewan is permitted, though not recommended by the Province of Saskatchewan. PSSD does not have any restrictions in place pertaining to student travel that would add to this. So, students are not required to isolate for 14 days if they travel to other provinces.

For those concerned about possible health issues when students return from other provinces, keep the following in mind:

- We monitor students for symptoms consistent with COVID constantly. If students display these symptoms, we activate our protocols.
- Families should self-monitor for any developing symptoms. If symptoms develop, the family should call 811 and follow the direction of the Saskatchewan Health Authority