



COVID-19 Precautions for the 2021-22 School Year

School plans will evolve as required by emerging health risk assessments.

On August 13, 2021, the Saskatchewan Health Authority released their planning guide for the 2021-2022 school year. The Saskatoon Public School Board released theirs on August 23, 2021. Allegro has developed guidelines to minimize the risk of exposure to COVID-19 with the goal of protecting the children and staff. There is still a chance of transmission in those vaccinated, there are variants that are hitting those that are vaccinated, and our students are not old enough to be vaccinated. Our emphasis for the 2021-22 school year is balancing our concern about transmission with the students emotional and social needs. This year we will again err on the side of caution.

We understand that some of the guidelines will feel restrictive. They have been constructed with the guidance and approval of the Independent Schools, the Saskatchewan government, and our areas health officer. We appreciate the effort of each family to help protect everyone in the Allegro community.

What is COVID-19?

A new virus in the coronavirus family of viruses. It typically infects the respiratory system.

“The infection transmits via coughing and sneezing (droplet transmission). It can also be spread by touching surfaces with the virus on it and then touching your mouth nose or eyes before washing your hands.”

Government of Saskatchewan website: About COVID-19

- **Common Symptoms:**

- new or worsening cough
- shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- temperature equal to or over 38°C
- chills
- fatigue or weakness
- muscle or body aches
- new loss of smell or taste
- headache
- gastrointestinal symptoms (abdominal pain, diarrhea, vomiting)
- feeling very unwell
- Children have been more commonly reported to have abdominal symptoms, and skin changes or rashes.

- **If you or your child are displaying any of the above symptoms, please keep them home.**

Protect Yourself

Please practice these actions with your child -
Coughing etiquette
Washing hands
Wearing a mask

- **Children with the above symptoms will be isolated and sent home immediately.**
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- Practice proper coughing and sneezing etiquette (into a tissue or the bend of your elbow).
 - Wash your hands often with soap and water.
 - Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer when you cannot wash your hands.
 - Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
 - Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
 - Practice safe distancing and wearing a mask.
 - Clean and disinfect your home regularly.
 - Maintain safe food practices.
 - Avoid unnecessary travel to infected areas.
 - Avoid large crowds.
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Before Opening

- All our environments (classrooms) and materials have been sanitized.
 - Communal items in the school, (i.e. water fountains) have been closed.
 - Preparations made for each environment to function autonomously.
 - Extra provisions required for immune compromised students will be made as parents/guardians require.
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Staff and Screening

- Staff members will either be fully vaccinated or will be Covid tested regularly.
 - Before they enter the school daily, each staff member must assess themselves for COVID-19 symptoms, sending temperature reading to Head of School.
 - COVID -19 symptoms require an automatic isolation and testing.
 - Staff must self monitor for 14 days following out of province travel.
 - Provisions will be made for immune compromised staff who need to wear/have extra protection.
 - Mental health and emotional supports are in place.
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School Attendance

We will err on the side of caution if there is a question about health.

- Students must exhibit none of the above listed COVID-19 symptoms.
 - The student's temperature will be taken daily at 9:30 a.m. and evaluation of symptoms will begin there.
 - ***Parent/guardian must keep up to date emergency contact information. Someone must be available for pick up at anytime during the school day.***
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School Entrance / Mask usage

- Allegro Montessori expects that if you or anyone in your household or close contacts are out of province, you will closely self monitor for fourteen days.
- If your job requires you to travel, we expect that you will follow provincial health and travel guidelines and closely self monitor for COVID-19.

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- **Everyone 2.5 years or older must wear a mask while indoors.**
 - **Adults will not be allowed in the school.** See below for instructions for Toddler parents.
 - **A.M. and P.M. Extended Care information.**
(7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. and 3:45 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.)
 - **Extended Care use must be booked through the parent portal on our website. Please ask Gayle for assistance if required.**
 - **Extended Care will include students from different rooms.**
 - Drop off and sign in by texting (306) 741-8406 and your child will be met at the door.
 - Pick up and sign out by texting (306) 741-8406 and your child will be brought to the door.
 - Students will be walked by staff member to their respective rooms at 8:30 a.m.
 - **Kiss and Fly (7:30 – 7:55) is encouraged as your best drop off option.**
 - The designated area in front of our Allegro doors is for Kiss and Fly drop off.
 - Drive up in front of the school, a staff member will open the car door and help your child out of the vehicle. You do not have to get out of the car. Just kiss your child goodbye and they fly out of the car and into the school quickly and safely.
 - Another staff member is waiting inside to help them get to their classroom.
 - Kiss and Fly's purpose is to alleviate traffic congestion and parking delays. It also promotes the independence of your child.
 - **It is critical that Allegro students always use the Allegro entrance.**
 - You will not be permitted entrance or exit at any Roland Michener access point.
 - Two masks per day are required for all students 2.5 years and older.
 - These masks are always to be worn indoors except when eating or drinking.
 - These masks must be supplied by the child's parent/guardian.
 - Students in Toddler Program who need accompaniment into the school will bring in ONE adult only. All adults who must enter the school must register with the QR code on the Allegro doors.
 - All students will have their temperature checked at 9:30 every morning.
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- Students will be met in the lobby by staff and elementary helpers and walked to their rooms. Alumni are encouraged to walk to their environment independently.
 - Please arrive with your child's backpack containing only:
 - their lunch kit, snack container and water bottle(s),
 - several changes of clothing to remain in their locker.
 - **No extras please** (this includes toys, stuffies or any extra items from home).
 - Every time a student enters or exits their environment, they will be required to use hand sanitizer. At this time, hand sanitizer from home will not be allowed.
 - The environment opens at 8:30, leaving a half hour for staggered drop off.
 - We no longer shake hands and say hello when we arrive. Instead, we ask our students to look us in the eye and say hello.
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Dismissal

- All Allegro staff, parents or guardians on school property must wear a mask.
 - Children will be brought outside the front doors and dismissed to parents from outside.
 - Noon dismissal will happen at 12:00 pm for all classes.
 - After school dismissal will happen at:
 - Casa #1 - 3:30 p.m.
 - Casa #2 - 3:35 p.m.
 - Casa #3 - 3:25 p.m.
 - Elementary - 3:30 p.m.
 - Please give us enough room to bring our classes out and dismiss them to you. Thank you.
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In School Environment

- All materials will be sanitized appropriately.
 - More practical life materials will be provided so that there are always materials on the shelves to explore.
 - Two person tables will be divided with clear shields.
 - Students will stay in their environment and outside as much as possible.
 - Environments will be sanitized as needed and at end of day.
 - Hand washing and hygiene will continue to be taught daily as part of the Montessori curriculum.
 - Individual work and lessons will continue as part of the Montessori pedagogy.
 - Directors and aides will be wearing masks and/or shields during individual work and lessons.
 - Mental health and emotional supports for our students have always been in place by way of Montessori philosophy and pedagogy. We see and respond to the needs of the whole child.
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Bathroom Usage

- No outside food or treats brought for your child's classmates please.
 - At this time all parent/guardian conferences will be held via telephone and/or Zoom. This includes both school scheduled conferences and parent/guardian requested meetings. Dropping in to chat with the director is no longer feasible.
 - We encourage our parents to ask for a short meeting with the director or head of school as soon as questions or concerns arise.
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Snack, Lunch and Recess

- Each environment will have a designated bathroom stall, sink, and soap.
 - Physical distancing will be maintained while waiting to use the bathroom facilities.
 - Bathroom will be monitored and cleaned by staff regularly.
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- **Lunch**
 - To avoid cross contamination issues, students will eat directly from their lunch kits and thermoses.
 - Please do not send plates or bowls for your child.
 - Please provide all eating utensils they will need. Spare cutlery and eating materials will not be available.
 - We will no longer provide snack containers. All snack containers will be kept with the child in their basket throughout the day.
 - **There are no available water fountains in the school.**
 - Please send water in a bottle for your child. We will be able, as far as we know, to fill up their bottles at lunch but will not be able to do it during the day. Send two bottles if you feel your child will need it.
 - **Recess**
 - All cohorts will play together at recess.
 - Children will be unmasked during recess.
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Student Illness

- **Students displaying symptoms of illness (i.e. runny nose, cough, fever) MUST remain at home until they have been symptom free (without medication) for a minimum of 24 hours.**
- **Students displaying any of the following symptoms of COVID-19 will be isolated and sent home:**
 - new or worsening cough
 - shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
 - temperature equal to or over 38°C
 - chills
 - fatigue or weakness
 - muscle or body aches

- new loss of smell or taste
- headache
- gastrointestinal symptoms (abdominal pain, diarrhea, vomiting)
- feeling very unwell
- Children have been more commonly reported to have abdominal symptoms, and skin changes or rashes.
- When students display symptoms at school the following steps will be taken:
 - The student will be immediately masked and isolated with supervision.
 - The student will be cared for by a masked members of the admin team.
 - Emergency contact will be notified and child will be picked up immediately.
 - 811 will be called by parent/guardian and instructions for testing and isolation followed explicitly.
 - If required, we will proceed as directed by the Saskatchewan Health Authority.
- If your child commonly displays symptoms as part of another ailment, please notify us at the start of the year. We will do our best to differentiate between regular health issues and worrisome symptoms.

Shared Spaces / Specialties

- Any special guests will be invited by Zoom.
- Physical education will be taught by Jennifer Foy. Physical education will happen outside as weather allows. Small gym will be used only when we are not able to be outside.
- French will be taught to Full Day Kinder and Elementary students by Diane Kemp.
- Music will be taught by music specialist.

In Case of Shutdown

- All instruction will happen through Zoom, SeeSaw and other forms of communication.
 - A combination of morning Zoom sessions, assignments and activities given to occupy their afternoons.
 - Zoom sessions will be a combination of whole group, small group and individual lessons and conversations.
 - As before each Director will specifically tailor their offerings after they assess the individual needs of their children. All “schedules” will be approved by the Head of School.
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Vaccinations

- Proof of vaccination will be required from staff. Individuals who are unable or who are unwilling to get vaccinated will be required to provide regular and frequent negative COVID-19 test results.

Any questions you have regarding the opening of school in September may go directly to Liz Reynolds (Head of School) at hosallegro@sasktel.net.