



# ROLLING RIVER SCHOOL DIVISION

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August 26, 2021

Dear Students, Parents, Guardians and Staff,

The Board of Trustees of Rolling River School Division has undertaken a review of the current directives announced on August 24, 2021 by the Honourable Premier Brian Pallister and Dr. Brent Roussin, Chief Provincial Public Health Officer.

The paramount consideration is to ensure the safety and wellbeing of the Division's students and staff. In considering the masking requirements announced by Public Health, the stated preference of the Division's staff (including the Manitoba Teachers' Society), and the feedback from community parents, the Division will be mandating use of masks for all staff, students, and visitors in our K-12 schools and on school buses for the commencement of the 2021-2022 school year.

The Honourable Brian Pallister, Premier of Manitoba, and Dr. Brent Roussin, Chief Provincial Public Health Officer, announced additional public health measures today as further protection against the rising Delta variant and possible fourth wave of COVID-19. The additional health measures are:

- **requirement that everyone wear masks in public indoor settings including schools**
- **designated provincial public service workers who have ongoing contact with vulnerable populations, especially children, to be fully immunized or submit to testing up to three times per week.**

A copy of the mask wearing exemption form provided by the Manitoba School Boards Association is available from your school principal or from division office upon request. Please see the Province's August 2021 Guideline for Mask Exemptions at the following link:

[https://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/covid/docs/mask\\_exemption.pdf](https://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/covid/docs/mask_exemption.pdf)

Fundamentally, the Board of Trustees has concerns related to the uncertainty of the Delta variant in the Province and the fact that our children remain vulnerable given that many remain ineligible for vaccinations. The Board of Trustees is of the view that this requirement is necessary to protect the wellbeing of our students and staff.

The Board of Trustees is committed to reviewing and public health measures throughout the upcoming school year to ensure that all our students and staff continue to make our schools a safe place for learning.

We understand that there are differing perspectives on COVID-19 measures. All of us have a shared desire to keep our staff and students safe and to have our schools stay open. We hope that by continuing with these measures we can reduce the risk of transmission within our schools and in our communities.

This decision is not one that the Trustees arrived at lightly and until such time as Public Health and/or the Department of Education advise the Division that this masking requirement is not required, we will continue to implement the procedures and measures that the Board of Trustees views as necessary and in best interests of the Division and our local communities.

Sincerely,

Jason Cline  
Interim Superintendent, Rolling River School Division

C. Erickson, Chairperson

D. Green, Vice-Chairperson

J. Cline, Superintendent

K. McNabb, Secretary-Treasurer