



March 11, 2022

Dear LCS Families,

With the lifting of Public Health orders on Tuesday, March 15, it is important that all families are aware that we are making plans to transition to “normal” school life. At Linden we remain committed to following Public Health measures for schools as mandated by the government and LCS Board.

The following changes will be in effect beginning Tuesday, March 15:

Masks

Masks will no longer be required. It is important to note that anyone can continue to choose to wear a mask, based on their individual risks and personal preference.

Please note Public Health continues to recommend masks:

- for those who are at higher risk of severe disease;
- for those at higher risk of severe illness attending a crowded indoor setting, if in a setting where many people are at a higher risk for severe disease (e.g. healthcare facilities and personal care homes continue to require mask use);
- for individuals who are sick or have tested positive for COVID-19. At school this means we will have masks available for students who become ill while they are at school and waiting to be picked up.

At School

- The cohorting of students in Kindergarten to Grade 6 will end.
- Physical distancing in the classroom will continue for the remainder of March and gradually be removed after Spring Break.
- The invitation for volunteers and visitors to return to school will occur after April 4, 2022.
- Limitations on in-person gatherings and assemblies will be removed. Field trips will again be possible.
- Enhanced cleaning measures will remain in place.
- Music classes will occur without restrictions.
- Triad conferences may occur with a virtual or in-person option.

Student Absences

Please review the March 15, 2022 [Student Guidelines for Absence](#) to find out when your children need to stay home, along with absence reporting instructions.

We have learned a lot in the past two years and need you to do your part in minimizing the risk of communicable illnesses, not just COVID-19, by:

- keeping your students home when they are sick and until they have been symptom free for at least 24 hours;
- washing hands or using alcohol-based hand sanitizer frequently;
- ensuring your children know to direct a cough or sneeze into their elbow;
- making decisions about additional measures (e.g. wearing a mask) based on personal risk and preference.

Although the Public Health measures for isolation of individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19 are being removed by the government, the orders are being transitioned to public health guidelines, similar to how other communicable diseases are managed.

Isolation for COVID-19 is still advised by Public Health and at Linden we need students who test positive and:

- have symptoms to stay home and isolate for five days after symptoms start, until they are symptom-free for 24 hours;
- are symptom-free to isolate for five days from the date of the test.

We continue to encourage you to notify LCS if your student has tested positive for COVID-19. This will allow us to monitor absenteeism and COVID-19 cases for concerning patterns. It also allows us to inform the school community if there is higher than expected absenteeism in the school due to COVID transmission.

Other

Also note the Public Health advice for people who test positive with COVID-19 or have symptoms:

- Individuals to wear a well-fitted, well-made mask if they need to have contact with others while they are ill, when their isolation is finished, for 10 days after the onset of symptoms, or test date if asymptomatic.
- People with symptoms or who test positive should avoid non-essential visits with higher-risk people or at higher-risk settings for 10 days after the onset of their symptoms, or test date if asymptomatic.

Administration's ongoing priority is to support families, students and staff as we turn our focus to providing a pre-pandemic school experience. We will strive to create a welcoming environment for our school community, whether choosing to wear masks or not.

Please reach out to your child's teacher or the Vice Principal if you sense your child needs extra help in

transitioning back to a more normal school experience. Let's all be kind, compassionate and understanding as we move forward together.

In His Service,

Robert Charach

Principal and CEO

Linden Christian School

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