

February 9, 2022

To: BRSD families
From: Dr. Rita Marler, Superintendent of Schools
Re: Restrictions are being lifted

Hello everyone.

You have likely heard that Premier Jason Kenney announced many of the COVID-related restrictions that have been in place for Alberta are being lifted. Some of those changes impact schools and I want to share that information with you.

The Restriction Exemption Program has ended

Last fall, at the request of Alberta Education and Alberta Health, our school division implemented a program which required visitors to schools to provide proof of COVID vaccination or negative COVID test result, just as many other public facilities, organizations and businesses were required to do. Effective today (February 9) the province-wide Restriction Exemption Program has been discontinued. As a result, BRSD has also discontinued this practice effective today.

Visitors to schools will no longer be required to provide any documentation prior to entering schools or attending school-based events. Many schools will return to more in-person activities. But we also expect the livestreaming of events will likely continue at most locations – that option has been very well received by parents.

Please also be aware that students in Kindergarten to Grade 6 must to remain in cohorts until March, so we are still required to limit their exposure to others at this time. This may mean that some schools continue to limit visitors to some extent for a little while longer.

Mask laws are changing

Starting Monday, February 14, students will not be required to wear a mask at school or on the bus. Adults are still required to wear masks in all public places, including schools, both during and after regular school hours, until March. This includes all BRSD bus drivers, school-based and division-wide staff, as well as visitors. We will enforce this law until it is lifted.

Please continue to follow the Daily Checklist

The [Daily Checklist](#) (which was revised a few days ago) remains in effect. Parents are expected to keep students home if they are not well. We will also still ask all staff and visitors to refrain from coming into the school if they are not well.

I am aware there is a wide range of opinions and feelings about the pandemic, the restrictions that have been in place and these most recent changes. Here in Battle River, we will continue to focus on providing a positive and caring environment in which students can learn.

Rita Marler