



County Central High School

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Exceptional Education **Principal: Ms. Leanne Hellman, B.Sc., B.Ed., M.A., M.Sc.**
Vice-principal: Mr. Donauvon Monts

September 17th, 2021

Dear parents and guardians,

As many of you may know by now, on Wednesday evening, the province declared a state of public health emergency due to the rising number of COVID-19 hospitalizations and ICU admissions in Alberta. A number of additional public health measures were announced as a result of the declaration, some of which will affect our school community. Alberta Education has indicated that detailed information will be forthcoming. While we still have way more questions than answers, I would like to shed some light on what we do know and how we are planning to proceed at this point. One of the announcements from Wednesday was that as of 12:00am on September 16th, all staff and students in Grades 4-12 are required to wear masks in schools.

We realize that this announcement provided little notice of the changes, and as such, we recognize that it may take a few days for our families to process and prepare. While all students attending County Central High School were expected to wear masks while in the building beginning on Thursday, we will not be focusing on enforcement of this measure until next week to allow our families and students time to adjust. As of Monday, masks must be worn in the hallways and common areas, and may only be removed once students are seated in their classrooms and facing forward.

Please note that all previous health measures are still in place:

- Staff and students must stay home if they are unwell and follow all AHS isolation guidelines.
- Enhanced cleaning of high-touch surfaces will continue.
- Hand sanitizing is required upon entry to the building and entry to each classroom, as well as before and after using shared equipment such as Chromebooks.
- Desks will continue to be sanitized between classes.

- Junior high and senior high cohorts will still have separate lunch breaks, and students in Grades 8 and 11 will be dismissed five minutes before the bell at the end of the day.
- Masks must be worn at all times while riding school buses.
- Families will be notified when a positive case of COVID-19 is reported.

I ask that all parents and guardians please ensure that their students arrive at school with masks starting on Monday, September 20th, and families are reminded to complete the [Daily Health Checklist](#) screening tool before sending their children to school each day. I appreciate your support in helping keep our students safe by ensuring that your child does not come to school if they are unwell.

This situation is evolving, and I will communicate any new information as I receive it. The safety of students and staff has always been our top priority. I want to thank families for your patience and understanding while we navigate these new health measures together. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me directly at 403-485-2223 or at leanne.hellman@pallisersd.ab.ca.

Sincerely,

Leanne Hellman