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To: Horizon Families & Staff
From: Kevin C. Garinger, Director of Education
Cc: Horizon Board of Education
Date: February 22, 2021
Re: Mask Reminders & Updates

Good afternoon, Horizon families & staff.

I am writing today, first, with information that each of you already know. That is, Horizon's students are incredible people. They show us this every day. They have been nothing short of remarkable through this challenging school year. I hear from our teachers and administrators, and have seen firsthand, that students have been extremely adaptable and open to the new practices we have in place in our buildings and classrooms. Horizon's families and staff have been outstanding caregivers and role models for kids. I thank each of you for your ongoing work.

Cases of COVID-19 continue to be found across all regions of our province. While our new provincial case numbers have decreased in the last few weeks, we must not let our guard down now.

I would like to take the opportunity today, as we return from a very well-deserved break, to share a couple of reminders and updates.

Masks at Recess

Students, families, and staff have been very understanding and adherent to the provincial mask mandate in schools. Implementing this Health Order in our buildings has been very successful, thanks to each of you.

I have shared with Principals that our Health partners are strongly recommending masking outdoors at all times, including recess. As each of our schools looks a little bit different, with enrolment numbers and distancing ability varying from school to school, I have asked that Principals use their professional judgement to determine if masking at recess is required at their school. I have and will continue to support their professional judgement, as it meets the strong recommendations coming from our Medical Health Officers and other Health professionals. In many of our schools, masking at recess has already been the practice, along with providing students with opportunities for mask breaks, when appropriate.

Mask Reminders

We continue to encourage families and staff to wash their masks with soap or laundry detergent, at the end of each day. We also encourage students and staff to have at least two clean masks at school each day – ideally, a 3-layer mask such as the ones Horizon has provided for all students and staff. This ensures that there is a backup mask in case one gets dirty or is otherwise unusable through the course of the day.

We would like to remind you to visit saskatchewan.ca/covid19 for guidelines, information, and the Self-Assessment Tool. If you or your child are feeling symptoms associated with COVID-19, please stay home and call 811. I share my thoughts and wishes for a speedy recovery for all those impacted by COVID-19 across Horizon School Division and beyond.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kevin C. Garinger', written in a cursive style.

Kevin C. Garinger
Director of Education/CEO
Horizon School Division No. 205