



March 31, 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians, Students and Staff:

Re: Mask Guidelines Update

In follow up to yesterday's Information Bulletin, the District is sharing an update on guidelines regarding mask wearing in schools. The Ministry of Education, Provincial Health Office, and BC Centre for Disease Control have provided school districts with amendments to the K-12 health and safety guidelines which are found in these two documents:

[BCCDC Public Health Guidance for K-12 Schools](#)

[Provincial COVID-19 Health and Safety Guidelines for K-12 Settings](#)

[Here's What You Need To Know](#)

Effective immediately all K-12 staff, students in Grades 4 to 12, and visitors to schools will be required to wear non-medical masks in all indoor areas, including when they are at their workstations (desks), and on school buses - both within and outside of their learning group.

Exceptions include:

- A person who is unable to wear a mask because they do not tolerate it (for health or behavioural reasons)
- A person unable to put on or remove a mask without the assistance of another person
- If the mask is removed temporarily for the purposes of identifying the person wearing it
- If the mask is removed temporarily to engage in an educational activity that cannot be performed while wearing a mask (e.g. actively playing a wind instrument, high-intensity physical activity, etc.)
- If a person is eating or drinking
- If a person is behind a barrier
- While providing a service to a person with a disability or diverse ability (including but not limited to a hearing impairment), where visual cues, facial expressions and/or lip reading/movements are important

Students in Kindergarten to Grade 3 are strongly encouraged to wear a mask indoors in schools and on school buses – both within and outside of their learning group – though mask wearing ultimately remains a personal or family/caregiver choice for these students, and their choices must be respected.

Students will be able to remove their masks while outside, including at recess, lunchtime and while learning outside. As weather improves, teachers will continue to look for opportunities to move their classes outside.

Here Is What You Need To Know To Help Your Child

- Please send your child with a clean mask and a spare mask to school daily
- Schools are able to provide students a cloth mask or disposable mask if they forget but it is not intended to be daily in frequency
- Watch this Health Canada [video](#) with your child or view this [poster](#) for guidance on mask wearing

Moving Forward

Our administrators, teachers and school-based staff will spend this week helping students get comfortable and adapt to these new guidelines. The District will continue to work with the Ministry of Education and public health and will provide the community with updates to health and safety changes as they become available.

As we continue to adapt to these challenging circumstances, we appreciate everyone's efforts to work together and follow health and safety guidelines. These measures are intended to keep all of us as safe as possible during these difficult times. Thank you for your ongoing patience and support in this evolving situation.

Sincerely,



Gord Stewart
Superintendent of Schools

Cette notification est importante. S'il vous plaît demandez à quelqu'un pour la traduire afin d'être bien informé(e) à propos de l'école.

هذه الرسالة مهمة، الرجاء ان تطلب من احد الأشخاص ترجمتها لك لأنها تحتوي على معلومات مهمة من المدرسة

这是一个很重要的通知。请找人翻译它的内容，这样你就可以及时知道学校的情况。

ਇਹ ਸਿੱਖ ਜ਼ਰੂਰੀ ਸੂਚਨਾ ਹੈ। ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਕੁਸੀ ਨਿਸ਼ ਦਾ ਅਸਿ ਪਾਸੋਂ ਅਨੁਵਾਦ ਕਰਵਾਓ ਜਦੋਂ ਤਾਂ ਕਿਤੇਕੋ ਨਹੂਰ ਸੰਬੰਧੀ ਜ਼ਰੂਰੀ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਪ੍ਰਦਾਪਤ ਹੋ ਸਕੇ।

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Đây là một thông báo quan trọng. Xin vui lòng nhờ người dịch để bạn có thể biết thêm những thông tin về trường học.

Este es un aviso importante. Por favor consiga que alguien se lo traduzca para que usted pueda mantenerse bien informado sobre la información de su escuela.

Ito ay isang mahalagang notisya. Mangyari po lamang ay magkaroon ng taong tagasalin ng wika upang ikaw ay maging batid tungkol sa impormasyon ng paaralan.