



February 5, 2021

IMPORTANT INFORMATION: New COVID-19 Mask Requirement and Health Check App

Dear parents/guardians,

As we reach the halfway point on an unusual school year, I hope that your family is well, as we continue to collectively deal with living through a pandemic. Yesterday, the Ministry of Education and provincial health officer announced some changes to the safety measures for K-12 schools.

FACE MASKS

As per the provincial health officer, wearing masks indoors continues to be a personal choice for elementary students and their parents/guardians. However, all middle and secondary students and K-12 school-based staff will now be required to wear non-medical masks in all indoor areas, including when they are in their learning groups. The only exceptions are when:

- Sitting or standing at their seat or workstation in a classroom;
- There is a barrier in place;
- They are eating or drinking; or
- For those who do not tolerate masks for behavioural or health reasons.

These new mask requirements will take effect for all SD72 school staff and middle/secondary students on Monday, February 8. Single-use masks continue to be available from the school office for students who forget or lose their mask.

Since the start of the pandemic, we have been committed to a respectful and supportive culture with regards to the use of masks. Should you choose for your child to wear a mask beyond these requirements it will be respected.

DAILY HEALTH CHECKS – NEW HEALTH CHECK APP

One of the most important factors in keeping our schools safe is the daily screening for any COVID-19 symptoms and for students and staff to stay home if they are feeling unwell or displaying symptoms. To better support these daily health checks a new K-12 health-check app has been developed for students and their families. The app will allow people to answer simple questions every day and inform them if they can attend school or if they need to self-isolate and contact 8-1-1 to be screened for COVID-19.

The app can be found at the following addresses: <https://www.k12dailycheck.gov.bc.ca>
Apple: <https://apps.apple.com/us/app/bc-k-12-daily-healthch-checker/id1547334827>
Google: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.qp.k12App>

HOW TO GET MORE INFORMATION

The district website (www.sd72.bc.ca) has a COVID-19 section that is kept up to date with all the latest information from the school district, Ministry of Education, public health, and links to important resources.

We continue to be grateful for your cooperation and support as we respond to this provincial health emergency.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jeremy Morrow
Superintendent of Schools