



October 1, 2021

RE: Updated Provincial Health Orders for Schools

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We hope this message finds you well. I wanted to ensure you have been updated on the new provincially mandated mask protocols at schools, as we share a common goal in keeping students and staff safe.

You are likely aware that British Columbia has been experiencing higher numbers of COVID-19 cases due to the Delta variant. Earlier today Dr. Bonnie Henry announced new provincial public health measures for K-12 schools. The announcement expanded the mask mandate to now include students in kindergarten to grade 3. The Ministry of Education has issued clear direction for the use of masks for ALL students in the updated [Provincial COVID-19 Health and Safety Guidelines for K-12 Settings](#).

Effective October 4, all students from kindergarten to grade 12 will be required to wear non-medical masks in all indoor areas, including when they are at their work stations (desks/tables), and on school buses.

Exceptions to the mask policy include:

- A person who cannot tolerate wearing a mask 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. For example:
 - Playing a wind instrument
 - Engaging in high-intensity physical activity
 - 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 (for example, a hearing impairment), where visual cues, facial expressions and/or lip reading/movements are important

In order to be in compliance with the health order we ask that you send your child to school in a clean mask that they are used to wearing. The district will also be providing each K-3 student with a reusable mask and schools will have disposable masks available at the office should a student forget their mask.

The Ministry of Education has put this order in place until further notice. We would also like to take this opportunity to remind all parents, guardians and visitors that they are required to wear masks anytime they enter one of our schools.

As always, perform [daily health checks](#) and stay home if you are sick, keep your distance and practice good hand hygiene.

If you have any questions, please contact your school principal. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Morrow", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dr. Jeremy Morrow
Superintendent of Schools