



## SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 87

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### SD87 Update

#### Provincial COVID-19 Communicable Disease Prevention

**To: All Employees / Parents / Guardians / Students**

**From: Tracey MacMillan, Superintendent**

**Date: September 07, 2021**

**RE: Communicable Disease Prevention**

Welcome back! The new school year is upon us and we are confident it will be a positive one for all. We hope you had a restful summer break and were able to enjoy the outdoors and reconnect with family and friends.

The Ministry of Education, in collaboration with the BC Centre for Disease Control, Indigenous rightsholders and education partners, have developed the *Provincial COVID-19 Communicable Disease Guidance for K-12 Settings*, to ensure schools have effective measures in place to prevent the transmission of COVID-19.

As a result of these updates, we will be working with all schools, staff and stakeholders to update our district Communicable Disease Prevention Plans.

Additionally, on Tuesday, September 7<sup>th</sup>, the following will be implemented in all SD87 Schools:

- All K-12 Staff are required to wear a mask or a face shield (in which case a mask should be worn in addition to the face shield) indoors in schools and on school buses;
- Students in Grade 4 to 12 are required to wear a mask or a face shield (in which case a non-medical mask should be worn in addition to the face shield) indoors in schools and on school buses;
- Students in Grades K-3 are encouraged to wear a mask indoors in schools and on school buses, but are not required to do so – mask wearing remains a personal or family/caregiver choice;
- All visitors must wear a non-medical mask when they are inside the school (visitors are encouraged to make appointments);
  - Exceptions will be made for staff, students and visitors who cannot tolerate masks (e.g. for health reasons).
- Bus drivers are required to wear a non-medical mask, a face covering or a face shield (in which case a non-medical mask should be worn in addition to the face shield) on school buses except while driving;
- Students, staff or other adults must stay home if they are required to self-isolate; see BCCDC guidelines;
- Parents and caregivers are required to complete a daily health check with their child, and keep them home from school if they are sick (see Daily Health Check link);

- Staff and other adults are required to complete a daily health check prior to entering the school;
- Students, staff or other adults must stay at home if they are sick.

In addition to these items, schools will follow preventative measures pertaining to other areas such as cleaning and disinfecting; working with Northern Health to establish school-based COVID-19 Vaccination clinics; updated guidance regarding curricular and school programs for field trips, Physical and Health Education/outdoor programs, school sports and extra-curricular activities.

Please note that the use of masks should not reduce or replace other more effective infection prevention and exposure control measures in schools, such as: completing a daily health check; staying home when sick; frequently washing your hands; and respecting others personal space.

Helpful Links:

Please visit the Ministry of Education website regularly for up to date information about COVID-19 Protocols for schools: [COVID-19 safe schools - Province of British Columbia \(gov.bc.ca\)](https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/schools/covid-19/safe-schools)

Daily Health Check App: [K-12 Health Check \(gov.bc.ca\)](https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/schools/covid-19/health-check-app)

ImmunizeBC: [COVID-19 | Immunize BC](https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/health/immunizebc)

BCCDC's guidelines for washing and disposal of masks: [Masks \(bccdc.ca\)](https://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/masks)

BCCDC Guidelines for Self Isolation: [http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/self-isolation](https://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/self-isolation)

Your support is appreciated!

Sincerely,



Tracey MacMillan  
Superintendent of Schools

*We would like to acknowledge that the lands on which we live, work and learn are the unceded traditional territories of the Tāltān, Kaska and Taku River Tlingit First Nations.*