



SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 87

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MEMORANDUM

Enhanced COVID-19 School Safety Protocols

To: All Employees / Parents / Guardians / Students
From: Tracey MacMillan, Superintendent
Date: February 05, 2021
RE: Enhanced COVID-19 School Safety Protocols

We are pleased to share a positive message that was provided to the public yesterday.

The Ministry of Education, in consultation with the K-12 Education Restart Steering Committee and Health and Safety Working Group, has revised the provincial *COVID-19 Health & Safety Guidelines for K-12 Settings*. Some of the enhanced safety protocols include the following:

- Strengthened mask guidelines for middle and secondary students and K-12 staff in schools
- Specific guidance for Physical Education and music classes
- More detailed protocols regarding staff-only spaces and gatherings

As a result of these enhancements, we will be working with all schools, staff and stakeholders to update our district and school safety plans; provide all school administrators with the BCCDC's new *BCC COVID-19 Health and Safety Checklist*; and we are providing you with the link to the new Student Health Check App: <https://www.k12dailycheck.gov.bc.ca/>

On Monday, February 8th, we will implement the following in all SD87 Schools:

K-12 staff and middle/secondary students are required to wear a mask, or a face shield (in which case a mask should be worn in addition to the face shield) in schools – both within and outside of their learning group, except when:

- Sitting or standing at their seat or workstation in a classroom or learning space,
- There is a barrier in place,
- Eating or drinking, and
- Outdoors

Elementary students' mask use should be based on their personal or family/caregiver's choice.

K-12 staff and middle/secondary students are required to wear a mask on buses.

Exceptions will be made for staff and students who cannot tolerate masks (e.g. for health reasons).

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; maintaining physical distance; working within learning groups.

This Fall, SD87 provided re-usable (washable) masks to students and staff. On Monday, if required, an additional re-usable (washable) mask will be provided to your child. Please follow the BCCDC's guidelines for washing and disposal of masks: [Masks \(bccdc.ca\)](https://www.bccdc.ca)

Your support is appreciated!

New K-12 Health Check App for Students

The Ministry of Education has worked with Public Health and the BCCDC to create a daily health check website and mobile app for students and their parents to complete before heading to school in the morning. The website and app will contain the most up-to-date BC health guideline information.

The design of the app was developed in collaboration with BC students to create an age-appropriate user-experience. It will allow for students and their parents to make the best decisions on whether to attend school, not to attend school, or take other measures based on the information they provide.

The health check application will be available online as a [mobile enabled website](#), an [iPhone application](#), and a [Google Android application](#).

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://www.gov.bc.ca/COVID-19-safe-schools)

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.