



SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 87

P.O. BOX 190
DEASE LAKE, B.C. V0C 1L0
Tel. (250) 771-4440
Fax (250) 771-4441

SD87 Update

The Use of Non-Medical Masks: COVID-19 School Safety Protocols

To: All Employees / Parents / Guardians / Students

From: Tracey MacMillan, Superintendent

Date: April 07, 2021

RE: The Use of Non-Medical Masks: COVID-19 School Safety Protocols

On April 5th, 2021, the Ministry of Education provided additional direction and clarification related to the recent announcements pertaining to the use of non-medical mask requirements, in particular for Grade 4 – 12 students, that will be incorporated into all SD87 School Safety Protocols.

As a result, the [Provincial COVID-19 Health and Safety Guidelines for K-12 Settings](#) document has been updated to reflect this change, including related exemptions. This document has been shared on the SD87 District Website (<http://www.sd87.bc.ca>). The document provides details pertaining to the requirement that all students in Grades 4 - 12 wear non-medical masks. In summary:

- All students in Grades 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 – both within and outside of their learning group.
- Students in Grades K to 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 for these students, and their choices must be respected. (pg. 29)

For some of our schools, mostly those in elementary, where students are not used to wearing masks indoors, teachers will spend the next few days helping students to adjust to this change in preparation for full implementation on Monday, April 12th. We suggest you send your child to school in a clean mask, and with a spare mask, that they are used to wearing. Schools will have disposable masks available if students forget their mask. Please follow the BCCDC's guidelines for washing and disposal of masks: [Masks \(bccdc.ca\)](#)

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

We thank all staff, students, parents, guardians and our school communities for your efforts to follow school safety protocols. It is due to your support that we have maintained safe learning environments for our children. Again, your support is appreciated!

More information on recent COVID-19 Safety Protocols can be found in this [news release](#). (<https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2021PREM0023-000578>)

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 \(gov.bc.ca\)](#)

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.