



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: October 8, 2021

RE: Communicable Disease Prevention

The Ministry of Education released updated guidance regarding mask requirements for K-12 school settings.

In collaboration with the BC Centre for Disease Control, Indigenous rightsholders and education partners, the Ministry updated 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, SD87 will continue to work with all schools, staff and stakeholders to update our district Communicable Disease Prevention Plans.

Additionally, on **Tuesday, October 12th**, the following will be implemented in all SD87 Schools:

- **All K-12 Staff are required to wear a mask indoors in schools and on school buses** (staff may wear a face shield in addition, but must wear a mask under the face shield);
- **All Students in Kindergarten to Grade 12 are required to wear a mask indoors in schools and on school buses.** Students may wear a face shield in addition, but must wear a mask under the face shield;
- All visitors must wear a mask when they are inside the school (visitors are encouraged to make appointments);
 - Exceptions will be made to staff, students and visitors who cannot tolerate masks (e.g. for health reasons); during times of eating, drinking; for purposes of identifying the person wearing the mask; while providing a service to a person with a disability or diverse ability; to a person who is unable to put on or remove a mask without the assistance of another person; or if the mask is removed temporarily to engage in an educational activity that cannot be performed while wearing a mask (e.g. playing a wind instrument, engaging in high-intensity physical activity, etc.)
- Bus drivers are required to wear a mask or face covering on school buses except while driving. The driver may wear a face shield in addition, but must wear a mask under the face shield.
- **All Students in Kindergarten to Grade 12 are required to wear non-medical masks or face coverings when they are on the bus.**

- 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.

The use of masks should not reduce or replace other more effective infection prevention and exposure control measures in schools, such as:

- ensuring students and staff are aware of their responsibility to perform a daily health check, and to stay home when they are sick or if required to self-isolate;
- daily cleaning and disinfection of frequently touched surfaces; and
- frequent hand hygiene.

These measures provide multiple layers of protection that reduce the risk of transmission.

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 \(immunizebc.ca/covid-19\)](https://immunizebc.ca/covid-19)

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>

Your support is appreciated!

Have a safe and relaxing long weekend!

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.