

October 4, 2021

Good day everyone,

On Friday, you received an important update to the *Public Health Communicable Disease Guidance for K-12 Schools* and the Provincial COVID-19 Communicable Disease Guidelines for K-12 Settings from Minister of Education, Jennifer Whiteside, and Provincial Health Officer, Dr. Bonnie Henry.

All updates as of October 1, 2021, are now on the website <https://sd22.bc.ca/> for:

- the Communicable Disease Plan (Oct. 1, 2021)
- the Safety Plan Information one-pager (Oct. 1, 2021),
- the Staff Safety Information (non-school sites) one-pager (Oct. 1, 2021),
- the SD22 Safety Orientation Video (Oct. 1, 2021).

Scroll down on the front page of the website under **Quick Links** on the right for all documents and the video.

As a reminder ...The provincial government has announced **that beginning today, Monday, October 4, 2021, all students in B.C. schools will be required to wear a mask when inside a school building, including while at their desks and on buses.**

“We recognize that some students in grades K-3 may not be accustomed to wearing masks, as a result, school staff will spend October 4 helping children adjust to this change, with the goal of building mask wearing into student routines by the end of the week. We suggest you send your K-3 child to school with a clean mask and a spare mask that they are used to wearing. Schools will continue to have disposable masks available.

As a reminder, provincial guidance advises **that mask requirements do not apply to staff, students, and visitors, in the following circumstances:**

- A person cannot tolerate wearing a mask for health or behavioural reasons
- A person is 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
- If a person is eating or drinking

- If a person is behind a barrier; or
- While providing a service to a person with a disability or diverse ability where visual cues, facial expressions and/or lip reading/movements is important

In addition, the provincial government also made a change to the notification process for school exposures, directing local health authorities to begin posting general school exposure notifications to their websites. **Exposure notifications for our school district and the Interior Health region more broadly can be found on the [Interior Health school exposures page](#). For a helpful overview of the contact tracing process visit the [BC CDC website](#).**

We thank you all for your continued support of students and staff, and understanding of the fluidity of change, that continues to occur during this pandemic.

Sincerely,



Dr. Christine Perkins | Superintendent & Chief Executive Officer

Proud to live, work, learn, and play on the ancestral, unceded territory of the Syilx Nation.

(she, her, hers)

School District No. 22 (Vernon)

1401 - 15th Street, Vernon, B.C. V1T 8S8

Office: [250-549-9217](tel:250-549-9217)

Cell: [250-308-8191](tel:250-308-8191)

Email: cperkins@sd22.bc.ca

Web: www.sd22.bc.ca