



SCHOOL DISTRICT NO 47 (POWELL RIVER)
Office of the Superintendent of Schools
4351 Ontario Avenue, Powell River, BC V8A 1V3
Telephone: 604 414 2600 Fax: 604 485 6435

October 1, 2021

Good afternoon, Parents/Guardians, and Families,

Re: Mask mandate expanded to Kindergarten to Grade 3 Students

Today, Education Minister Jennifer Whiteside and Provincial Health Officer Dr. Bonnie Henry, announced updates to the Public Health Communicable Disease Guidance for K-12 Schools to require masks for kindergarten to Grade 3 students. 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, beginning on Monday, October 4, 2021. This expansion builds on the existing guidelines that currently apply to all students in grades 4 to 12, helps increase confidence in the school system, and ensures that students and staff feel comfortable attending school in person.

The health, safety, and well-being of students and staff, continues to be a top priority for our School District. This expanded mask mandate will provide an additional layer of protection to schools in the District in limiting the spread of COVID-19 and other respiratory viruses.

Anecdotal reports from schools show a majority of these primary students are wearing masks and keeping them on. With teacher encouragement, we have seen a high uptake of mask wearing in most schools. Administrators, teachers, and support staff will continue to support student mask wearing through positive and inclusive approaches. They will work with students to foster proper mask usage including how to wear, take off, and store masks.

As always, students will not be required to wear a mask if they are unable to for health or behavioral reasons. A full list of exemptions can be found on the B.C. Ministry of Health [website](#). The School District will have an updated version of our local Communicable Disease Guidelines posted to the [COVID 19 Information](#) page before Monday morning.

The School District's goal is to provide a safe, healthy, and supportive learning environment. On behalf of the School District, I want to thank you in advance for your family's cooperation as we work together towards a return to normal.

Warm regards,

Dr. Jay Yule
Superintendent
Board of Education
School District 47 (Powell River)

JY/ac