



**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

April 6, 2021

To all School District Families and Staff,

**RE: Updated Provincial Health Orders for Schools**

I hope you had a restful and safe spring break. As we welcome students back to school, I would like to make you aware of some changes in the mask protocol in schools.

You may have seen in the news recently that British Columbia has been experiencing higher numbers of COVID-19 cases. In an effort to help break the chain of increased COVID-19 infection in the province, Dr. Bonnie Henry announced new provincial public health restrictions in place until further notice. These restrictions will be reviewed April 19, 2021. Included in the announcement were new guidelines for mask wearing for students in grades 4 to 12.

Effective tomorrow, April 7, all K-12 staff and all students in grades 4 to 12 will be required to wear non-medical masks in all indoor areas, including when they are at their work stations (desks), and on school buses - both within and outside of their learning group.

Students in Kindergarten to Grade 3 are strongly encouraged to wear a mask indoors in schools and on school buses – both within and outside of their learning group. Although mask wearing ultimately remains a personal or family/caregiver choice for these students, their choices must be respected. Grade 3 students in a split grade 3/4 class are required to wear masks.

For some schools, where students are not used to wearing masks indoors, teachers will spend the next few school days helping students to adjust to this change. 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 masks available if students forget their mask. Please click the following links for a [poster](#) containing a reminder of how to wear a facemask.

The Ministry of Education has provided a [Q & A Document](#) and revised the [Provincial COVID-19 Health & Safety Guidelines for K-12 Settings](#). Further safety information can be found on our [SD47 COVID-19 page](#)

A reminder to perform daily health checks, stay home if you are sick, distance yourself, hand sanitize, wash your hands, and wear a mask.

Thank you for helping make schools safe for everyone. We will get through this together.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jay Yule".

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

JY/ac