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[www.sd78.bc.ca](http://www.sd78.bc.ca)

February 5, 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians and Students,

Please note that the Ministry of Education (in consultation with Public Health) has updated our current Health and Safety Guidelines during the COVID 19 pandemic. The new guidelines will strengthen the health and safety protocols to ensure that our schools continue to be safe places to grow and learn. We would ask that our students adhere to these guidelines by Monday, February 8, 2021.

The updated ministry announcement is located on this link:

<https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2021EDUC0011-000201>

To highlight these changes, please note the following:

1. As an increased precaution, all middle and secondary students and (K-12) staff members will now be required to wear non-medical masks in indoor areas, including when they are with their learning groups. The only exceptions are when students or staff are:
  - sitting or standing at their seat, workstation, while in the classroom;
  - there is a barrier in place; or
  - they are eating or drinking
2. For elementary-aged students wearing masks indoors remains a personal choice. However, we encourage their use.
3. Guidelines have also been strengthened for physical education and music classes. High-intensity physical activities are to be held outside as much as possible. Increased cleaning and sanitization procedures for equipment and increased physical distancing of 2 meters in these classes will be maintained.
4. Our school principals and vice-principals are updating health and safety guidelines, including checklists and safety plans.
5. A new health check app is available for students and families and can be found at the following address: <https://www.k12dailycheck.gov.bc.ca>

6. The Ministry continues to make announcements about funding to support students (see link above). We have currently used the balance of our allocated funds to increase our students' support and will continue to direct any increased funding to support our students during the pandemic.

We acknowledge our students, families, and staff members for your dedication to support our most valuable resource-our students. We are optimistic about the months ahead as the vaccine becomes more readily available. We are seeing an increase in the number of students engaging with in-person learning as the months progress. We encourage our families to connect with your Principals about your child's educational plan whether they are in school or on-line.

We hope that this plan helps to assure you that our students, families, and staff members' safety and well-being are our highest priorities.

We look forward to connecting with you in person soon.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. Moorthy', with a horizontal line underneath.

Balan Moorthy  
Superintendent of Schools