



650 KAWKAWA LAKE ROAD
HOPE, B.C. VOX 1L4
Phone -(604) 869-2411 (Hope residents)
Phone (604) 796-2225 (Agassiz residents)
Fax (604) 869-7400 www.sd78.bc.ca

March 31, 2021

Good Morning SD78 Staff, Parents/Guardians and Partner Groups

RE: Updated COVID-19 Health & Safety Guidelines

Please note that the BC Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education released the new COVID-19 Health and Safety Guidelines yesterday evening. The extended guidelines for staff and students which have been updated to reflect the amended mask requirements can be found here: [BCCDC Public Health Guidance for K-12 Schools](#) and the [Provincial COVID-19 Health and Safety Guidelines for K-12 Settings](#).

As a summary, the guidelines indicate the following:

Effective immediately, all staff, adult volunteers and visitors, and all Grade 4 to 12 students should wear a non-medical mask or face covering (a “mask”) at all times while indoors at school.

Exceptions

The recommendations above should not apply as follows:

- To a person who is unable to wear a mask because they do not tolerate it (for health or behavioural reasons);
- To a person 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 (e.g. actively playing a wind instrument, high-intensity physical activity, etc.);
- If a person is eating or drinking;
- If a person is behind a barrier;

- While providing a service to a person with a disability or diverse ability (including but not limited to a hearing impairment), where visual cues, facial expressions and/or lip reading/movements are important.
- No student should be prevented from attending or fully participating in school if they are not wearing a mask.
- Staff, adult volunteers, and all Grade 4 to 12 students should wear a mask at all times while on a bus, subject to the exceptions noted below:
 - To a bus driver while driving;
 - To a person who is unable to wear a mask because they do not tolerate it (for health or behavioural reasons);
 - To a person 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; or
 - While eating or drinking.
- Kindergarten to Grade 3 students are encouraged to wear a mask at school and on buses, but should not be required to do so.

These changes will be reviewed again on April 19, 2021. We appreciate the ongoing efforts of our students, parents and staff as we navigate the continuously changing dynamic of this pandemic.

Sincerely yours,



Superintendent of Schools