



## School District No. 51 (Boundary)

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February 5, 2021

Dear School District No. 51 Families,

On Thursday, February 4, 2021, the Ministry of Education introduced enhanced safety measures to strengthen the health and safety plans in K-12 schools.

In keeping with these increased measures, all SD51 secondary students will now be required to wear non-medical masks in all indoor areas, including when they are with their learning groups. The only exceptions are when:

- they are sitting or standing at their seat or workstation in a classroom;
- there is a barrier in place; or
- they are eating or drinking.

For elementary students, wearing masks indoors remains a personal choice. Their mask use is based on personal or family/caregiver choice, and this choice will be respected.

Over the next few weeks, we will be reviewing the other enhancements recommended by the Ministry and updating our own SD51 health and safety guidelines. Each individual school will also be assessing its procedures to make sure we are staying diligent. We look forward to the opportunity to perform this assessment to help ensure our safety plans are meeting the guidelines as recommended by the Ministry under the direction of Public Health. Our updated guidelines will be communicated to you by February 26, 2021.

The BC Centre for Disease Control has created a [K to 12 Health Check](#) to help families complete daily health checks with their children. Also, a new website, [School COVID-19 Information](#), is now available with easily accessible information for families and students.

With the ongoing efforts of students, families, staff and communities, our schools will continue to be safe learning spaces. Safe communities mean safe schools, and we thank you for your help in this endeavour.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Anna Lautard'.

Anna Lautard

Acting Superintendent of Schools