



School District No. 51 (Boundary)

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April 1, 2021

Dear School District No. 51 Families,

Under the direction of the office of the Public Health Officer and the Ministry of Education, mask guidelines for students from grades 4 to 12 are being strengthened as COVID-19 cases rise across the province.

In keeping with these increased measures, all grade 4 to 12 students will now wear masks indoors in schools and on school buses – both within and outside their learning groups.

Exceptions include:

- A person who is unable to wear a mask because they do not tolerate it (for health or behavioural reasons);
- 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.

While students in Kindergarten to Grade 3 are encouraged to wear a mask while indoors at school and on school buses, mask wearing ultimately remains a personal or family/caregiver choice for these students, and this choice will be respected.

I would also like to remind families and students to continue to complete the daily health check with the [K to 12 Health Check](#) . If your child is sick, they must stay home.

With the continued 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