



Board of Education
School District No. 22 (Vernon)
1401 – 15th Street, Vernon, BC V1T 8S8

March 31, 2021

Dear staff and families:

Under the direction of the office of the Provincial Health Officer, mask guidelines for students from grades 4 -12 and all K-12 staff are being enhanced as COVID-19 community cases are climbing in many parts of the province.

Effective immediately 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.

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.

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 – though mask wearing ultimately remains a personal or family/caregiver choice for these students, and their choices will be respected.

Schools will support mask use through positive and inclusive approaches including providing masks for students as needed.

I understand this continues to be a challenging and difficult process, and we appreciate your patience and support.

If you believe your child has one of the above exceptions, please provide a note to the school principal and/or contact your school principal should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Joe Rogers
Superintendent of Schools

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(250) 542-3331 www.sd22.bc.ca