

October 1, 2021

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Staff.

Today the Ministry of Education and Public Health Office announced new guidelines around the use of masks in schools. **Effective Monday October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021, all students from Kindergarten to grade 12 are required to wear masks indoors in school and on all school busses.**

The new mask mandate is subject to the same exemptions previously outlined.

Exemptions from wearing a mask include:

- If a student cannot tolerate wearing a mask for health or behavioural reasons.
- The student is unable to put on or remove a mask without help from another person.
- If the mask is removed temporarily for 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., playing a wind instrument, engaging in high-intensity physical activity, etc)
- When eating or drinking.
- If a person is behind a barrier; or
- 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 expression and/or lip reading/movements are important.

We would like to take this opportunity to remind all parents, guardians, and visitors that they are required to wear masks anytime they enter one of our schools. Further we ask that along with wearing masks everyone complete a daily health check and hand wash or sanitize before entering any of our facilities.

If you have any questions, please contact your school Principal. Masks will be made available for students within schools.

Respectfully,



Tom Demeo  
Superintendent /CEO  
Comox Valley Schools