



# School District No. 71 (Comox Valley)

Board of Education of School District No. 71

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Office of the Superintendent of Schools

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April 1, 2021

Dear Parents / Guardians, Staff and Students

On Monday, March 29, the Provincial Health Officer announced new provincial health orders due to the recent rise in COVID-19 cases in B.C. As a result, the Ministry of Education has updated their [Public Health Guidance for K-12 Schools](#). Effective Tuesday April 6<sup>th</sup>, the following changes will be in effect in all our schools.

All staff, adult volunteers, visitors and students in **Grades 4 to 12** are required to wear masks at all times inside all school district buildings and while riding a school bus. Masks must also be worn outside if physical distancing cannot be maintained. The guidance outlined above regarding mask requirements does not apply to staff, students and visitors in the following circumstance:

- an individual is unable to wear a mask (for health or behavioural reasons);
- an individual is unable to put on or remove a mask without the assistance of another person;
- temporarily removed to identify the individual wearing it;
- temporarily removed to engage in an educational activity that cannot be performed while wearing a mask such as actively playing a wind instrument;
- while eating or drinking;
- behind a barrier;
- while providing a service to a person with a disability or diverse ability, where visual cues, facial expressions and/or lip reading/movements are important.

Students in **Kindergarten to Grade 3** are encouraged to wear masks within the guidelines above but are not required to do so.

This guidance has been issued along with other extensive public health measures. Further notifications will be distributed from the school district if these guidelines should change. New guidance will be reflected in our [COVID-19 Occupancy Requirements and Protocols](#).

Thank you for your support and cooperation as we continue to make adjustments to our safety protocols. As always, your patience and understanding are appreciated.

Respectfully,

Tom Demeo  
Superintendent of Schools