



Information for Families and Students

COVID-19 Enhanced Health and Safety Guidelines K-12

Recently, the Ministry of Education announced updated health and safety guidelines which will now require all K – 12 staff in schools and all students in middle and secondary schools to wear nonmedical masks in all indoor areas, including when they are in 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
- they are eating or drinking

Mask exemptions will be made for students who cannot wear a mask for health or behavioural reasons.

Even when wearing a mask, staff and students will still be required to maintain physical distance from people outside of their learning group.

Elementary school students are not required to wear a mask in schools or on school buses. Elementary student mask use should be based on their personal or family/caregiver choice and their choices must be respected.

If a student develops symptoms while at school, they must wear a mask while they are preparing to go home.

There have been some changes to the way that physical education and music classes are offered, primarily at the secondary level and as we work through these changes, we will inform parents. I encourage you to review the [updated provincial guidelines](#) and reach out to your child's school principal if you have any questions.

New Health Check App for Students

The Ministry of Education has worked with Public Health and the BCCDC to create a daily health check website and mobile app for students and their parents to complete before heading to school in the morning. The website and app will contain the most up-to-date BC health guideline information. The design of the app was developed in collaboration with BC students to create an age-appropriate user-experience. It will allow for students and their parents to make the best decisions on whether to attend school, not to attend school, or take other measures based on the information they provide. The health check application will be available online as a [mobile enabled website](#), an [iPhone application](#), and a [Google Android application](#).

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