

April 2, 2021



School District 19
(Revelstoke)

Dear Parents and Guardians:

The Provincial Health Office (PHO) and the Ministry of Education announced updates to our school safety guidelines earlier this week. (Full details are available on our website <https://www.sd19.bc.ca/>)

The K-12 Provincial Guidelines state that all K-12 staff and all students in grade 4-12 will be required to wear non-medical masks in all indoor areas, including when they are at their desks/workstations and on school buses. The Guidelines also note that the use of masks at Kindergarten to Grade 3 is *encouraged but not required* and remains a personal or family/caregiver choice.

The PHO detailed exceptions to this guideline to ensure that no child stays home because of an inability to wear a non-medical mask.

Highlighted exceptions include:

- A person who is unable to wear a mask because they do not tolerate it, or if they are unable to put on or remove the mask without assistance.
- If the mask is removed because they are behind a barrier, are eating or drinking, or are engaged in an educational activity that can not be performed while wearing a mask (ie. in high intensity activity or playing a wind instrument).
- If the mask is removed while providing service to a person with diverse needs where visual cues and facial expressions are important.

Please connect directly with your school principal to discuss exceptions for your child that may be necessary.

As we welcome students back to school next week our staff will be supporting students with the new requirements as they have been doing all year 😊. We will continue to have disposable masks available at school. You are welcome to send your children to school with personal masks that tend to be more comfortable than the disposables, and more eco friendly.

For your information, the BC Centre for Disease Control online resource for parents, students, and school staff at <http://www.bccdc.ca/schools/> includes answers to 'frequently asked questions' and details on masks, distancing, hygiene, and more.

As always please connect with your school principal or me directly (mhooker@sd19.bc.ca) with ideas, questions, or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mike Hooker', with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Mike Hooker
Superintendent of Schools