



School District No. 54 (BULKLEY VALLEY)
"To empower all learners to live the challenges of a diverse and changing world."

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March 31, 2021

Dear Parents, Guardians, and SD54 Employees,

As I am sure you are aware, the Provincial response to the COVID situation and safety in schools continues to evolve as the pandemic progresses. The Ministry of Education has been working on updating safety guidelines for schools since Dr. Henry's announcement earlier this week. [BCCDC Public Health Guidance for K-12 Schools](#) and the [Provincial COVID-19 Health and Safety Guidelines for K-12 Settings](#) have now been updated to reflect the amended mask requirements for K-12 staff and students.

Effective immediately, all students in Grades 4 to 12 are required to wear a mask indoors in schools and on school buses - both within and outside of their learning group. Students in Grades K to 3 are encouraged to wear a mask indoors in schools and on school buses. Changes have also included revised guidance for staff only spaces, student transportation on buses, personal protective equipment, P.E. classes, music classes, school sports and some fine arts programs.

For most students, these changes will just increase the frequency of mask wearing and will not be much of a change to the mask requirements already in place. For elementary school students in Grades 4-7, students may need a few days to build more mask wearing into their routines. Teachers will spend the next few days helping students to adjust to this change.

We suggest you send your child to school in a clean mask that they are comfortable wearing and we also recommend including a spare mask in their bag. Schools will have disposable masks available if students forget their mask. Students will be able to remove their masks while outside, including at recess, lunchtime and while learning outside. As the weather improves, teachers will continue to look for opportunities to move their classes outside.

We appreciate your support and patience as we implement these changes. If you have any questions please contact your local school or reach out to us at the School Board Office.

Stay safe,

Mike McDiarmid
Superintendent of Schools
School District #54 (Bulkley Valley)