

PLEASE remember ... Wear a mask and physically distance ... we are all in this together.



Principal's Bulletin #29

April 1st, 2021

Happy Easter!

It seems that each new week brings yet more change. As you know, the existing Provincial public health orders have been amended again by the PHO. A newsletter was sent by the Superintendent's office yesterday which fully outlines the changes and how they impact our school. The strengthened orders and guidelines are in effect through April 19, 2021 at 11:59 p.m., and complete details are included in the news release [HERE](#)

NOTE: The Ministry of Education and BC Centre for Disease Control have also been working on updating their respective K-12 health and safety guidelines here: ([Provincial Guidelines](#) and [BCCDC guidelines](#).)

Essentially, the biggest change is as follows:

Effective immediately, all K-12 staff and all students in grades 4 to 12 will be required to wear non-medical masks in all indoor areas, including when they are at their work stations/desks, both within and outside of their learning group.

I have pulled some excerpts from these documents below to hopefully answer some possible questions before they arise ([click here](#)).

Amazingly, now that Spring Break has passed, we are into the final countdown ... there are only 55 instructional days remaining in the year! There is so much to accomplish in such a very short time, and what felt like a marathon earlier in the year will quickly turn into a sprint. It is important to keep focussed, knowing that June will be here sooner than we expect. A reminder that Quarter #3 is over in just under three weeks, so be sure to check in with your teachers to ensure that you know where you are, and have the time to complete any outstanding work.

As always, this week's information items and expectations surrounding COVID protocols in school are included below. Don't hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Please be safe and take care of each other.

Rob McLeod
Principal

Note: You can click on the Seycove Logo above to go to the Seycove Website

- **Previous Bulletins:**

All previously posted Principal's bulletins and communications can be found [HERE](#).

- **Special bulletin for Grads: ([click here](#))**

- **Calendar Highlights (*updated*)**

- April 2nd ... Good Friday, schools closed
- April 5th ... Easter Monday, schools closed
- Week of April 12th ... **Grade 10 Literacy Assessment** ([click here](#))
- April 19th ... **End of Quarter 3**
- April 28th ... **Report Cards Published**
- April 30th ... Provincial Student Learning Survey closes ([click here](#))

- **Changes in Mask use and Exceptions:**

Further to the discussion surrounding the new mask guidelines as described above, there are some exceptions and clarifications I would like to point out.

The mask requirement does not apply to staff or students in the following circumstances:

- to a person who cannot tolerate wearing a mask for health or behavioural reasons;
- to a person who is unable to put on or remove a mask without the assistance of another person;
- if the mask is removed temporarily for the 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. actively playing a wind instrument, engaging in high-intensity physical activity, etc.);
- if a person is 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 expressions and/or lip reading/movements are important.

Some other clarifications:

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

FOR HIGH INTENSITY PHYSICAL ACTIVITIES that involve movement (e.g. basketball, soccer), indoors or outdoors:

- Students within the same learning group are not required to maintain physical distancing, but the activity must be delivered in a way that reduces the likelihood of physical contact beyond a brief moment.
- Students from different learning groups are required to maintain physical distancing (2M).

Why are masks not required during high intensity physical activity?

During high intensity physical activity, respiration rates are increased (resulting in a wet mask) and the wearer is more likely to touch their face and adjust the mask frequently. These factors lessen the protective value a mask may offer. In addition, a wet mask is more difficult to breathe through; those wearing masks during high intensity activities should change them as soon as they become wet.

LOW INTENSITY PHYSICAL ACTIVITIES ... For low intensity activities (e.g. yoga, walking), students are required to wear masks when they are indoors and a barrier is not present.

MUSIC PROGRAMS ...

- All classes, programs and activities (e.g. Band, Choir) can continue to occur as follows:

While K-12 staff and students in Grades 4 to 12 must wear masks when indoors, masks can be temporarily removed while engaging in an educational activity that cannot be performed while wearing a mask (e.g. playing a wind instrument), but must be worn while singing.

• Provincial Student Learning Survey 2020/2021 *(reposted)*

I have sent a number of emails about the provincial *Student Learning Survey* (SLS) ... this is just a reminder that it is still available online for submitting feedback.

The SLS is unique in its scope, size and usefulness to schools. It gathers information from parents/guardians/caregivers, teachers and students on topics related to school environment, safety, and achievement. The information is used for planning in individual schools and provides a district and provincial perspective.

In the next 2 months, the *Student Learning Survey* will be administered to students, their parents/guardians/caregivers, and all school staff. We encourage parents/guardians/caregivers to participate in this survey, as the results are important in identifying and celebrating current strengths, as well as determining where the school needs to focus improvement. The surveys contain standard questions for the Province – in addition, questions from the school and/or district that focus on local conditions or issues may be included.

The survey can be completed electronically and can be accessed on the Internet at http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/sat_survey. Any computer with an Internet connection can be used, and access to the e-survey is simple and secure. The survey can be accessed through the link with or without an anonymous logon code by selecting the school district and school name where your child attends school. Provincial, District and School Reports for previous years can be viewed at the same site under the *Results* section.

The e-survey site will be open until April 30th. If you have any questions, please contact the school at 604-903-3666.

• Special bulletin for Grads:

Grads are reminded that:

- You need to submit your grad gown measurement to ibaileygray@sd44.ca (We just need your height with your Grad shoes on.)
- Grad fees (\$45.00) are now due.
- The “virtual” Valedictory Ceremony will be filmed on June 18th. A letter will be sent to families and grads next week with all of the details.

• Updated “Covid” resources:

- Call **8-1-1** for health information
- Use the **Daily Health Check** before sending your child to school
([https://www.sd44.ca/COVID-19/dailyhealthcheck/Pages/default.aspx#/=">\)](https://www.sd44.ca/COVID-19/dailyhealthcheck/Pages/default.aspx#/=)
- Visit the **BC Centre for Disease Control** website (<http://www.bccdc.ca/>)
- Visit the **Vancouver Coastal Health** website (www.vch.ca)
- Bookmark the **NVSD COVID-19 Resource web pages** (www.sd44.ca/COVID-19)
- Ministry of Education **BC’s Back To School Plan** – updated Nov 10, 2020 (previously dated Sept 24, 2020)
- **BCCDC Schools FAQ** web page – Sept 24, 2020
- **NVSD Back to School September 2020 FAQs** – NVSD **PUBLIC** webpage - updated on an on-going basis
- **NVSD Website COVID-19 Information** – NVSD **PUBLIC** webpage - Misc. resources including copies of Supt letters, updated on an on-going basis