

Friday October 1, 2021

Dear Prince Rupert Families,

While we have been pleased to see some of the restrictions lifted for this school year, the BC Centre for Disease Control and the Ministry of Education have made some revisions to the Provincial Communicable Disease plan. As a result, we are making immediate changes to our school and District Communicable Disease Plans.

There are two minor changes:

Changes to the SD 52 Communicable Disease Plan

Beginning Monday, Oct. 4, 2021, all students in B.C. schools will be required to wear a mask when inside a school building, including while at their desks and on buses. This builds on the existing guidelines that currently apply to all students in grades 4 to 12.

Dr. Bonnie Henry, provincial health officer shared this morning that, “This pandemic continues to evolve and so do we. We need to make changes to fit the situation as it's arising. We know the COVID-19 virus is being transmitted more rapidly, particularly to those who don't have the protection that vaccination offers. This extra measure adds another layer of protection as we navigate this phase of the pandemic.”

We have revised the SD 52 Communicable Disease Plan and it will be posted on our website. Individual schools are also revising their plans and will post them on their websites.

COVID-19 School Notification Process

As outlined on the Northern Health Website, Northern Health will update this list with information about potential COVID-19 exposures, clusters or outbreaks within schools in the NH region, as they occur. They are providing this information so school staff, students and parents can be assured that Public Health is following up on COVID-19 activity in their community.

- Health authorities will be closely monitoring transmission in school settings, informing those who may have been exposed, and actively contact tracing exposures in the school as a priority.
- Northern Health will post notifications after contact tracing is complete for a case in a school setting, where an exposure letter has been circulated to one or more contacts within the school.
Please note: Information will be posted to or updated on the Northern Health webpage, after notification letters have been distributed to the intended recipients.

There has not been a fundamental change in risk in our schools for our students but we are responding to what is happening out in our BC communities. This extra measure of Kindergarten to Grade 12 students wearing masks adds another layer of protection for our younger students, our staff, and our community.



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Thank you for your cooperation in continuing to follow the safety protocols and doing the daily health check with your children/youth. Please see the links below for more information from Northern Health.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "A. Samoil".

Andrew Samoil, Superintendent

Information Links

[Public exposures and outbreaks | Northern Health](#)

<http://www.bccdc.ca/>

<https://www.k12dailycheck.gov.bc.ca/healthcheck>