

April 1, 2021

Dear Families and Staff,

COVID-19 activity is beginning to increase in the Interior Region after Spring Break. This trend is similar to other parts of the province. To keep our case count low and prevent exposures at schools in the weeks to come, we urge our school community to continue to take the following precautions:

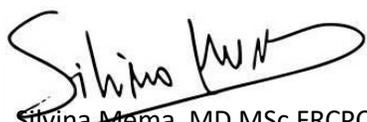
- **Daily Health Checks:** Please check yourself and your child every day for COVID-19 symptoms. Students and parents or caregivers can use the [Ministry of Education's K-12 Health Check app](#).
- **Stay Home When Sick:** If your child has any new symptoms of respiratory disease (breathing problems), keep them home and get them tested. More information is available on when and how to [self-isolate](#) and [When to Get Tested for COVID-19](#). To book an appointment for a test from Interior Health, please call 1-877-740-7747 (daily 8:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. PST) or book online through the [COVID-19 Test Booking Form](#).
- **Physical Distancing and Handwashing:** Avoid physical contact and spread out as much as possible. Clean your hands often with soap and water or use handsanitizer.
- **Masks:** The Provincial Health Officer has amended the public health guidance that effective immediately, all staff, adult volunteers and visitors, and all Grade 4 to 12 students should wear a non-medical mask or face covering at all times while indoors at school, subject to the exceptions listed in the Addendum. For more information see the [March 31, 2021 Addendum](#) to the [Public Health Guidance for K-12 Schools](#). The Ministry of Education has also updated the [Provincial COVID-19 Health & Safety Guidelines for K-12](#) to reflect the updated mask requirements for K-12 staff and students, that schools are required to put in place.
- **Public Health Measures:** Please continue to follow the Provincial Public Health Orders around indoor and outdoor social gatherings and avoid any non-essential travel. Continue to keep any social contacts at a minimum and reduce activities to decrease spread of the virus. Individuals who have received COVID-19 vaccine should continue to follow this Public Health Guidance.

Interior Health is closely monitoring COVID-19 activity and will apply additional safety measures if required. Please note that our contact tracers quickly follow up with any individual who tests positive for COVID-19. When a school age child is identified as a positive case, and they have attended school while infectious, the school and public health work together to notify and isolate contacts of the case for 14 days.

Schools offer very significant health and wellness benefits; physically, socially, and emotionally. Interior Health and School Districts are working closely to ensure schools remain safe. The Interior Region Rapid Response Team has been created to support School Districts in responding to the pressures of the pandemic, protect the school environment, and ensure as many children as possible benefit from continuing to attend school.

We would like to thank school staff, students and families for their continued commitment to school safety by following the school safety plans.

Sincerely,



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Co-Chair Interior Rapid Response Team



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