



OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT
Catholic Independent Schools of the Nelson Diocese
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Dear CISND Community

Earlier this morning, Education Minister Jennifer Whiteside and Provincial Health Officer Dr. Bonnie Henry announced updates to the Public Health Communicable Disease Guidance for K-12 Schools and the Provincial COVID-19 Communicable Disease Guidelines for K-12 Settings to require masks for kindergarten to Grade 3 students. 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. Please note that parents are able to request an exemption for their child in the following circumstances:

- if a person who cannot tolerate wearing a mask for health or behavioural reasons;
- if 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. playing a wind instrument, engaging in high-intensity physical activity, etc.);
- if a person is eating or drinking; or
- if a person is behind a barrier.

Requests for an exemption can be made in writing to the school principal. The safety and well-being of our students, families and staff remains our highest priority. Please be reassured that our schools will continue to follow the direction of provincial and regional health authorities so that children can continue to attend school as safely as possible.

Yours in Christ,

Arthur M. Therrien
Superintendent of Schools

CRANBROOK St. Mary Elementary School	KELOWNA St. Joseph Elementary School	KELOWNA Immaculata Regional High School	NELSON St. Joseph Elementary School	PENTICTON Holy Cross School	TRAIL St. Michael Elementary School	WEST KELOWNA Our Lady of Lourdes Elementary School
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