



Board of Education
School District No. 50 (Haida Gwaii)
Office of the Superintendent of Schools
Mr. Carey Stewart
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February 9, 2021

Dear Parents / Guardians,

The Minister of Education, the Honourable Jennifer Whiteside, and the Provincial Health Officer, Dr. Bonnie Henry, announced changes to some safety protocols in our schools. Dr. Henry stated that these changes to some safety protocols have been introduced to fine tune our practices to ensure that our learning and working spaces reflect the most current scientific understanding about the COVID-19 virus.

With regard to mask requirements, students in secondary schools are now expected to wear masks while in school except under the following situations:

- when at their personal desk or workspace, when eating or drinking, or when separated by a physical barrier of some kind.
- Students unable to wear a mask due to health or other reasons are still permitted to not wear one.
- For elementary students, wearing a mask remains a personal or family/caregiver's choice.

We will be updating our district *Safety Plan* to reflect these recent changes. You can expect additional information to come out from the district or your child's school over the next few weeks.

For further information about the provincial announcement please visit the following sites:

- Ministry of Education News Release (Feb 4, 2021): <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2021EDUC0011-000201>
- BCCDC K-12 Schools and COVID-19 website: <http://www.bccdc.ca/schools>
- BC Health Check App: <https://www.k12dailycheck.gov.bc.ca/healthcheck?execution=e2s1>

Thank you for your continued support and understanding as we work to provide your children with a safe, enriching and welcoming school environment.

Respectfully,

Carey Stewart
Superintendent of School
School District 50 (Haida Gwaii)