



February 9, 2021

Dear Staff

The Provincial Government announced an update and enhancement to the health and safety guidelines for students in Kindergarten to Grade 12, as well as for staff.

Some of the key points impacting schools across the province, including our district – as made in the joint announcement by the Minister of Education, Provincial Health Officer and President of the BC School Trustees Association – include updated mask guidelines for elementary and secondary students and K-12 staff. The changes read in part as follows:

- Elementary students' mask use should be based on their personal or family/caregiver's choice.
- K-12 staff and secondary students should wear a mask indoors at school except when
 - Sitting or standing at their seat or workstation in a classroom or learning space
 - There is a barrier in place
 - Eating or drinking.
- Those wearing masks must still seek to practice physical distancing.
- Students should not be required to wear a mask if they do not tolerate it (for health or behavioural reasons).

- Gym class, weight rooms and exterior basketball courts
 - Move activities outside or pursue a low-intensity activity if this isn't possible. Masks should be worn indoors by secondary students during low-intensity indoor activities where physical distancing cannot be consistently practiced. Wearing masks during high intensity exercise activities or outdoors is based on personal choice, but cannot be in place of the other measures detailed in this section. Masks should be worn by staff during physical education when they are unable to practice physical distancing.
 - Weight room equipment should be cleaned after every use if it is considered a high intensity exercise.

I want to reassure you that as we work through additional information to update our Covid Safe Work Instructions Stage 2 protocols, we will share with you how this will look in our buildings. I have noted that school educational leaders have implemented the mask guidelines last week already; I'm very

proud of each of you in walking together. We are working quickly to implement the changes provided last week.

We continue to be grateful to everyone – staff, students and families – in our school communities here on island for working together to support our collective safety and well-being.

With much appreciation,

Haw'aa\haawa

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carey M. Stewart". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Carey Stewart

Superintendent of Schools

School District 50 (Haida Gwaii)