



**Central Okanagan
Public Schools**

Together We Learn

March 30, 2021

RE: Amended Public Health Guidance for Schools: Masks for Grades 4 - 12

Dear families and staff,

The Provincial Health Officer amended the provincial public health orders and guidelines yesterday afternoon in response to the rising number of COVID-19 cases in our province (<https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2021PREM0023-000578>). We must all do our part to follow the public health directions and reduce community transmission in the coming month. **For schools, that means we require all students in Grades 4 – 12 to wear masks.** We are going to immediately begin following this guidance as best as possible. We are expecting specific changes to the Provincial COVID-19 Health & Safety Guidelines for K-12 Settings imminently that will inform our final safety practices.

If you have masks on hand, please make sure your children have them for school. We will continue to support students by providing masks where possible and are distributing masks to our elementary schools to support the new mandate. The District has ordered additional masks that will be supplied to elementary schools upon arrival in order to support grades 4 to 7 students.

As Dr. Bonnie Henry said yesterday, "the sacrifices we make today will help all of us to get through this storm." We are grateful for the courage, hard work, and contributions of our Central Okanagan learners and leaders, which will surely lead to brighter days soon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "K Kaardal". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Kevin Kaardal
Superintendent of Schools/CEO