

To: Students and Families
From: Ed Walsh, Associate Director of Education - Programs and Human Resources
Re: Mask Use in Schools
Date: September 17, 2021

In accordance with Public Health recommendations announced today (Friday, September 17), the Newfoundland and Labrador English School District is amending its current masking protocols in schools throughout the province.

Effective 12:01 a.m. Saturday, September 18th, mask-use in schools is reintroduced for the following:

- All students and staff (K-12), including contracted bus drivers, must wear a non-medical mask while on school buses.
- All students and staff (K-12) must wear a non-medical mask in school corridors, and in all common areas within the school (e.g., staff rooms, cafeterias, music rooms, learning commons).
- All students and staff (Grades 4-12) must wear a non-medical mask at all times while in the school environment, including while in the classroom. The exceptions are:
 - Masking will not be required in school gymnasiums when physical activity is taking place.
 - Music programs and instrumental activity, including the playing of wind instruments, can continue.
- All visitors, volunteers and external presenters in schools are required to wear a non-medical mask at all times.

The change in the masking protocol has been recommended out of an abundance of caution, as Covid-19 cases rise in jurisdictions throughout Canada.

Public Health advises that all other school protocols as articulated for “low risk” scenarios remain in effect. See: [Return to School Infographic](#).

Vaccination against COVID-19 is the most effective way to protect yourself and your children. The District joins Public Health in strongly recommending that parents, guardians, staff, and eligible students be vaccinated with two doses of COVID-19 vaccine.