



PROVINCE REQUIRES MASKS FOR K-3 STUDENTS

October 1, 2021

Kelowna, BC – Provincial Health Officer Dr. Bonnie Henry announced today that all students, Kindergarten through Grade 12, in British Columbia will now be required to wear masks inside schools and on school buses. The update adds Kindergarten-Grade 3 students to the Provincial Health Order. Central Okanagan Public Schools will add the requirement to its Communicable Disease Plan for schools, according to the new provincial guidance.

"We continue to follow provincial and regional health direction on all safety measures, as we have since the beginning of the pandemic," said Kevin Kaardal, Superintendent of Schools/CEO. "Schools continue to be safe places to learn and our staff will continue to help students follow all guidelines with a kind and inclusive approach."

Kindergarten to Grade 3 students will join their older peers in always wearing non-medical face coverings indoors and on school buses, starting Monday, October 4. Parents are encouraged to send students to school with a mask, but schools will work to ensure masks are available to students who don't have one.

"The new K-12 Provincial Health Order will add another layer of protection for students and staff," said Moyra Baxter, Chairperson for the Board of Education. "However, vaccinations provide the best protection against COVID-19, and the Central Okanagan Board of Education will continue to encourage vaccinations for all eligible people."

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