



Education (E-1)
PO Box 2703, Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2C6

November 25, 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian

Re: Updates to school health and safety guidelines

This is to inform you that Yukon's Chief Medical Office of Health has provided [updated health and safety guidelines for K-12 school settings](#) to the Department of Education.

The main change to the health and safety guidelines is around non-medical mask use in schools, which is recommended to start by December 1:

- Students age 10 and older (Grade 4 and up) and staff are now required to wear non-medical masks in all indoor school settings outside of the classroom. This includes hallways, common areas and on school buses.
- Masks are not required for students under the age of 10 (although those students may wear masks if they wish to do so).
- Students will not be required to wear a mask in a classroom setting if they are able to maintain a one metre distance from each other.
- School staff will not be required to wear a mask in the classroom as long as they can maintain a two metre distance from the students and any other staff in the classroom.

As of December 1, 2020, the Government of Yukon will require non-medical masks be worn in all indoor public spaces, for anyone over 2 years of age. The updated direction from Yukon's Chief Medical Officer of Health on non-medical masks requirements in public spaces for those over the age of 2 does not apply to school settings and school buses. Schools and school buses are not considered public spaces because access by the general public is limited. School staff, students and parents should follow the direction above for school settings and on school buses.

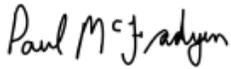
The health and safety of students, staff and our communities continues to be our first priority. School administration will be reviewing the updated guidelines with their health and safety committees/representatives and making adjustments to their school operational plans to ensure schools remain low risk environments for students and staff. Updated school operational plans will be reviewed and approved by the school council and Area Superintendent.

We are monitoring recent cases of COVID-19 in Whitehorse and will continue to follow the advice and recommendations of Yukon's Chief Medical Officer of Health to ensure our school communities are safe. We are aware of the unintended consequences of closing our schools at the end of last school year. A case connected to a school does not necessarily mean the entire school will close or that all students and staff need to self-isolate. In this situation, the Chief Medical Officer of Health and Yukon Communicable Disease Control provide direction on who needs to self-isolate and any impacts on school operations to ensure students and staff are safe and learning can continue for students.

For more information on the updated health and safety guidelines and how we respond to a COVID-19 case connected to a school, visit: yukon.ca/en/health-and-wellness/covid-19-information/health-and-safety-schools-covid-19.

If you have any questions, please contact your school administration.

Sincerely,



Paul McFadyen
Superintendent Area 1



Ryan Sikkes
Superintendent Area 2



Marilyn Marquis-Forster
Superintendent Area 3