

September 16, 2021

Dear Parents and Families of Grande Yellowhead Public School Division:

Yesterday, Premier Kenney and Chief Medical Officer of Health Dr. Deena Hinshaw declared a public health emergency in Alberta and implemented a number of new guidelines and restrictions, some of which directly impacts the running of our schools.

Please be advised of the following mandates that took effective as of 12:01am this morning and applies to every school across the Division as per Alberta Education:

Masking

Masking will be mandatory for students in Grades 4-12, and staff and teachers in all grades. Every student in grades K-12 are required to mask at all times when riding the school bus. Please ensure that your child has a mask to wear at school and/or on the bus until further notice.

Cohorting

All elementary schools (Kindergarten to Grade 6) will implement class cohorting.

Physical Activity in Schools:

Youth aged 18 and under are not required to mask or maintain two-metre physical distancing during a physical activity such as physical education. There are no restrictions on outdoor activities and indoor sports/performance/recreation/special interests are permitted with requirements for two-metre physical distancing, where possible.

Children's Sport/Performance/Recreation (extracurricular sports, performance, recreation, and special interest):

Indoor activities are permitted, with requirements for two-metre physical distancing and masking where possible, and symptom screening for participants. Youth aged 18 and under are not required to mask or maintain physical distancing during a physical activity, such as a team sport. There are no restrictions on outdoor activities.

Spectator Attendance

Spectator attendance is limited to one-third fire code capacity at all indoor physical activities. Attendees must be masked and ensure physical distancing between different households or an individual who lives alone and their two close contacts.

Visitors

Visitors to a school will be permitted by appointment only. Visitors must wear masks when they enter the building.

Daily Health Checks

Please continue to do daily health checks and if your child is sick, keep them at home. If your child becomes ill at school, our expectation is that they will be picked up within the hour to help keep the rest of the school population safe.

As we have done over the last two years during the ever-changing dynamics of this pandemic, Grande Yellowhead's number one priority is the health, safety, well-being and learning of our students and staff. I want to share my appreciation to our families, our students, and our staff for their diligence, hard work, and support as we navigate these challenging times. Please stay safe and thank you again for your patience and understanding.

Carolyn Lewis

Carolyn Lewis (Sep 16, 2021 10:25 MDT)

Carolyn Lewis, Superintendent of Schools