



November 25, 2020

Dear School Council:

RE: Update on the Guidelines for K-12 School Settings for All Schools

I am writing to let you know that the Chief Medical Officer of Health has now provided the Department of Education with an updated version of the '[Health and Safety Guidelines for K-12 School settings](#)' that are applicable in all Yukon schools. I have attached the revised version of the Guidelines for the School Council's information.

The main change that has been made to the Guidelines is that the Chief Medical Officer of Health now supports the required use of non-medical masks in all Yukon schools, in the following circumstances:

- Masks are not required to be used by students under the age of 10 (although those students may wear masks if they wish to do so).
- Students who are age 10 and older (i.e., Grade 4 and up) and school staff will be required to wear a non-medical mask in all indoor school settings outside of the classroom, including on school buses.
- Students will not be required to wear a mask in the classroom as long as they can maintain a one metre physical 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 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.

We will now review the updated guidelines with school staff, including the school's health and safety committee, and make the necessary adjustments to each school's operational plan so that we can meet these new requirements while ensuring that the specific needs of each school community are met.

The Office of the Chief Medical Officer has recommended new requirements for non-medical mask use in common areas of schools and on buses starting as of December 1. However, schools have until December 21 to update their school operational plans. The revised operational plan will need to be approved by both the School Council and the Area Superintendent by December 21.

On process and responsibilities please be aware that under the *Public Health and Safety Act*, the Chief Medical Officer of Health has provided updated recommendations for the use of non-medical masks in schools. Given we are operating under the *Civil Emergency Measures Act*, the Minister of Education has accepted these recommendations in the revised [Health and Safety Guidelines for K-12 Schools Settings](#). School administration, working with their Joint Health and Safety Committees and their School Council will now operationalize these guidelines.

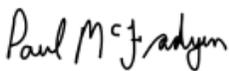
A key part of the role of the School Council is managing questions and concerns at the local level about school rules. If you have not already developed or adopted [a dispute resolution process](#), please make this a priority. To assist with this, a sample dispute resolution policy is available on Yukon.ca, which includes guidance on developing a dispute resolution process: [yukon.ca/en/school-council-dispute-resolution-procedure-policy](#). A sample dispute resolution process from Hidden Valley Elementary School is also attached and more samples are available through Lori Choquette, School Council Liaison at lori.choquette@gov.yk.ca.

Thank you for your ongoing patience and assistance as we address these issues and ensure that our students can continue to be successful in their learning during this challenging time.

I would be happy to discuss the updated guidelines and how we intend to implement them with the School Council at your convenience, and if you have any questions or concerns, please contact me directly.

For more information on health and safety in our schools, please visit: [yukon.ca/en/health-and-wellness/covid-19-information/health-and-safety-schools-covid-19](#).

Sincerely,



Paul McFadyen
Superintendent Area 1



Ryan Sikkes
Superintendent Area 2



Marilyn Marquis-Forster
Superintendent Area 3