



## *St. James School*

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Thursday April 1, 2021

Dear Families of St. James School,

A blessed Holy Week to you all and a Happy Easter!

As I'm sure you are aware, on Monday, March 29, Dr. Bonnie Henry announced a series of provincial restrictions to be in effect until April 19 when it will be re-evaluated to help combat, or 'interrupt' the increasing COVID-19 transmission rates that are occurring in BC. Many of these restrictions do not directly impact schools, however mask requirements in schools have changed.

I have been waiting for direction from our superintendent on how we as the CISKD would be moving forward. I have received that direction today and offer you the following update.

In brief, effective Tuesday April 6, all personnel, adult volunteers and all Grades 4 – 12 students are required to wear a non- medical mask at all times while indoors at the school, subject to certain exceptions that include:

- A person who is unable to wear a mask because they do not tolerate it (for health or behavioural reasons)
- A person unable to put on or remove a mask without the assistance of another person
- If the mask is removed temporarily for the purposes of identifying the person wearing it
- If the mask is removed temporarily to engage in an educational activity that cannot be performed while wearing a mask (ex., actively playing a wind instrument, high intensity physical activity, etc)

- If a person is eating or drinking
- If a person is behind a barrier

At this time, K-3 students are encouraged to wear masks while indoors at the school, though this remains a personal choice and/or the choice of the family.

The Ministry of Education is presently working, in consultation with public health and provincial education partners, to produce a FAQ document to address more nuanced mask wearing questions coming from the K-12 sector.

It will be important that every student in grades 4-7 have a mask at school for Tuesday. Every student at SJS was given 2 masks early in the school year. If you are unable to find one of these masks for them to wear or if students prefer to wear a different style of mask, students may wear a personal mask of choice. If your child's mask has graphics etc. on it, please be sure it is consistent with the values of our school. If a mask is considered inappropriate by a staff member, the child will be asked to remove it and a disposable mask will be provided. Unless we hear from parents directly, students in grades 4-7 without a mask will be provided a disposable mask and asked to wear it.

Please keep in mind, and perhaps explain to your child(ren), that mask wearing is an act of charity towards others in our community. Wearing a mask tells others that we care about them and their health, and that I am willing to be a little uncomfortable in order to reassure others during these challenging times. Also, that wearing a mask does not mean that I am sick or that there is something wrong with me. Together, we will get through this; the end is in sight!

Thank you for helping us to be compliant with these new instructions. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact the office and someone will be able to help you.

In the meantime, I wish you all a safe and healthy long weekend filled with Easter excitement... even if it is a modified one.

Together in Christ,



Mr. Paul Rossetti  
Principal