



April 4, 2022

Dear Principals:

As the province has lifted masking requirements in most settings including schools, Public Health Sudbury & Districts continues to strongly recommend the use of well-fitted masks among students, staff, volunteers and visitors to protect against COVID-19. The pandemic is not over, and our area continues to have higher rates of COVID-19 compared with the province. Prevention is key and wearing a mask and practising physical distancing are added layers of protection, as is getting vaccinated when eligible and staying home when ill.

We acknowledge that the pandemic has been especially difficult for schools to navigate. With the easement of masking requirements, it is important that students and staff continue to feel supported in wearing a mask if they choose, as it helps to create a safe school environment. It is also important for students and staff to respect the decision of others with wearing masks.

Everyone is experiencing the pandemic differently and may have different comfort levels when it comes to pandemic precautions – including wearing a mask. We encourage school staff to create an inclusive school environment for all by being mindful and respectful of students' and staffs' decision to wear a mask.

The following are a few reasons why someone may choose to wear a mask:

- They are at higher risk of severe illness.
- They want to protect others, such as a close friend, family member or children and teacher in their class.
- They feel more comfortable doing so.

To help stop the spread of COVID-19, individuals are required to wear a well-fitted mask at all times when outside the home in public spaces (including school and child care, unless they are under 2 years of age) when:

- They are a close contact of someone with COVID-19. They are required to wear a well-fitted mask for 10 days after their last exposure.

**Sudbury**

1300 rue Paris Street  
Sudbury ON P3E 3A3  
t: 705.522.9200  
f: 705.522.5182

**Elm Place**

10 rue Elm Street  
Unit / Unité 130  
Sudbury ON P3C 5N3  
t: 705.522.9200  
f: 705.677.9611

**Sudbury East / Sudbury-Est**

1 rue King Street  
Box / Boîte 58  
St.-Charles ON POM 2W0  
t: 705.222.9201  
f: 705.867.0474

**Espanola**

800 rue Centre Street  
Unit / Unité 100 C  
Espanola ON P5E 1J3  
t: 705.222.9202  
f: 705.869.5583

**Île Manitoulin Island**

6163 Highway / Route 542  
Box / Boîte 87  
Mindemoya ON POP 1S0  
t: 705.370.9200  
f: 705.377.5580

**Chapleau**

34 rue Birch Street  
Box / Boîte 485  
Chapleau ON POM 1K0  
t: 705.860.9200  
f: 705.864.0820

**toll-free / sans frais**

1.866.522.9200

[phsd.ca](http://phsd.ca)



There are many reasons to wear a mask. Be kind.

April 4, 2022

Page 2

- They live with someone who has COVID-19 and they have been exempt from self-isolation because of their age and vaccination status. They are required to wear a well-fitted mask for 10 days following their last exposure.
- They have finished their self-isolation period and are recovering from COVID-19 or COVID-19 symptoms. They are required to wear a well-fitted mask for 10 days after symptom onset or positive test result.
- They travelled outside of Canada within the last 14 days.

Respect and kindness have brought us this far and will continue to serve us well as we move forward. To assist you in creating an environment that supports the various reasons why students and staff may be wearing a mask, we have created a [poster](#) that can be printed and displayed throughout your school as well as a [factsheet](#) resource for school staff. In addition, we are also asking schools to circulate the attached parent and guardian letter and [factsheet](#), encouraging families to discuss the importance of being kind and respectful with others, as there are many reasons why an individual may be wearing a mask.

For more information on masking requirements, visit the Government of Ontario's [webpage](#). To keep yourself and your family informed, follow us on our social media platforms [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [YouTube](#). Visit our [website](#) for additional COVID-safe tips. If you have any questions, please contact Public Health Sudbury & Districts at 705.522.9200 (toll-free 1.866.522.9200) ext. 393. Hours of operation are Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Sincerely,



Stacey Gilbeau, Director

School Health, Vaccine Preventable Diseases, and COVID Prevention Division