

MEMO

To: Families
From: Ed Walsh, Associate Director of Education (Programs and Human Resources)
Subject: Masking Policy; COVID-19 Protocols
Date: April 13, 2022

Dear Families,

Further to our March 11, 2022 memo regarding masking and COVID-19 protocols, please be advised that, in consultation with Public Health, the District has determined that current masking protocols in schools and on school buses will remain in effect until **at least** May 13, 2022.

The District recognizes that many students are experiencing ‘mask fatigue’. It is, however, clear that our school communities remain susceptible to COVID-19 variants, particularly given the relaxation of public health restrictions in other areas.

We are fortunate in that our provincial attendance rates, while impacted by COVID-19, have remained within the 80-85 per cent range since school reopened in January. Some schools have seen more impact than others. By maintaining mask protocols, we hope to continue to reduce transmission within school environments and preserve as much valuable instructional time and extracurricular activities as possible as we continue the school year.

Masking requirements for schools are outlined on the Provincial Government COVID-19 website at: [Masks - COVID-19](#).

Schools have also been directed to continue to follow key guidelines as outlined in [The 2022 Public Health Guidance for K-12 Schools](#), including, but not limited to:

- Cohorting while indoors to the degree possible;
- maintaining physical distancing to the degree possible;
- limiting visitors to school during the school day, and
- continuing to utilize the daily school screening questionnaire.

The Newfoundland and Labrador English School District thanks you in advance for your continued understanding and support as we work to mitigate the impact of Covid-19 in our school environments.