

Changes in Directives for Early Learning and Childcare Facilities and Schools

ALERT LEVEL: ORANGE

The following details the changes in directives that will take place in a school or a in an early learning and childcare facility when a region or the province has been placed in an orange level. This document supplements the [Return to school: Direction for school districts and schools](#) as well as the [Guidance to Early Learning and Childcare Facilities and Summer Camps](#).

Early Learning and Childcare Facilities

Mask Use

- Children being transported to school by early learning and childcare facilities are required to wear a mask at all times while in the vehicle.
- For children ages 2 and up, masks are required in common areas. They are expected to bring two clean community masks with them every day.
- For after school programming, masks are required at all times, including within the classroom, in common spaces, and outdoors. Exceptions will be when they are sitting at a desk working silently, eating, or in play during sports activities.
- All children, over the age of 2, attending an early learning and childcare facility are expected to bring two clean community masks with them every day.
- For all employees of early learning and childcare facilities, masks are required at all times when at the facility, except when they are eating. This includes when employees are outside.

Screening

Active screening for all children entering the facilities will be done. Active screening includes a questionnaire and temperature check.

Groupings

Changes in groupings are not permitted at all during an orange level.

Field trips

All field trips are cancelled.

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Public Schools

Mask use

- All students in Grades K-12 are required to wear a mask on a school bus, even when sitting with a sibling or alone.
- For students in Grades 9-12, masks are required at all times when at school, except when they are eating or in play during sports activities. This includes when the students are outside.
- For students in Grades K-8, masks are required at all times when at school, except when they are sitting at a desk working silently, eating, or in play during sports activities. This includes when the students are outside.
- For all school personnel, masks are required at all times when at school, except when they are eating. This includes when they are outside.

Intramural, Interscholastic and Extra-Curricular Activities

All intramural, interscholastic and extra-curricular activities, including SISTEMA, school sports, drama, music, and any other after school activities are suspended.

Immunocompromised students and staff

- Students and school personnel who are immunocompromised should contact their health care provider for direction. Distance learning plans will be put in place. The IWK has defined immunocompromised as being a person who:
 - is having chemotherapy currently or have within the last 6 months
 - is having radiation therapy
 - has received a bone marrow transplant in the last year or Graft Versus Host Disease
 - is a recipient of a solid organ transplant
 - has sickle cell disease
 - has a spleen that does not work
 - has a genetic cause for immune dysfunction
 - has HIV/AIDS
 - is taking immunosuppressive medication
 - has other history of immune suppression, as defined by a Physician.