

# Changes in Directives for Early Learning and Childcare Facilities and Schools

October 15, 2020

**ALERT LEVEL: ORANGE**

The following details the changes in directives that will take place in a school or 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](#).

## Travel between orange and yellow zones

Everyone travelling between Orange and Yellow zones must self monitor and wear a mask for 14 days and must follow directives in accordance with the Mandatory Order as if they were in the orange phase. This applies to travelling professionals, supply teachers, all school personnel and students, and all employees of early learning and childcare facilities/homes and all children attending early learning and childcare facilities and homes.

This only applies to the individual who has travelled and does not apply to other members of the same household. It is recommended that members of the household self monitor and get tested if they develop symptoms of COVID-19.

## Early Learning and Childcare Homes

For children ages 2 and up in early learning and childcare homes, masks are only required at all times, including in common spaces and outdoors, when an after school aged child is present. Exceptions will be when they are eating, or during silent/nap time. Masks are also required during all pick-up and drop-offs regardless of the age of the child.

## 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.

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- For all employees of early learning and childcare facilities, masks are required at all times when at the facility, except when they are eating or is sitting alone in a closed office or class. 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.

## 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 and during physical education class. 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 and during physical education class. 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 or is sitting alone in their closed office or classroom.

### Music and Physical Education

- Wind instruments and singing are not permitted in an Alert Level Orange.
- Activities that are conducive to physical distancing, such as yoga, dancing and moderate walking, are recommended. It is also recommended that shared equipment not be made available for common use.

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## 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.
- Everyone who has travelled to an orange zone is prohibited from participating in all intramural, interscholastic, extra-curricular and all other school activities for 14 days.

## 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.