Changes in Directives for Early Learning and Childcare Facilities and Schools

November 19, 2020

ALERT LEVEL: ORANGE

The following details the changes in directives that will take place in a school or early learning and childcare facility when a region of the province has been placed in an orange alert level. This document supplements the Return to school: Direction for school districts and schools as well as the COVID-19 Guidance for Early Learning and Childcare Facilities.

Travel between orange and yellow alert zones

Everyone travelling between Orange and Yellow alert 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, school personnel and students, and employees of early learning and childcare facilities and children attending early learning and childcare facilities.

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 Facilities

Early learning and childcare facilities located in an orange alert zone are permitted to operate.

Groupings of Children

- Changes to groupings of children are not permitted during an orange alert level.
- New registrations and enrollments are permitted in an orange alert level.

Mask Use

- Children under 5 years of age in early learning and childcare facilities are not required to wear a community mask within their group. However, children between 2 and 4 years old are required to wear a community mask in common areas such as corridors and bathrooms. Children must be supervised depending on the child's ability to tolerate the mask, as well as, when putting on and taking off the mask.
- School-age children (4-12) in early learning and childcare facilities are required to wear a mask at all times, including within the classroom, in common spaces, and outdoors. Exceptions will be when they are working silently, eating, or in play during sports activities.
- School-age children being transported by early learning and childcare facilities are required to wear a mask at all times while in the vehicle.

- All employees of early learning and childcare facilities are required to wear a mask at all times. Exceptions will be when they are eating or sitting alone in a closed office or room. This includes when employees are outside.
- School-age children and early learning and childcare facility employees are expected to bring two clean community masks with them each day.

Screening

- Active screening will be done before entering an early learning and childcare facility. This applies to early learning and childcare facility staff, children, and all other personnel deemed essential such as representatives from Public Health, WorkSafe NB or the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development.
- Early learning and childcare facilities must establish specific rules regarding access to the facility and must post the screening requirements at the entrance of the early learning and childcare facility.
- Parents and guardians will not be permitted to enter an early learning and childcare facility during an Orange Alert Level.

Field trips

All field trips must be cancelled.

Public Schools

Mask use

- Students in Grades K-12 are required to wear a mask on a school bus, even when sitting alone or with a member of the same household.
- Students in Grades K-8 are required to wear a mask at all times at school, except when students are sitting at a desk working silently, eating, or engaged in sports activities during physical education class. This includes when the students are outside.
- Students in Grades 9-12 are required to wear a mask at all times at school, except when students are eating, engaged in sports activities or during physical education class. This includes when the students are outside.
- School personnel are required to wear a mask at all times at school, except when they are eating or sitting alone in their closed office or classroom. This includes when school personnel are outside.

Music Education and Activities

The use of wind instruments and singing are not permitted in an Orange Alert Level. Extra-curricular music activities, such as SISTEMA, theatre, choir and band, are not permitted.

Physical Education and Sports Activities

- 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.
- Interscholastic, extra-curricular and intramural sport activities will be limited to practices and/or skills and drills within a single team.

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.