

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

January 22, 2021



## ALERT LEVEL: LOCKDOWN

The following details the changes in directives that will take place in a school or early learning and childcare facility in a region that has been placed in lockdown. 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 to a Zone in Lockdown

- All non-essential travel between Yellow or Orange or Red alert zones and a zone in lockdown is prohibited in accordance with the Mandatory Order. Early learning and childcare facility staff who are employed in a facility still operating during lockdown are permitted to travel to work to ensure the availability of services.
- Only school personnel without quality high speed internet who are required to teach virtually, and necessary custodial staff may travel to school for the continuity of virtual learning and maintenance of the school building.
- ISD offices will remain open. ISD employees are expected to go to work if they do not have the authority to work from home.

### Travel from a Zone in Lockdown

All non-essential travel from a zone in Lockdown to a zone in a different alert level is prohibited. Early learning and childcare facility staff and school personnel are considered essential. If their work cannot be effectively done from home, they are permitted to travel from their zone in lockdown to their work in Yellow, Orange or Red alert zones and must only travel to their place of work.

### Common areas and staff rooms

During the lockdown, **no gathering amongst adults is permitted**. Meeting rooms, kitchens, break rooms and other common areas will not be used for in-person gatherings. Employees can use kitchen areas to make their coffee or tea, warm up their meal etc. but must go back to their personal workspace or empty classroom to eat. A limit of one person in the room at one time is permitted, and all touched surfaces must be disinfected after each use.

### Meetings

There shall be NO in-person meetings. All interactions and communications must be undertaken by phone or virtual meeting.

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## Early Learning and Childcare Facilities

- Early learning and childcare facilities located in a lockdown zone are permitted to continue to operate.
- Only early learning and childcare facility staff, children, and personnel deemed essential, such as representatives from Public Health, WorkSafe NB or the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development are permitted to enter an early learning and childcare facility during the lockdown.

## Groupings of Children

- Changes to groupings of children are not permitted in a lockdown. However, new groupings can be formed but only on the first operational day after the announcement of the lockdown.
- New registrations and enrolments are permitted and may be necessary during the lockdown period to accommodate essential workers.

## 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.
- If early learning and childcare facility staff or a child has ONE symptom they MUST self-isolate and register for a test online by clicking 'Get tested' on the GNB Coronavirus website, calling Tele-Care 811 or by contacting your primary health-care provider.
- Facilities shall not ask for the results of a COVID-19 test.

## Mask Use

- All children over 2 years old are required to wear a community mask in common areas such as corridors and bathrooms.
- Pre-school children are not required to wear a community mask within their group.
- All school-aged children must wear a community mask within their group. Exceptions will be when they are eating.
- 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.

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

### Playground

- Children may use the childcare facility's playground or the school's playground (if located in a school) while attending childcare.
- Playgrounds are closed to the public and are not available in the evenings or on weekends.

### Field Trips

All field trips are cancelled.

### School-aged children attending childcare facility

- Early learning and childcare facility employees are not required to teach school-age children. A quiet time will be set aside during the day to allow school-age children to work independently on distance learning (school work).
- It is also recommended that periods of quiet reading, active outdoor play, art and cultural activities be made available throughout the day.

## Public Schools

- Education will be offered virtually. No student or parent is permitted at school during the lockdown.
- Public schools will remain open during lockdown only for:
  - Early learning and childcare facilities operating within the school; and
  - Teachers who do not have sufficient quality high speed internet at home to be able to teach and work from home, and who must go to school to offer virtual learning. All those who are able to work from home are directed to do so.
  - Members of Child & Youth teams located in schools. Only children and youth (and their parents) who are requested to attend for a face-to-face appointment with ISD are permitted to enter. The majority of appointments will be offered remotely.

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- Where a child attends childcare, the parent is responsible for sending educational activities and materials assigned by their teacher to the childcare facility for their child. It is preferable for teachers to provide learning activities via email in advance as students may not be able to connect with the rest of their class during the day.

### Screening

- There will be active screening prior to entry into the school building for anyone entering the school, if they are required to attend physically.
- School personnel are not permitted inside the school building if they have ONE symptom or more.
- If a member of school personnel has ONE symptom they MUST self-isolate and register for a test online by clicking 'Get tested' on the GNB Coronavirus website, calling Tele-Care 811 or by contacting your primary health-care provider.

### Mask use

Individuals in the school building are required to wear a mask at all times at school, including outside. Exceptions are when they are eating or sitting alone in their closed office or classroom.

### Extra-curricular activities

All after-school clubs and sports are cancelled.