

Changes in Directives for Early Learning and Childcare Facilities and Schools

January 20, 2021



ALERT LEVEL: RED

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 red 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 to a Red Level Zone

All travel between Yellow or Orange alert zones and Red alert zones will be limited in accordance with the Mandatory Order. Individuals who live or have travelled to a Red alert zone must follow government guidelines which can be found on the [Government of New Brunswick's web site](#).

Common areas and staff rooms

During the Red level, meeting rooms, kitchens, break rooms and other common areas will not be used for in-person gatherings wherever possible. Employees can use kitchen areas to make their coffee or tea, warm up their meal etc. but must go back to their personal workspace to eat. For employees who do not have a personal workspace, they may use the kitchen, an empty classroom or cafeteria to eat their meals as long as the 2-metre distancing and facemask rules are followed.

Meetings

Please conduct all your meetings and interactions by phone or virtual meeting tools whenever possible.

Early Learning and Childcare Facilities

Early learning and childcare facilities located in a Red alert 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 in a red alert zone.

Groupings of Children

- Changes to groupings of children are not permitted in a Red alert level.
- New registrations and enrollments are permitted in a Red alert level. Where possible, and if numbers support them, new groupings are recommended for new enrolled children.

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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.

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 over the age of two 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 outside. Exceptions will be when they are eating.
- 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.

Transportation and Field Trips

- Early learning and childcare facilities located in a Red Level zone are permitted to continue to provide transportation to and from school. All passengers, including the driver, are required to wear a mask, even when sitting alone or with a member of the same household.
- All field trips must be cancelled.

Public Schools

Public schools will remain open during a red alert level. In the event that a parent chooses not to send their child to school, the parent is responsible for their child's education. Teachers are not required to support learning but support to the families will be encouraged and appreciated.

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Screening

- There will be active screening prior to entry into the school building for all school personnel.
- Parents must screen their children EVERY DAY before sending them to school and must keep them home if they have ONE symptom or more.
- Students and school personnel are not permitted inside the school building if they have ONE symptom or more.
- If a school personnel or a student 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

- 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, including outside. Exceptions are when students are sitting at a desk working silently or eating. Students will be required to wear a mask during physical education class.
- Students in grades 9-12 are required to wear a mask at all times at school, including outside. Exceptions are when students are eating. Students will be required to wear a mask during physical education class.
- School personnel 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.

Positive Case

- If there is a confirmed case in a school, the school will be closed to students for 3 consecutive days, including weekends, to allow for contact tracing and cleaning.
- Students will not be permitted to attend an early learning and childcare facility during these 3 days.
- During these three days, teachers will support students' learning at home by various means (online teaching, materials, contact by various means, etc.).
- All school personnel will be required to get COVID-19 testing.

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Extra-curricular activities

After-school clubs and sports are cancelled.

Music Education and Activities

The use of wind instruments and singing are not permitted in a Red alert level. Extra-curricular music activities, such as SISTEMA, theatre, choir and band, are not permitted.

Physical Education and Sports Activities

- Only activities that are conducive to physical distancing, such as yoga, dancing and moderate walking, are permitted in high school. Masks must always be worn.
- Activities that are conducive to physical distancing, such as yoga, dancing and moderate walking are strongly recommended for K-8. Masks must always be worn.
- Interscholastic, extra-curricular and intramural sport activities will not be permitted in Red alert level.

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.