

Department of Education and
Early Childhood Development
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Date : May 6, 2020
To : All school district office personnel
From : George Daley, Deputy Minister
Copies : Craig Caldwell, Assistant Deputy Minister, EECD
Robert Penney, Assistant Deputy Minister, EECD
Subject : **Bulletin #15: Non-medical Face Masks (COVID-19)**

As you are aware, the government has initiated the recovery plan for the province, which includes moving progressively through phases with fewer and fewer restrictions as long as the number of cases of COVID-19 does not get too high. As an employer, we have put in place prevention measures to ensure your safety as you return to the workplace over these next few weeks.

To be able to move through the next phases of the provincial recovery plan, and not return to tighter restrictions, it is critical that we all do our part and continue being diligent in following the prevention measures, especially the most effective ones: physical distancing, frequent hand washing and respiratory hygiene.

Public Health is strongly recommending wearing a non-medical mask that covers mouth and nose, also referred to as community face mask, in any setting where the 2-metre physical distancing (or separation by physical barrier such as an office wall or cubicle partition) cannot be guaranteed. A non-medical face mask is not intended to protect the wearer, but it helps prevent the wearer from spreading the virus to others.

Whether at work or out in any other public setting (e.g. at a store, coffee shop, bank, etc.), ***everyone is strongly encouraged to carry a non-medical face mask so it can be worn when needed where 2-metre distancing cannot be respected.*** While the majority of our workplaces can accommodate 2-metre distancing (or separation by physical barrier), there may be instances where you may be in closer contact with a co-worker/member of the public, e.g. elevators, washrooms, hallways, staircases, building entrances.

Note: if your specific job requires full-time face covering or a higher grade of face mask in accordance with Public Health or WorkSafeNB guidance, this will be communicated to you by your manager and steps will be taken to ensure you have the necessary protective equipment.

Use and care of personal face coverings

Non-medical face masks (also known as 'community masks') are personal items that can be purchased or [made at home](#). They are more widely available to purchase, with many people in our communities producing home made face masks.

As with any type of personal protective equipment, there are procedures for the use and maintenance of face masks to ensure they provide the desired protection. Please see the links below to video clips by Dr. Jennifer Russell, Chief Medical Officer of Health, which explain how to safely put on and remove your personal face mask. Please also see information on how to care for your personal face mask. You may also refer to the GNB website under "[COVID-19 Questions Answered](#)" for a list of frequently asked questions and answers on community mask use.



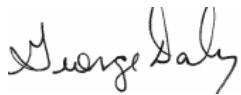
[How to put on your face mask](#)

[How to remove your facemask](#)

[Keeping your mask sanitized and safe for use](#)

Keep safe and well and continue to stay informed by checking GNB's coronavirus [website](#) regularly for up to date information. Most importantly please wash your hands and practice good personal hygiene.

You can find additional COVID-19 related resources [here](#).



George Daley
Deputy Minister