

Department of Education and  
Early Childhood Development  
P.O. Box 6000  
Fredericton, NB E3B 5H1

**Date :** May 13, 2020  
**To :** All school district personnel  
**From :** George Daley, Deputy Minister  
**Copies :** Craig Caldwell, Assistant Deputy Minister, EECD  
Robert Penney, Assistant Deputy Minister, EECD  
**Subject :** **Bulletin #17: Update on Non-Medical Face Masks (COVID-19)**

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As you are no doubt aware, the government has initiated the [second \(orange\) phase](#) of the provincial recovery plan during which several activities and openings are permitted, subject to maintaining physical distancing measures, [general guidelines from Public Health](#) and the [Guidelines for New Brunswick Workplaces](#) issued by WorkSafe NB.

In addition, Public Health is now requiring that non-medical face masks (also called community masks) be worn in public if 2-metre physical distancing (or separation by physical barrier such as an office wall, cubicle or Plexiglas partition) cannot be maintained. Public areas include workplaces, therefore, **GNB employees are now required to wear a face mask where 2-metre distancing cannot be maintained in the workplace.** This means that we all need to bring a non-medical mask with us to work in case it is needed just like we must do when entering any other public setting (e.g. at a store, coffee shop, bank, etc.).

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.



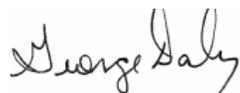
[How to put on your face mask](#)

[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](#).

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "George Daley".

George Daley  
Deputy Minister