

# Chronicles of the Nova Scotia Mask Mandate in Schools

Collected between September 10-14, 2020

## 1. Schools Superceding the Provincial Back to School Plan

### **Liverpool Regional School                      Grade 11**

*My daughter said she finds it hard to breathe too , especially when they have gym and have to wear a mask inside with no AC.*

### **St. Mary's Bay Academy                      Grade 6**

*My daughter goes to SMBA grade 9 and she said they have to wear a mask in gym class, i dont think they should be wearing a mask in gym class at all.*

### **Bible Hill Junior**

*Yup, in Truro, too, my step son goes to Bible Hill Jr and they have to wear masks outside.*

### **Maple Grove Elementary                      Grade 7**

*I'm not liking the fact that daughter is outside for gym class with a mask on and her teacher doesn't have to wear one.*

*Where are the rights of the children. I don't put a mask on my child, she can't go to school, I put a mask on my child and its cutting out her air flow that she needs*

### **St. Andrew Junior School**

*Our school won't allow them on the bus or in the school without a mask and they won't let any parents in the school for any reason whatsoever we have to meet our children outside*

### **Porter's Lake Elementary                      Grade 5**

*My son is 10 in grade 5 and and he has to wear his mask outside at recess and at lunch while he and his classmates are outside. They only can take it off if they are social distancing. Porter's Lake Elementary. Also the windows were closed on the first two days. It was hot and my son mentioned he found it hard to breath due to the heat inside the school*

### **Millwood High School**

*I just drove by Millwood High and saw kids playing basketball with masks on!*

### **Ellenvale Junior High**

*Various concerns on Ellenvale Junior High including emails on masks, sanitizers and generally avoiding questions/backtracking.*

### **Sackville High School                      Grade 9**

*Recess was mask wearing in the hallways. Masks all day in class. Grade 9. 33 kids 1 class.*

# Chronicles of the Nova Scotia Mask Mandate in Schools

Collected between September 10-14, 2020

## **School not named**

My son had to do gym class outside in the heat for 2.5 hours with a mask on. I usually keep my opinions to myself, and I want my kids in school, but not like this. Many kids are feeling nauseous, headaches and feel like they will pass out. No windows open and no ventilation system in parts of the school

## **Brookside Junior High School      Grade 9**

*I posted that info in our community group here in Facebook letting parents know the facts about the back to school plan when it comes to masks outside and that they should contact the school. I sent my own email attaching the back to school plan rules and told them they needed to get in board with what that says. No masks outside! I explained my son who is in grade 9 would not be wearing a mask outside period. I sent my son a snap shot of the rules and told him to show that to anyone who told him he had to wear a masks outside. Needless to say the principal called me and was very upset with me. She sees nothing wrong with enforcing the masks outside of less than 6 feet even with the fact that the kids are bubbled in their own area! She hung up on me when I wouldn't agree with her. I then emailed out mla and her supervisor. The mla office called me yesterday afternoon to tell me this matter has now been sent back to public health and a decision will be made next week.*

## **Madeline Symonds Middle School, Hammonds Plains**

*Yes they are wearing them outside. Even outdoor gym class! They walked the field in circles yesterday for gym because they can't do anything else with masks on; They also have been given just 10 minutes to eat (&breathe) without masks in their classroom at lunch, then filed outside to stand in class bubbles, marked pavement so they can't interact with other classes.*

## **Kingswood Elementary      Grade 2**

*One thing I was caught off guard about was that my son came out to get picked up with a mask on that the teacher made him wear. I didn't pack one because I thought it was grade 4 and up and he is only in grade 2.*

## **Ecole de Carrefour      Grades 5-8**

*My kiddos school is making them wear them outside as well. Not sure if it's all the grades , but everyone at that part of the school 5-8 are*

## **A.J. Smeltzer Junior High School      Grade 6**

*AJ smeltzer is making there own rules in Sackville . My son grade 6 forced to wear mask all day , recess, lunch , gym OUTSIDE. The grade 8's in the same school are allowed to remove masks outside. Different rules for different schools and different grades . My son is miserable.*

# Chronicles of the Nova Scotia Mask Mandate in Schools

Collected between September 10-14, 2020

## **Fairview Junior High School**

*For my daughters junior high in Fairview they need to wear them outside on school grounds all times I'm told*

## **School not named**

*My kiddos are complaining about wearing masks outside here in the valley too! If they want to get anywhere near their friends they have to wear them! I already wrote an email to Churchill last evening because it's def so silly. My kids, and my daycare kids who are needing to wear masks all day are so so hot and red in the face when getting off the bus and are all dying for water! It's so unfair to our kids.*

## **Prospect Road Elementary                      Grade 3/4**

*my boys are in a 3/4 split and have to wear them all day, outside for recess and lunch and even during gym class outside at prospect road elementary*

## **Sir Charles Tupper Elementary              Grade 1**

*My 6 year old is asked to wear mask while going into bathroom. He started to ask a lot about covid.*

## **Bayview Community School                      Grade 6**

*At Bayview Community School in Mahone Bay my daughter has to if another group comes outside while they are outside. It's just unreal. She's in grade 6.*

## **Millwood High**

*My son goes to Millwood High, has gym for 2 1/2 hrs every second day and has to wear the mask, even outside gym! Then they leave the school grounds for lunch, hangout with whoever with not mask.... makes no sense*

## **E.B. Chandler Junior High**

*E.B chandler school in Amherst have to wear them outside in their "painted square" with their cohort.*

## **Ecole Beau Port**

*just found out grade 3 and up have to wear masks all day long , can you imagine?*

## **Drumlin Heights Consolidated School**

**Grade 12**

*Just wanted to let you know that at Drumlin Heights if you are on a "free period" during your high school day, and there is no teacher monitoring your assigned room, you are unable to use the washroom. All bathroom visits must be recorded and since there is no one to record your visit...you can't go. My daughter (grade 12) left school to drive to my work to use our washroom since it was closer than going home. Had she not had a vehicle or been unable to drive she would have had to wait until either a teacher checked in or she went to the next class.*

## Chronicles of the Nova Scotia Mask Mandate in Schools

Collected between September 10-14, 2020

### **Middleton Regional High School    Grade 8**

*My son is ADHD, the school has his diagnosis on file. I called and talked to his Principle on friday, aside from the mask being unhealthy it is distracting him from learning. He has a hard time focusing on a good day. He wouldn't exempt him, said only severe exemptions would be accepted. He told me he was going to make some calls and get back to me. He emailed me back giving me a number for "their support person". I called, no answer or VM to leave a message. This is not right. I'm not sure what else to do. My son wants to be in school so bad, but he just can't handle the mask on. How can he determine what's severe or not, I don't even need to provide proof, but they have it!!!*

### **E.B. Chandler School**

*Just drove past E.B chandler in Amherst, gym class was outside in the soccer field masked. Further up the street at the highschool groups of 30+ were all huddled together sharing cigarettes unmasked*

### **Sackville Junior High**

*They made them wear them during gym class while running, today. He came home crying yesterday because of having to wear it most of the day. He says it's hot. I sent an email to the school last night and they didn't reply. My sons both have learning disabilities. This is just added stress to their day when trying to learn.*

### **Maple Grove Education Centre    Grade 6**

*My son was told he will have to wear a mask in gym inside and out if they can't be 6 ft apart. Also his class bubbles with another class but for gym there will be another class added to there bubble, seems there making the rules as they go !*

### **School not named**

*In gym class, My son said he was socially distanced and asked why he needed to wear a mask to run...teacher told him he was getting on his nerves. Put it on or leave, he said.*

### **Waverley Memorial    Grade 5**

*Gym class is outside. Mask required. Sitting inside a lot. Colouring, drawing...not doing any work. From a kid who loves to learn.*

## **2. Physical Health Issues**

### **School not named    Grade 4**

*Masks never phased me and I always thought if were suppose to wear a mask why not just do it.. until!!! My 9 year old came home yesterday with a massive headache that being said he is prone to headaches however has not had a single headache all summer! Until yesterday So he came home from school flushed looking..with a pounding headache and dizziness.. he threw up the head ache was so bad and again this morning still has it.*

## **Chronicles of the Nova Scotia Mask Mandate in Schools**

Collected between September 10-14, 2020

### **Hebbville Elementary**

### **Grade 6**

*This is what wearing a mask does to my son!!! He told them he was having trouble breathing while wearing the mask. They put him in a room by himself while he took his mask off so he was able to breath again. Later I get a call saying I had to come pick him up as he needs his nebulizer machine because he couldn't breath. The masks are doing a number on his asthma. I am lost, what do I do? I thought there were medical exemptions or am I wrong??*

### **School not named**

*Day 2 of school, my child is complaining the sanitizer is burning her hands ; She told the teacher soap & water also works, could she wash. Teacher said no cause they arent allowed in the halls any extra*

### **Clark's Harbour Elementary**

### **Grade 5**

*I have been reading all the comments and feel your frustrations. My son sweats through 2 masks a day. He is in 5th grade. The amount of water he goes through is insane. I should also add, his school doesn't even have a water refill station. He has enlarged adenoids so he can't breath through his nose, but has to keep the mask over his mouth and nose all day. No air conditioning, no fresh air and gross humid conditions. He is miserable. On top of all this, if the masks work so well why cant we bring back fun activities for the kids? Sports, dances heck you cant even have a friend over on the bus after school anymore?*

### **Bridgeway Academy**

*The rules are extreme except they can remove masks at their desk once seated bc the class sizes are small enough for social distancing. The amount of hand sanitizer required is enough to strip the flesh off your bones though....it's ridiculous. The kids can't bring basketballs to school even if they play alone....bc children tend to share.*

### **Basinview Drive Community School**

*Nasty call to parent to pick up child immediately cause he apparently has a symptom. It is chronic acid reflux.*

### **School not named**

*(regarding the polyester masks distributed to schools by the province) a good friend of mine has two kids in school that were given these masks and have been told that these are the only ones they are allowed to wear at school. None others but these. And the two kids have said that the masks are hard to breath in. And sweat like mad as well. At first I thought that they gave them out on the chance the kids didn't have any but then I was corrected telling me nope, the kids have to wear these ones and none others. So much so that even the one's we are and have been told to wear, are not good enough for the schools.*

## **Chronicles of the Nova Scotia Mask Mandate in Schools**

Collected between September 10-14, 2020

### **Evelyn Richard's Memorial Elementary School**

*My son went to school mask was clean, he then had a nose bleed, he told the teacher, teacher handed him a tissue. Then they went outside for recess. He come back in told his homeroom teacher that his mask was dirty. He just ignored him. He had to sit and wear his dirty bloody mask from 10:30 till 2:36. He was never offered a disposable one that some teachers are wearing, I was never called, messaged or emailed to bring him a new one or even notified me that he had a nose bleed. My son is in grade 4. And if I have to go down a check list every single day to make sure he's healthy and can go to school that day. Shouldn't the school make sure he stays that way? And wouldn't that start with a clean mask? NOT that I am for them cause I most definitely am not. But a NO ONE should be made to wear a dirty mask. And the teacher he first told he had a nose bleed to is the vice principal to make matters worse*

### **Barrington Municipal High                      Grade 9**

*mine also were made to wear one during gym running around. Said he was about to pass out ...*

### **School not named**

*My son told me that they sprayed sanitizer on the desks and gave them a paper towel and they had to clean it themselves*

### **Barrington Municipal High                      Grade 9**

*Concerns being the use of cleaners without proper labelling and no proper training to use said cleaners. Lack of AC in the school. The mandatory use of masks for extended periods with no exemptions (unless a student wishes to be segregated from the class) and threats of punishment (sent to office) if refuse to comply. The mandatory use of classroom hand sanitizer regardless of exemptions and threats of punishment (sent to office) if refuse to comply.*

### **Forest Ridge Academy                      Grade 6**

*My son stayed home yesterday cause when he came from school the day before his mask was soaked with sweat and woke up with a sore throat which is from wearing the mask all day long.*

### **School not named**

*I just picked up both my kids from school as I had told them if they couldn't handle it to tell me. They both came home sweaty and with headaches and sick feeling. I'm not telling my children they can't have air. One had to walk out against what the teacher told her. They both asked for space to get a breather but were told they were not allowed. This is not acceptable.*

## **Chronicles of the Nova Scotia Mask Mandate in Schools**

Collected between September 10-14, 2020

### **Yarmouth Elementary School**

*my daughter in grade 4 after playing outside they came in and she had asked if she could go fill her water bottle as she was hot ..her teacher told her no ! ..the first day she was fine ..hot but she was ok ..then 2 days she came home had to take meds and go sleep as she had a pounding headache..she has never had one before*

### **School not named**

*Wow. This is getting out of hand. I saw this morning that that the mask given to school kids where 100% polyester which is not a breathable material like cotton. Also any guidelines on mask suggest cotton not polyester, also the mask are adult sizes. Which is all wrong they would play this off and hope no one notices. So check your mask this may help some of the kids struggling.*

### **Dr. W.A. MacLeod Consolidated      Grade 8**

*My son is complaining about headaches, dizziness and his eyes are burning from wearing a mask all day in school, this is child abuse, if things continue this way I'll have to remove him. He was so looking forward to return to school, now he just feels sick.*

### **Cusack Elementary School              Grade 5**

*My daughter has been told they have to wear a mask during gym class, unless they can be 6 feet apart, and if they run they can pull them below their nose. I still haven't gotten any answers on why this is happening, lucky I was able to get their school to even look into the outdoor mask wearing! She came home yesterday her mask was so damp from wearing it so long. It's so disgusting and gross. It's highly disturbing that they are forcing this on kids with no studies on the long term effects in children whose lungs are still developing*

### **West Northfield Elementary              Grade 6**

*My son gets off the bus in the afternoon looking and feeling hot and sweaty. He is complaining of headaches from wearing the mask and just not feeling good physically and mentally. The kids aren't allowed to change their clothes for gym class now which is just gross. I also don't agree with the amount of hand sanitizer being used.*

### **School not named**

*Daughter gets home, says it was way to hot and she told a TA she was having trouble breathing... TA tells her no one can breathe well.*

### **Drumlin Heights                              Grade 9 and 12**

*My sons have told me they wear it off their nose until someone says something to them because they feel like they can't breathe.*

# Chronicles of the Nova Scotia Mask Mandate in Schools

Collected between September 10-14, 2020

## **Plymouth School**

### **Grade 5**

*So, as I've mentioned before, my 10yr old was super excited to be back in school. This morning he started to get ready for school and then stopped in his tracks with tears in his eyes and said, "Mommy, can I please have a break from my mask today?" I said, "absolutely!!!" He then proceeded to tell me that it makes a film in his throat after he's worn it for a period of time and makes him nauseated. He told me that he is allowed to have short breaks but it wasn't enough.*

## **Harbourview Elementary**

*My son got sent home today because his belly was upset (he needed to poop). They said I had to call 811. 811 and I had a good laugh about it.*

## **South Shore Regional Centre for E Grade 3/4**

*So today we stay home because I will not make him go to school and have to fight for his right to breath freely. I will fight that battle for him!*

## **Berwick Elementary**

### **Grade 8**

*So my concern is with my middle child, he is to wear his mask on the bus, once at school keep the mask on, then go to class for three hrs with the mask on and 28 kids in his class, they get 10 minutes we're they eat their lunch and can go outside with out the mask on ( only if weather permits) then back to class for three hours, the teacher are moving class rooms not the children, the child are not allowed to full there water bottles at school any longer, he then gets on a bus for a hr and has to wear a mask and was told he could not put the window down*

## **3. Mental Health Issues**

### **School not named**

#### **Grade 4**

*Grade 4 has a reward system in the class where if they wear the mask all day and use hand sanitizer when asked they get points. I exempted my girls from masks and sanitizer. They have handwashing stations right in classroom and know how to cough and sneeze into elbow. But they were worried they wouldn't get points because they're the only ones who don't do either of those things. I reassured them im in close contact with their teachers and they respect my wishes. I am the one that makes decisions about their health.*

### **Barrington Municipal High**

#### **Grade 7**

*BMHS. My daughter is in grade 7 and she says when people take of their masks or just pull them away from their faces long enough to take a breath they get yelled at.*



# Chronicles of the Nova Scotia Mask Mandate in Schools

Collected between September 10-14, 2020

## **Kingswood Elementary**                      **Grade 4**

*I had to hear my nephew in grade 4 who's tough as nails cry himself to sleep for two nights in a row. The kids are not alright.*

## **Clark's Harbour Elementary**                      **Grade 5**

*My daughter cried for over an hour this morning before school saying "please don't make me mom you don't understand how bad it is, I feel like I'm going to pass out, what did I do to deserve this, etc etc"*

*She also told me she pretends to drink water so she can breath. This is not okay and I'm not going to sit back and let this be their school year or have her wake up saying another day of torture.; Sept 11 just wanted to update. I made some phone calls to my child's school this morning, the tri country regional school board, zach Churchill and the deputy minister.*

## **Carleton Consolidated Elem**                      **Grade 5**

*My son is staying home today, not worth it for him to have a meltdown and get in trouble at school. They all complained of sore throats yesterday. Made them gargle with saltwater when they got home.*

## **Maple Grove Education Centre**                      **Grade 6**

*My daughters however went. They're still in elementary. One of my girls in tears, its too hot in class, there's no ventilation. She came home with a headache. Didn't tell anyone at school because she's afraid they'll make her get tested. She's fucking 10. I told her if you don't feel good, call home . She said she's not allowed to use the phone, I said tell them you need me to come pick you up. My other daughter chimes in and says we can just tell them that we got hurt, that way they won't make us get tested. Im pissed this is not okay. They all complained of sore throats yesterday. Made them gargle with saltwater when they got home.*

## **School not named**

*My kids use to love school. Now they dread going because they have to wear their mask*

## **School not named**                                      **Grade 6**

*My guy is in grade 6 and has told me that kids who remove their mask even momentarily to catch a breath are being threatened with detention*

## **Chrichton Park Elementary**                      **Primary**

*Kids are Sitting all the time, colouring, sitting more. It sounds like very little student interaction, no fun, and minimal learning/instruction.*

# Chronicles of the Nova Scotia Mask Mandate in Schools

Collected between September 10-14, 2020

## **Saint Mary's Bay Academy                      Grade 8**

*The worst part for me is that my son once enjoyed school and is an excellent student enjoyed by his teachers. Yesterday he asked what the possibility of home schooling was and described an environment that sounded more like a minimum security prison. It breaks my heart; they are given exactly 33 minutes a day of mandatory outside time where they are basically "penned" in an area with their class bubble. During this time they are allowed to get as close to each other as they want. He was yelled at for getting too close to a friend in another class. They have to sit in their classroom for the first 20 minutes of their lunch period- for some unknown reason. I can imagine the effect these restrictions are taking on the children's morale and mental state, but he has always enjoyed school as an excellent student and social child. Yesterday he asked if he could be homeschooled.*

## **4. Students Denied Access To Education**

### **Clark's Harbour Elementary                      Grade 5**

*I got a call very quickly from the principal of the school. She was very nice and understanding but she basically told me they have to enforce this and if my child comes to school refusing to wear her mask I will be called and if I refuse to make her wear it then she will have to leave school and only return once she agrees to wear the mask again. I'm wondering how this is even legally allowed. aside from that she said she is happy to work with me to allow for mask breaks throughout the day but this is not good enough for me. I don't think a few mask breaks a day will solve the problem. I also got a call back from the tri county regional school board who basically said she doesn't have the ability to change anything and would suggest I chat with my school to try to come up with a plan to make this easier and to let them take breaks. She was also super nice and understanding. They also forwarded my emails on to the higher up people. I'm really hoping I get a response from Zach Churchill. Not sure where to go from here but I'm not done yet.*

### **Yarmouth Consolidated Memorial High School    Grade 10**

*My son won't and can't wear a mask and is unable to attend school. No mask no entry is what they said.*

## Chronicles of the Nova Scotia Mask Mandate in Schools

Collected between September 10-14, 2020

### **School not named**

*My son is like that, and he has also Tourettes and the mask makes his ticks even worst. The school forces him to wear a mask. He come back from school crying every day with even higher anxiety levels, then normally. Every time he pulls the mask below his nose,they pull it right up. He has also an allergic reaction to the mask.*

*I rang his family doctor to write me a letter, and believe it or not the doctor said that they were told not to write letters for anyone and he told me he has to ask for a permission if he can do that for me and he will get back to me in few days. My child has a teacher's assistant with him who he adores, so they told him that if he doesn't wear a mask she will not be able to be with him as she has a compromised immune system apparently and then told him that he will have to be isolated and won't be able to be in the classroom with other kids*

*Can you just imagine that?*