



SCHOOL DISTRICT 78

FRASER-CASCADE

EVERYONE PULLING TOGETHER

October 1, 2021

Dear Fraser-Cascade Parents and Guardians,

Earlier today, Education Minister Whiteside and Provincial Health Officer Dr. Bonnie Henry announced updates to the [Public Health Communicable Disease Guidance for K-12 Schools](#) and the [Provincial COVID-19 Communicable Disease Guidelines for K-12 Settings](#) to require masks for kindergarten to Grade 3 students. The rollout will begin on **Monday, October 4**, when all students in B.C. schools will be required to wear a mask when inside a school building, including while at their desks and on buses. This measure builds on the existing guidelines that currently apply to all students in Grades 4 to 12.

While we acknowledge the need to follow our new guidelines to minimize the transmission of COVID-19 and the more transmissible Delta variant, our Deputy Provincial Health Officer, Dr. Reka Gustafson, also emphasized the following:

- Schools remain the safest place for students to be, and the vast majority of transmissions are occurring in other areas of the community and in private gatherings.
- The emotional challenges and learning loss that occurs by not attending school far outweighs the balance of risk of contracting COVID. Students should continue learning in school.
- Symptoms of COVID are largely minor in the majority of cases for school-aged children.

We appreciate your understanding as we continue to navigate the complexities of keeping our schools open during our current pandemic. We encourage you to work with your school's Principal as we move forward with our programs this school year.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. Moorthy', written in a cursive style.

Balan Moorthy
Superintendent of Schools