



February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021

West Vancouver DPAC

Via email: [dpac@wvschools.ca](mailto:dpac@wvschools.ca)

Dear Kelly,

Thank you for your letter from February 1st regarding mask protocols in our schools. We are very proud of our staff who have been vigilant with safety in our buildings, all the while continuing to deliver exceptional educational programming in West Vancouver under challenging circumstances.

We too, have heard from a number of parents regarding masks in classrooms. As we recently shared at the DPAC meeting, most of our secondary students have been wearing their masks in class and many of our elementary students have adopted this practice. We have and will continue to raise your concerns and those of other parents around health and safety guidelines with Vancouver Coastal Health, the Ministry of Education and our Provincial Health Officer.

As you know the revised Provincial Guidelines for K-12 were released on Thursday with some new updates. All adults in our school buildings will now be required to wear masks, even within their learning cohort. At secondary, while we have extremely high mask usage, these new guidelines ensure that with only a few exceptions, all our high school students will be wearing masks in indoor spaces. Although the revised guidelines do not require students to wear masks in the K-7 setting, we are currently working with our elementary principals on creating a culture of masks in elementary schools, particularly in our upper intermediate grades. Mask usage for these students remains a personal choice but families of course can influence the behaviour of their own children and can encourage friends and neighbours to do the same.

The Ministry also announced the distribution of the second installment of the Federal funding for education which we will be using for additional air filtration and infrastructure upgrades and to continue with enhanced cleaning and available PPE in our schools.

As you know masks provide only one layer of protection against Covid-19 and I'm hoping DPAC and PAC executives across the district can assist us by reminding families of the importance of the daily health check; keeping students home if they are sick; hand hygiene and physical distancing.

In closing, I can assure you that West Vancouver Schools continues to follow all the required safety protocols and that students continue to receive a world class education.

Yours truly,

Carolyn Broady

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carolyn Broady". The signature is written in a dark ink and is positioned below the printed name.

Chair, West Vancouver Board of Education

Cc: Board of Education  
Superintendent Chris Kennedy