



October 1, 2021

Dear All Students, Staff and Parents,

Upon direction from the Provincial Health Officer, West Vancouver Schools will extend its mandatory masking policy from grades 4-12 to K-12. This policy will come into effect Monday, October 4th, consistent with updated guidelines from the CDC and the Ministry of Education.

We know there are differing views on this change. Over the last several days, we have heard from some in our community who see this as an added layer of protection, and from others very concerned that this expectation is something that would be very difficult for their primary child to comply with. For families concerned with their child's ability to comply with the mask mandate, please be in contact with your school principal.

West Vancouver Schools is also working with Vancouver Coastal Health to continue to host vaccination clinics at our schools. We know our community has one of the highest vaccination rates in the province, and we are continuing to work with our health authorities to create opportunities for others to be vaccinated.

Our schools continue to be a safe place for our staff and students with regular cleaning, hand washing/sanitizing, our daily health checks and updated ventilation systems. In addition to this, every school has take home "swish and gargle" COVID-19 tests available to families for any student who becomes symptomatic while at school.

We have had a great start to the school year. It has been wonderful to see the return of many in-class and extracurricular activities which were on pause last year. We will continue to work closely with local and provincial health authorities to ensure the health of everyone in our school community is prioritized.

Sincerely,

Chris Kennedy, Superintendent of Schools

Carolyn Broady, Board Chair