



Media Release

March 16, 2022

Board of Education thanks all for support during the pandemic

The Board of Education are incredibly thankful to our students, staff, and families for their continued support during the pandemic. We also want to thank our provincial level partners for all their work on the pandemic including the Ministry of Education (MoE) and the BC Public School Employers' Association (BCPSEA) for bringing together K-12 partners, including CUPE and the BC Teachers' Federation (BCTF). Locally, we would like to thank CUPE 5523, the Vernon Teachers' Association, (VTA), the Vernon Principals and Vice-Principal's Association (VPVPA), senior staff and our District Parent Advisory Council (DPAC) and Parent Advisory Councils (PACs).

Alignment:

The health and safety of students and staff in BC schools has been the focus of all K-12 partners throughout the three years of the COVID-19 pandemic and recovery.

A coordinated approach to health and safety guidelines and measures across the K-12 sector has been a key part of why School District 22 (Vernon) schools have remained open to provide in-person education to students.

The Board of Education has to date, and will continue to, fully support Health & Safety Measures including and not limited to encouraging everyone to:

- [Get vaccinated](#) (no mandate, yet strongly encouraged for all 5 and up). Since December, the Board has encouraged and supported all employees to be vaccinated. Since January, many new hires are submitting their vaccine passports as part of their application process.
- Complete a [daily health check](#)
- Stay home when sick
- Physically Distance
- Wash hands often
- Wear masks (no longer required beginning the first day of Spring Break and will remain a personal choice after this)

In addition, the Board of Education has fully supported all Provincial COVID-19 Communicable Disease Guidelines for K-12 Settings, as well as our own School District 22 Communicable Disease Guidelines (CDP). Please note that an updated CDP will come into play during Spring Break. Until that time, the current one remains.:

- <https://sd22.bc.ca/> (updated February 18, 2022)
- [Provincial COVID-19 Communicable Disease Guidelines for K to 12 Settings \(PDF, 680KB\)](#)
- [BCCDC COVID-19 Public Health Communicable Disease Guidance for K to 12 School Settings \(PDF, 1.3MB\)](#)
- [COVID-19 Protocols for School & District Administrators and Staff: Management of School-Associated Activity \(PDF, 272KB\)](#)
- [B.C.'s K to 12 Education Recovery Plan \(PDF, 948KB\)](#)

Public Health and Interior Health

- Both public health and Interior Health have supported School District 22 (Vernon) from the beginning. Thank you to our local Interior Health professionals.
- Due to extensive measures by our staff and students, Interior Health has never asked us to close our schools

Planning for Recovery:

“We have had an intense year with Covid -19, and the Delta and Omicron variants. Add to that the heat dome, wildfires, and many of our community being made homeless. Some of our community members are still not back in their homes. Our hearts go out to all,” comments Chair Acton.

“The main risk for us all going forward is still the uncertain evolution of the COVID-19 pandemic and how it may have lasting effects on students, staff, families, as well as, on our budget as we move forward,” states Superintendent Dr. Christine Perkins.

The Board of Education has asked senior staff to monitor and further investigate the status of the pandemic and considerations regarding a vaccine mandate and report back to the Board by September 15, 2022.

In the meantime, the Board of Education extends their heartfelt thanks to all who were patient, kind, and stayed calm during the pandemic. Together, we were SD22 Strong.

For more information contact:

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