



# PRINCE CHARLES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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October 1, 2021

## **Updated Health and Safety Protocols in all schools**

Dear Parents/Guardians,

On Wednesday afternoon, the Surrey Board of Education met with Fraser Health's Medical Health Officer responsible for schools to discuss masking, vaccinations, testing and exposure notifications.

At that time, the Board made a decision to expand the provincial mask mandate to include all students from kindergarten to Grade 12. Earlier today, the provincial government announced that these measures will be in place province-wide effective Monday, October 4<sup>th</sup>. You can see the government news release on the provincial mandate [here](#).

**This means that all staff and students (K-12) must wear a mask when inside a school or on a bus.**

We recognize this will be a change for some of our young students. We will work closely with our students on mask wearing in a positive manner and ensure all of our students continue to have access to non-medical face masks.

The Board of Education also discussed additional measures including vaccination clinics, testing, and notifications:

- **School-based Vaccine Clinics:** The Board of Education will partner with Fraser Health to examine hosting vaccine clinics in our schools for the purpose of increasing vaccination rates in our communities where rates are low. These clinics will only be available to our school communities - staff, students and their families.
- **COVID-19 Mouth Rinse/Gargle test kits:** The Board will promote the use of [take-home COVID-19 Mouth Rinse/Gargle Sample Collection kits](#) to families with children who become symptomatic while at school. This initiative will help increase access to testing and work towards preventing COVID-19 transmission in the school environment.
- **Notifications:** Families are now able to access COVID-19 exposures on the [Fraser Health website](#). Fraser Health will post the school name and date(s) of exposure on their website [here](#). Our Board will continue to work with Fraser Health to do all we can to ensure that notification processes are timely, transparent, and include information about clusters.

We would like to thank Fraser Health for their continued partnership and expertise during this pandemic, and our school community for your support.

We hope you have a great weekend.

Sincerely,

Ms. Donna Lomax, Principal