

Masks at Schools Template

Good Afternoon,

I am writing to you regarding masking at schools.

Continuous masking at schools (in combination with other covid-19 measures in place) is causing mental health issues, social and developmental issues, negatively impacts student learning ability and, consequently, their achievement.

In addition, strict physical distancing rules and mandatory masks may lead to physical harm to a child.

The school environment is becoming non inclusive and the incidents of bullying may increase.

WHO on masks for children:

<https://www.who.int/news-room/questions-and-answers/item/q-a-children-and-masks-related-to-covid-19>

SickKids (and partners) on masks for children (pp 11- 14):

<https://www.sickkids.ca/siteassets/news/news-archive/2020/covid19-recommendations-for-school-reopening-sickkids.pdf>

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/port-moody-principal-forced-to-retract-in-class-mask-policy-1-day-after-introducing-it-1.5709461>

According to the Ontario Education Act, the Board duties and powers first of all are:

1. Promote student achievement and well-being
2. Promote positive school climate that is inclusive and accepting of all pupils
3. Promote the prevention of bullying

<https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/s09025>

Covid-19 does not present significant danger to children. The case-mortality rate among those 19 and under in Ontario is almost 0%.

This is supported by scientific evidence:

<https://www.ctvnews.ca/health/coronavirus/hand-hygiene-no-face-masks-sickkids-experts-on-how-schools-can-safely-reopen-in-the-fall-1.4987852>

If there might be children who develop mild symptoms as a result of the SARS-COV 2, they are expected to stay at home (the self-screening and staff reporting processes were introduced to ensure that).

Please remove masking policies and mandates in Ontario schools as soon as possible.

Sincerely