

From: [Karen Matthews](#)
To: [Karen Matthews](#)
Subject: FW: Covid and Air Quality in Schools
Date: January 24, 2022 9:47:32 AM

-----Original Message-----

From: Virginia Reid <>
Sent: January 21, 2022 12:30 PM
To: Charlene McKay <Charlene.Mckay@sd68.bc.ca>
Subject: Covid and Air Quality in Schools

Dear Ms. McKay,

I noticed in Nanaimo News that the Board is discussing implementation of a vaccine mandate for teachers and staff. As the Board knows, vaccines do not protect sufficiently against Omicron and additional measures are needed.

For the health of the school community, the Board must also employ HEPA filters and CO2 monitors in classrooms. As well, hybrid/online learning should be implemented to reduce school density until the Omicron wave passes.

Omicron is a dangerous airborne illness with long-term health implications for children, parents, grandparents, teachers, staff, and the community at large. The School Board must advocate for students and not simply follow the minimalistic measures of a PHO and Provincial Government interested only in the economy. Don't tell students and parents that schools and classrooms are safe. Show us that they are safe by monitoring and reporting on the air quality in classrooms and by monitoring and reporting Covid exposures. The Board needs to demand more of the Minister of Education. Our students do not deserve to get infected and reinfected with Covid variants. Our students should not have to sacrifice their health for their education.

There is no downside to improving air quality in schools. There is no downside to notifying students and their families when a dangerous airborne illness is circulating in their school. These things will be true long after Covid is gone. Make them part of school policy now and protect the well-being of students. If the Minister of Education does not care about the health of students and is holding you back from protecting them, call her out. You are an elected board. Let's see some more advocacy on behalf of the school community you represent. Make some noise.

Thank you for your hard work on behalf of students and parents.

Kind Regards,

Virginia Reid
Nanaimo, BC

Sent from my iPhone

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