

From: [Karen Matthews](#)
To: [Karen Matthews](#)
Subject: J Coulson Health and Safety
Date: March 29, 2022 8:09:43 AM
Attachments: [Image.png](#)
[Fact Sheet Face-Mask.pdf](#)

From: John Coulson <>

Sent: March 28, 2022 10:32 AM

To: Charlene Mckay <Charlene.Mckay@sd68.bc.ca>; Jessica Stanley <Jessica.Stanley@sd68.bc.ca>; Naomi Bailey <Naomi.Bailey@sd68.bc.ca>; Tania Brzovic <Tania.Brzovic@sd68.bc.ca>; Stephanie Higginson <Stephanie.Higginson@sd68.bc.ca>; Greg Keller <Greg.Keller@sd68.bc.ca>; Elaine Wilkinson <Elaine.Wilkinson@sd68.bc.ca>; Bill Robinson <Bill.Robinson@sd68.bc.ca>; Chantel O'neil <Chantel.Oneill@sd68.bc.ca>

Subject: Health and Safety

CAUTION: External Message

Good Morning School 68 Trustee Members

It is with great anxiety and frustration that I write to you today as our two children return to school, now to an environment where masking is no longer required.

(For work, we also care for two severely medically complex, immunocompromised children, one of whom is returning to school after two years.)

The core thrust of this email is to request that SD 68 consider making mask use still mandatory in school settings.

Perhaps this is an email of desperation as I find myself struggling to put the thoughts in my head on paper in a succinct fashion.

I had planned to do nothing, as from my perspective, it appears that SD 68 has demonstrated it typically follows the guidance/recommendations from the BC Public Health Office without much independent thought. But, I believe BC Public Health have completely abandoned their duties.

From the BC Gov Website on "What Is Public Health":

Public health shares the same overall goals as the rest of the health system: reducing premature death and minimizing the effects of disease, disability, and injury. However, public health achieves these goals by focusing "upstream" through preventing illness, and protecting and promoting health and well-being.

There is very little action we can point to that is "upstream" in BC's current approach.

A question I would pose to each of you in your role as a trustee - have each of you contemplated the ramifications of your actions/decisions if this advice from public health is poor?

* Robust studies clearly show the benefit of mask usage.

One example that I share with our work staff (attached) is a chart compiled of data from several studies done in 2021.

The work has been compiled and presented on the CDC website in the US and American Conference of Governmental Hygienists (at least these are some of the end users of the data I found).

There is debate and interpretation for the absolute values presented in each category. The validity is dependent on many facets. One most notable point being which COVID variant is in play. I find the real value of this chart is in the relative comparisons between mask use of two parties and not so much the absolute values of the exposure times presented.

By abandoning mask use, we are mathematically guaranteeing more people will catch COVID-19.

Yes, many of these cases will be "mild", but mathematically, some will not.

* Globally, data is suggesting that approximately 10% of children with COVID-19 get long covid.

These are not trivial matters we should be readily discarding in a desire to "return to normal".

I'll sign off here, as your time is valuable, and I do not want to risk entering wackadoodle territory (but maybe I'm already there...)

To close, I believe an individual or in your case, a group of individuals, can never go wrong putting safety first and foremost in one's decisions.

I hope that re-instating mandatory mask usage in SD 68 is a safety item that you will consider and execute on.

Thank you for your time,
John Coulson

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