

From: [Karen Matthews](#)
To: [Karen Matthews](#)
Subject: FW: K-4 mask mandate
Date: October 4, 2021 4:22:38 PM

From: Robin Stamp <>
Sent: October 3, 2021 10:49 AM
To: Charlene Mckay <Charlene.Mckay@sd68.bc.ca>
Subject: K-4 mask mandate

CAUTION: External Message

Dear Board Chair McKay

I am writing you today to express my concern and frustration of the announcement of the new k-4 mask mandate.

As a parent of a young student, I am concerned with this mandates lack of concern for the growing body of evidence showing a masks potential negative effect on a young child's cognitive development. This age group is by far the lowest risk for negative covid response, including hospitalization, complication and death. The Province's health statistics continue to reinforce this. With this understanding, we must be especially diligent in analyzing all health measures put into place, to make sure they are looking at the total wellbeing of the child not just Covid exposure. I have been speaking with parents across the district that share these same concerns.

My frustration comes from having this new mandate dropped on parents on a Friday afternoon, with the expectation that we will just have to comply with it on Monday morning. These changes are a big deal for parents of young children, with many seriously reflecting on if they should pull their kids from the classroom. We believe that our voices should be represented in this process, and given the time and space to have our questions answered and voice our concerns.

It is with this understanding that we are formally asking for the board to pause on the implementation of this mandate to give parents the opportunity to ask questions and voice their concerns for their children in an official capacity. We believe that this is in the overall best interest of the health and wellbeing of our children and they cannot be represented by the department of health alone. Parents must have a voice.

As parents, we are asking you to stand with us to make sure we are doing what's right for our children total health. Many of us plan to send our children to school on Monday without a mask, and will continue to do so until there has been an official process for addressing our concerns. My child is not comfortable wearing a mask for any extended period time. We need to know how this will be handled in real time. This is why we believe a pause is the best option, so that teachers and principals will not have to deal with trying to implement a hastily conceived mandate. We must all come together in conversation and agreement to do what's right for our children.

Thank you for your time, I look forward to your response.

Robin Stamp

Kindergarten parent, Fairview Elementary

Respectfully

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