



Ottawa, March 21, 2022

IMPORTANT UPDATE | Precisions on masks in schools

Dear parents and guardians,

I hope you and your loved ones are doing well and that you had a great March Break with your family.

As you know, the Ontario government has removed the obligation to wear a mask in most settings, including schools, as of March 21, 2022. That being said, public health officials strongly recommend that masks be worn. In addition, it remains mandatory in the following situations:

- **Returning from international travel:** A properly fitting mask must be worn in all public places (including schools and child care facilities) for the first 14 days after returning to Canada from international travel, in accordance with current [travel requirements](#). For questions related to international travel, please contact the [Public Health Agency of Canada](#) at 1-833-784-4397.
- **Following COVID-19 infection:** If the 5-day self-isolation is completed, a properly fitting mask must be worn in all public places (including schools and child care facilities) for an additional 5 days.
- **For close contacts:** If self-isolation is required for 5 days, persons with [close contacts](#) coming out of isolation must wear a tight-fitting mask in all public places (including schools and child care facilities) for an additional 5 days. If self-isolation is not required, close contacts should wear a tight-fitting mask in all public places (including schools and child care facilities) for 10 days.

Benefits of wearing a mask

In situations where masks are no longer required, it is now the responsibility of each individual to determine his or her level of risk and the level of risk of those around him or her.

We would like to remind you that masks have been an important element in limiting the transmission of COVID-19 in schools and in the community. Masks can still help reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19 and add a layer of protection to prevent



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transmission of COVID-19. As such, any student who still wishes to wear the mask at all times at school should feel comfortable doing so.

For more information, please visit the [Masks section](#) of the Ottawa Public Health website or contact your local public health office. You can also watch [this video](#) prepared by Dr. Vera Etches, Medical Officer of Health for Ottawa Public Health or view [the message from Dr. Paul Roumeliotis](#), Medical Officer of Health for the Eastern Ontario Health Unit.

I thank you for your cooperation and wish you a great start to spring.

Sylvie C.R. Tremblay
Director of Education