



Bluewater District School Board

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Sent by email: Kieran.Moore@ontario.ca; stephen.lecce@pc.ola.org; Premier@ontario.ca;
I.Arra@publichealthgreybruce.on.ca

January 25, 2022

Dr. Kieran Moore
Chief Medical Officer of Health of Ontario
21st Floor, 393 University Avenue
Toronto, Ontario M5G 2M2

The Honourable Stephen Lecce
Minister of Education
315 Front Street West, 14th Floor
Toronto, Ontario M7A 0B8

The Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building, Queen's Park
Toronto, Ontario M7A 1A1

Dr. Ian Arra
Medical Officer of Health and Chief Executive Officer
Grey Bruce Health Unit
101 17th Street East
Owen Sound, Ontario N4K 0A5

Dear Dr. Moore, Minister Lecce, Premier Ford, and Dr. Arra:

With our recent return to in-person learning on January 17, 2022, we are reaching out on behalf of the Board of Trustees, to emphasize the urgency of implementing a variety of actions to ensure schools remain safe and open.

Our board wholeheartedly supports the statement issued by OPSBA on January 2, 2022, which emphasizes the importance of getting students back to in-person learning safely through the following measures:

- Priority access to vaccinations for students and school staff;
- Continued access to polymerase chain reaction (PCR) testing;
- Non-fit-tested N95 masks to school staff as soon as possible; and
- Adding COVID-19 to the list of vaccines in the Immunization of School Pupils Act.

In addition to OPSBA's recommendations, we would like to further recommend the following:

- Principals continue to report cases of communicable diseases and refuse admittance to students showing symptoms of disease, as per the Education Act, and that families and staff be

informed of (confirmed and suspected cases as reported by guardians and/or students) COVID-19 cases in individual classrooms;

- The province continues its commitment to student and staff access to PCR testing in cases of high-risk of exposure and suspected COVID-19;
- The province supports and implements a “Test to Return” strategy following COVID-19 illness and exposure;
- The province provides funding and supplies of non-fit-tested N95 masks for students in the same way that they are now providing for education staff; and
- It is requested that the Grey Bruce Health Unit continues to report COVID-19 cases for schools and daycare centres.

We appreciate the hard work and additional actions taken thus far by the Ministry of Education and our local and provincial public health partners to improve safety in our schools. While we have made many positive gains, we also feel the important points we have raised along with our education partners are critical to maintaining a safe in-person learning and working environment for our students and staff.

As always, our commitment remains focused on providing a quality education for every student in a safe, accepting, and caring environment.

Sincerely,



Jane Thomson
Chair



Jan Johnstone
Vice-Chair

cc: The Honourable Bill Walker, MPP, Bruce-Grey-Owen Sound
The Honourable Lisa Thompson, MPP, Huron-Bruce
The Honourable Marit Stiles, NDP Education Critic
Ontario Public School Boards' Association

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