

Masks4BC, Subgroup of Masks4Canada
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August 15, 2020

Dear Sirs and Madams,

We are a group of BC physicians who believe masks play an important role in reducing the spread of COVID-19 in addition to physical distancing and hand hygiene. We are especially concerned that as September approaches and schools are gearing to start, there is no firm plan to ensure the safety of students, teachers, and other school staff. We acknowledge that accommodations will be required for some children, teachers and staff, but the first step is demanding a firm plan that mandates masks.

From Dr. Bonnie Henry's press conferences, it is clear that she is unfortunately not planning on mandating masks in schools. This is despite the fact that Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and the Northwest Territories have some form of mask mandate in schools. Recently, the American Academy of Pediatrics released their guidelines on cloth face coverings for children: "Face coverings will be essential for children to safely return to school, child care, and other group settings. In addition to protecting the child, the use of cloth face coverings significantly reduces the spread of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, to other children and adults." <https://www.healthychildren.org/English/health-issues/conditions/COVID-19/Pages/Return-to-School-During-COVID-19.aspx>

We hope you will take the time to read our letter and share it and sign it. We are working tirelessly as volunteers to educate and raise awareness on the importance of masks to keep BC safe. We hope you will join our cause and unite our voices.

Sincerely,

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Dr. Giorgia Tropini, MD MSc
Dr. Anna Wolak, MBBS, MCFP
Dr. Cindy Huang, MD
Dr. James Heilman, MD CCFP(EM)