

Hello, Ey Swayel,

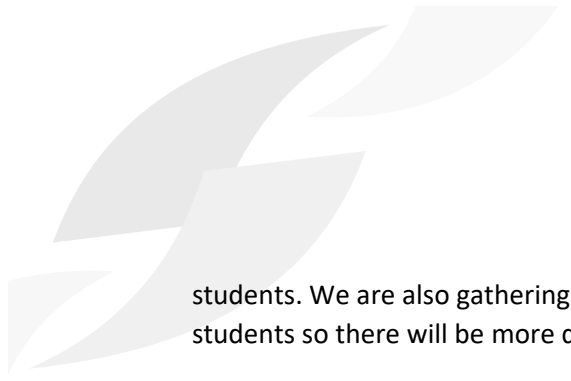
It's good to be here to talk with you again and a chance to update you on some key things that are happening in the province right now. There is a lot of information out there that impacts our school district directly and I will update you on a few important pieces including: functional closures, rapid tests, vaccine mandates, masks and ventilation. So, I know it's a lot of stuff, but I thought this is maybe the best way to get the information out to you and know that things change all the time.

**Functional Closure (learning from home):**

I've heard people asking what is the trigger? How will I know that my site will move to learning from home? People are looking for a black and white answer and I'm here to say it's a little more complicated than that. Every single day we get staff attendance reported at the school level, and human resources can then say here is the level or percentage of staff absent from a school. So that data is important and very interesting, but it is also deeply contextualized. We don't know if people are away on leaves, for professional development, away on other business, or it is department head time, or many things contribute to that actual "list of absence". The staff absenteeism, if we find is greater than 25%, triggers a conversation. That conversation is our Superintendent team with the Principal of the school saying help us understand the current context of your building. We want to know are we able to back fill, how critical is this for you? Do we feel that the school is in a position where they are unable to sufficiently supervisor or provide instruction to kids? Is this absence related to illness or something else and do we believe it's going to last for 2 - 7 days? In addition, we also want information from Fraser health. Is there any other community information? Do we know anything about potential COVID at the school? What do we know about student absenteeism and where there is a high level of student absenteeism, is it related to illness or is it related to other factors? All of these things come into place and the high percentage of staff being absent is simply the trigger for a conversation. That conversation would lead to us gathering a bunch more information where we'd ultimately have to make a decision on would a school move to learning from home or not. In our model, on that very first day, we would confirm with the school, we would make the decision and then there would be a planning day that would follow. There isn't a hard and fast rule stating if a certain percent of absenteeism, then a school moves to learning from home. It's all about the trigger for a consultation and a conversation with the school.

**Rapid Tests – For Staff**

There has been an announcement provincially that there are 200,000 rapid tests that are coming out to school districts. We will be receiving those soon and hopefully within the next day or two. There will be two allocated per adult. Once the district receives them, they will need to be repackaged into a set of two per adult. This is for your personal use and when you're symptomatic. We have to figure out how we're going to distribute them and we think that this is just phase one of a larger rollout that will include



students. We are also gathering more information on the potential distribution of rapid tests for students so there will be more details to come on that.

### **Vaccine Mandate**

The recent news about the order of proof of vaccination from Dr. Bonnie Henry is really important to understand and there is more information that is just unfolding on this. But this order is very consistent with the provincial notion around having regional differences. This order allows the Regional Medical Health Officers, if they feel it's necessary, to require a school board to seek a proof of vaccine status from their staff. This means, for Surrey Schools, at this moment there is no change. Our Board of Education made a decision not to pursue the proof of vaccine status unless directed to by health. We have not been directed by health, we checked in with our medical health officer yesterday and there is no change in the Fraser health region. The provincial health officer has enabled local and regional medical health officers to do this, but right now there is no provincial order that says this is required. We know there is more information coming all the time.

### **Ventilation**

We have just received today verification on ventilation funding. This is a federal allotment and about \$11.9 million that has come. It's called a federal safe return to class funds. We are currently receiving our lot as a school district and we have to figure out how to apply those funds as a school district.

### **Masks**

The other piece to add is a refresher around masks. We hear from time to time that people want to know what are the current mask rules? The protocols for wearing masks has not changed in schools since September. Wearing a mask at school is required under the Public Health order. Proper fitting masks is important. It's really important that there are exemptions and that we are able to work within those exemptions, but the provincial order requires all students, all staff, all visitors to wear a mask anytime you're indoor at school.

I hope that clarifies few key things, knowing that there's a press conference today and certainly more information to come. As always, we're so incredibly appreciative of work that everyone is doing in schools. We know that the shifting sands cause uncertainty and lack of clarity causes people to be a little discombobulated. And so I just thought it was helpful to do the video today, to clarify where we are as of January 18th, so I hope it's helpful.

As always, take care and stay well, Hy'ce:pka.