

January 7, 2022

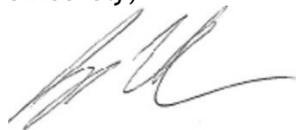
Dear Parents, Guardians, and Community Members:

As we prepare to re-open schools for Monday, January 10th, we would like you to be aware of some changes. Your local school may have revised information heading your way shortly. In addition, you should be aware of the more global challenges impacting the system. While milder, Omicron is highly infectious; Dr. Henry predicted some workplaces may have 1/3 of staff away. This level of absenteeism may impact both staff and students at our schools over the next month or so.

- As always, please keep your child at home if they are ill or displaying symptoms of Covid. Parents, guardians, students, and staff are reminded to wash hands regularly and perform a Daily Health Check. You can download the K-12 Health Check App [HERE](#).
- As the same is true for staff members, we may face staffing shortages not only in the classroom but also in our support workers, such as bus drivers or building service workers. This may lead to cancellations of particular bus runs, rolling closures of schools, or indeed longer closures of buildings if warranted. If a building is closed, we will move to an online format for a few days until the shortage subsides. Hopefully, none of these will impact your family, but we must be prepared for these events.
- A reminder that wearing a mask is required at school (with exemptions), and can help reduce these interruptions to our workforce and service provision - consider the positive impact this can have for all of us in schools. Please have your child wear a mask if at all possible. Masks must also be worn on all school buses.
- Fraser Health will no longer be tracing exposure contacts or sending out notifications of exposures as they have in the past. The volume of exposures, difficulty in identifying sources, and speed of transmission now make contact tracing less valuable. The PHO and BCCDC are strongly encouraging Self-Management if you have COVID-19 or are displaying symptoms of COVID-19. This includes staying home to self-isolate as well as seeking medical attention if you require it. You can find detailed information on this process [HERE](#).

As always, there may be changes to our information in the coming weeks, often with short notice. I know it is a frustrating time, and I ask that everyone continues to practise kindness and understanding to the other members of our community. If you have any questions, please email me at angus.wilson@mpsd.ca. Thank you for your ongoing patience.

Sincerely,



Angus Wilson

Superintendent of Schools