

NEWS RELEASE

WSD Board of Trustees mandate masks

August 20, 2021 (Winnipeg, MB) – The Winnipeg School Division Board of Trustees has unanimously agreed to make masks mandatory for all students, staff and visitors in WSD Schools for the 2021/22 school year.

The Board had previously made a written request to the Minister of Education to reconsider the provincial announcement on August 5 and mandate masks for all students in Manitoba schools, as well as staff and visitors, in an effort to reduce the spread of the Delta Variant and maintain our health and safety. As of today's date, the Minister has not responded to the Board's request to make masks mandatory for all school boards in Manitoba.

"We believe that a provincial mandate, supported by a public health order, would be more effective and consistent, however, we also recognize that the vast majority of WSD parents and guardians want to have the reassurance now that their children will be provided this basic level of protection from the virus," says Betty Edel, Chair of the WSD Board of Trustees. "Therefore, when WSD staff and students return to school in September, masks will be required."

For more information on the WSD Safe Return to School 2021/22, please visit the [WSD website](#).

WSD is celebrating 150 years of learning this year and has 79 schools, 32,752 students and 4,587 full-time employees. Its purpose is to provide a learning environment that fosters the growth of each student's potential and provide equitable opportunity to develop the knowledge, skills and values necessary for meaningful participation in a global and diverse society.

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