



*Angela Kennedy  
Trustee Ward 11*

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**To:** Regular Board Meeting, August 20, 2020

**From:** Angela Kennedy, Trustee Ward 11

**Subject:** Reopen/Revisit the decision to require all children 10 and under to wear a mask indoors at school

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**MOVED BY: Angela Kennedy, Toronto Catholic District School Board**

**WHEREAS:** The Ontario's *Guide to reopening schools* document states; "Students Grade 4 to 12 will be required to wear NMM (non-medical masks) indoors including hallways and classrooms." "Students JK to Grade 3 will be encouraged but not required to wear masks in indoor spaces."

**WHEREAS:** The Government of Canada's *Covid-19 Guidance for schools Kindergarten to Grade 12* document states; "NMM should not be worn by anyone who is unable to remove the mask without assistance (age ability)." "NMM should be sized and worn correctly. Younger children may not be able to use consistently, correctly, and safely during the day."

**WHEREAS:** As per the *SickKids' Covid-19: Guidance for School Reopening*; document states important complexities as relates to elementary students wearing of NMM has been recommended or mandated for use by public health authorities in Ontario in indoor spaces. Important to note this recommendation is for Source Control (that is, preventing infectious particles from spreading from the wearer not as PPE). In children and youth there is limited data on the effectiveness of NMM use

for source control but there remains theoretical benefit for older children and youth. In order to be effective they must be worn correctly; and

**WHEREAS:** SickKids guidance comes from consensus statements, preferred recommendations from contributing Pediatrics care providers 1 use of NMM in school setting should be driven by local epidemiology with age specific considerations agree 94 percent.

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT:** Any motions that were made by this Board requiring NMM to be worn by children under 20 years of age should be deleted and replaced with: *It will not be mandatory for child 10 and under to wear NMM indoors at school; and*

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT:** We establish policies regarding use of masks and/or other protective equipment that align with advice from Provincial local public health authorities and align with epidemiology of the jurisdiction.

**Angela Kennedy**  
**Trustee, Ward 11**