



Mark Fisher, Director of Education and Secretary

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2020 September 16

The Honourable Stephen Lecce  
Minister of Education  
438 University Avenue, 5th Floor  
Toronto, Ontario M7A 2A5

Dr. David Williams  
Chief Medical Officer of Health  
Public Health  
393 University Avenue, 21st Floor  
Toronto, Ontario M5G 2M2

Dear Minister and Chief Medical Officer of Health,

We wish to express the Board's gratitude for your support for public education and your efforts to protect the health and safety of students and staff during these very challenging times.

However, we believe it is important to bring to your attention the inconsistent messaging regarding the mandatory use of face masks. While the Ontario government has made it clear that everyone needs to wear a face covering while attending indoor public places, such as stores and restaurants, the province has limited the mandatory use of face masks in schools to students from Grades 4 to 12.

Trustees promote the views shared by many of our constituents in that all students should wear masks while attending school, thus reducing the spread of COVID. On August 25, 2020, the Thames Valley District School Board passed the following motion:

"That the Chair write a letter to Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health and the Minister of Education regarding standardization of mask wearing protocols in schools and public places in Ontario."

The importance of this issue regarding standardization of face coverings in Ontario is exasperated by differing local public health protocols within the geography of the Thames Valley School Board.

Again, we wish to thank you for your leadership during the COVID-19 pandemic and hope that you will consider establishing consistent public health guidelines that make the use of face masks mandatory in all grades, and enforceable by all local school boards.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. Morell", is written in a cursive style.

Arlene Morell, Chair  
Thames Valley District School Board

cc Trustees  
M. Fisher, Director of Education

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**Thames Valley District School Board - Office of the Chairperson**

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