



SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 62 (SOOKE)
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To: SD62 Community
From: The Board of Education

Date: December 21, 2021

Regarding: COVID-19 Vaccination Mandate

Dear Students, Families and Community,

On behalf of the Board of Education for School District #62 (Sooke), I want to wish you the very best for the holidays and the new year.

As many of you are aware, the Board has been deliberating on whether to implement a COVID-19 vaccine mandate for employees in our district. In consideration of this decision, the Board directed the Superintendent to consult with public health, our educational partner groups, Indigenous rights holders and the community. In addition to the consultation, an anonymous survey was conducted to collect data on the vaccination status of school district employees. Following this, the Board received on December 15th, a template for a COVID-19 Proof of Vaccination Procedure, prepared by the British Columbia Public School Employers' Association for any Boards considering the implementation of a procedure for employees in their school district.

With the recent increases in COVID-19 cases in the Province, the Board has made the following decisions:

- (1) Effective immediately, any offer of employment to new hires will be conditional upon proof of vaccination status or accommodation based on a Human Rights Exemption. This only applies to new hires and does not impact existing employees.
- (2) The Board has also directed the Superintendent to plan for the possibility of implementing a vaccine mandate for all employees should the Board determine that changes in transmission of COVID-19 warrant this. At this time the Board has opted not to introduce this procedure to all staff but wants to be ready should this be necessary.

The Board continues to explore ways to keep our schools safe for staff and students and will adjust practices as necessary depending upon the latest COVID-19 information. We strongly encourage all those who are eligible to get vaccinated.

We thank you all for your continued support of SD62 and send our very best wishes during the holiday season.

Sincerely,

Ravi Parmar,
Board Chair, on behalf of the Board of Education
Trustees: Bob Beckett, Wendy Hobbs, Bob Phillips, Dianna Seaton, Margot Swinburnson, and Allison Watson