

DATE: February 1, 2022

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: Trustee Sumar

SUBJECT: Motion re: KN95 Masks for Edmonton Public Students and Staff

REFERENCE: [Trustees' Handbook – Section 5.2.2 – Notices of Motion](#)

ISSUE

Trustee Sumar served notice of motion at the January 18, 2022, Board meeting.

BACKGROUND

The number of COVID-19 cases among students and staff continues to increase, in part due to the high transmissibility of the Omicron variant. Unfortunately, we also learned on January 17, that a child aged 5-9 with no pre-existing health conditions passed away from COVID-19. The Division has received several donations of N95 (or similar) masks which have been distributed to staff and it makes good sense that students should be provided with these masks as well. While the Division's COVID-19 mitigation strategies are strong, schools by design employ gathering and are not set to allow for physical distancing.

RELATED FACTS

The COVID-19 virus is dispersed in both droplet and aerosol forms. Medical grade surgical masks, although effective as a barrier to droplets and fluids, are not considered to be well-fitting. N95 masks are designed to both filter airborne particles, provide a seal for the user, and are recognized as being of higher medical grade. China's KN95, Australia/New Zealand's P2, Korea's 1st Class, Japan's DS2 FFRs and Europe's FFP2 respirators are considered to be similar to N95 masks.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Edmonton Public School Board of Trustees advocate to the provincial government for an immediate allocation from the surplus reserve not to exceed \$3.5 million for all students and staff to obtain a minimum four-week supply of N95, or similar, masks.

OPTIONS

1. Approve the recommendation as presented.
2. Provide feedback and request changes to the recommendation for approval.

NEXT STEPS

Upon approval of the motion, the Board Chair would write to the Minister of Education to advocate for an immediate allocation from the Division's operational reserve. In addition, upon approval, the Division should prepare a Request for Proposals to acquire N95, or similar, masks.

SS:ca

REFERENCES

EPSB COVID-19 TRACKING TOOL

<https://www.epsb.ca/schools/goingtoschool/health/covid-19cases/>

PEDIATRIC COVID-19 DEATH

<https://calgaryherald.com/news/local-news/child-dies-of-covid-19-as-hospitalizations-soar-past-1000-in-alberta>

CENTER FOR DISEASE CONTROL COVID-19 BRIEF

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/science/science-briefs/sars-cov-2-transmission.html>

GOVERNMENT OF CANADA COVID TRANSMISSION INFORMATION

<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/health-professionals/main-modes-transmission.html>

PAPER ON N95 AND KN95 FILTRATION EFFICIENCY

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7724761/>

TECHNICAL BULLETIN ON MASKS SIMILAR TO N95 MASKS

<https://multimedia.3m.com/mws/media/17915000/comparison-ffp2-kn95-n95-filtering-facepiece-respirator-classes-tb.pdf>

FDA FACE COVERING INFORMATION

<https://www.fda.gov/medical-devices/personal-protective-equipment-infection-control/n95-respirators-surgical-masks-face-masks-and-barrier-face-coverings>

CANADIAN CENTRE FOR OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY MASK COMPARISON

https://www.ccohs.ca/oshanswers/prevention/ppe/surgical_mask.html

CENTER FOR DISEASE CONTROL MASK COMPARISON

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/types-of-masks.html>