# Health and Safety Measures in Schools 2022-2023

### Be respectful, welcoming, and inclusive to those who choose to wear or not to wear masks

- Based on the advice of the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health, masks will be optional for students, staff, and visitors in schools, school board offices, or on student transportation.
- Everyone is encouraged to be respectful, welcoming, and inclusive of individuals who **choose to wear or not to wear** a mask within their school communities.
- Individuals should assess their personal level of risk and the risk of those around them, and consider adding protective measures (such as masking and/or physical distancing) to reduce risk.

Reasons why some individuals choose to wear a mask:

- In close contact with those who are at higher risk of severe illness, including people who are: older, have certain medical conditions, or are pregnant or recently gave birth
- Have a weakened immune system
- Required for 10 days following COVID-19 infection or exposure
- Required for 14 days following return to Canada if you are NOT fully vaccinated

#### Continue to self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms

- It is recommended that staff, students, and visitors continue to self-screen daily before attending school using the <u>COVID-19 school and child care screening tool</u>.
- Individuals should stay home if they are feeling ill to prevent the spread of illness.

## Continue to practice good hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette

• Practice proper handwashing and cough/sneeze etiquette. Always cough/sneeze into a tissue or your elbow.

### **Get vaccinated**

• Anyone 6 months of age and older is now eligible to receive a first and second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. Walk-in appointments will be accepted at all 5+ clinics (appointments required for 6 months to 4 years of age).

#### **Renfrew County and District Health Unit**

"Optimal Health for All in Renfrew County and District"

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