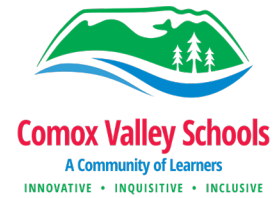


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For immediate release

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### **Comox Valley Schools will not require proof of vaccination for staff**

**Comox Valley, B.C.** – After consulting with health experts and thorough discussions at an in-camera meeting, the Board for Comox Valley Schools will not be mandating COVID-19 vaccines for staff at this time.

“Serious consideration was given, including the priority of health and safety of students and staff in Comox Valley Schools as well as the potentially significant impact on student learning,” says Sheila McDonnell, Comox Valley Schools board chair. “We are encouraged by the high vaccinations rates in our region and urge everyone who is eligible to get vaccinated to help keep our schools healthy and safe.”

The decision was made after examining local information, and consultations with the local Medical Health Officer and Vancouver Island Health Authority. Health officials advised it would have a limited impact on transmission rates because of the already high community vaccination rate and the fact that schools are not a primary source of COVID-19 cases in the greater community.

The district also considered the [K-12 Sector Guidelines for Vaccination Policies](#) developed by the Ministry of Education, BC Public School Employers’ Association and the provincial advisory group.

Comox Valley Schools continue to operate safely and are low-risk settings. We are very grateful for everyone in our school communities and all they have done to support the health and well-being of students and staff.

-End-

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