



BOARD DECIDES IN FAVOUR OF VACCINE MANDATE FOR STAFF

January 27, 2022

Kelowna, BC – At the January 26th Public Board Meeting, the Board of Education approved a COVID-19 vaccine mandate for Central Okanagan Public Schools staff. After a thorough debate and an extended opportunity for public comments, the decision was made by a 5-2 vote.

Central Okanagan Public Schools currently has a vaccination rate of 90% of assigned staff. Senior staff will now work with the Central Okanagan Teachers' Association and CUPE Local 3523 to determine the rollout of the mandate, according to the Letters of Agreement already in place between the BC Public School Employers Association, the BCTF, and the CUPE Presidents' Council. The Letters of Agreement provide opportunities for unvaccinated employees to continue to work if they participate in a District organized weekly COVID-19 Testing Program and allows employees who do not wish to test to take unpaid leaves for the length of the Agreement, which expires June 30th unless extended by mutual agreement.

The Board of Education continues to encourage those who are eligible to get vaccinated and recognizes the public health guidance that vaccination remains the best protection against severe illness from COVID-19.

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For comments, please contact:

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