



NOVA SCOTIA TEACHERS UNION

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Dear Colleagues,

I hope you have enjoyed a restful and rejuvenating March Break. If you haven't heard the news yet, the Province just announced that masking will remain mandatory for all students and staff when you head back to the classroom next week. This decision was made, based on the advice of the IWK pediatric pandemic advisory group and will be re-evaluated in mid-April. I realize there is some division on this issue and not everyone will welcome this announcement. Many of you were excited to remove your masks and be able to see your students' faces again. But with case numbers on the rise, this decision will help protect our most vulnerable students and colleagues.

Ultimately, keeping each other safe needs to remain a top priority as we head into the final stretch of this school year. We all want restrictions to be dropped so we can return to normal, but keeping some protections in place just a little bit longer is the most prudent approach right now. Also, please keep in mind that Dr. Strang and Public Health have advised all Nova Scotians that even though certain safety measures are no longer the law, we should continue to wear a mask in public indoor places, maintain physical distancing whenever possible when interacting with those outside of our regular social circle, and stay home and rest if you are feeling ill (those who test positive are still legally required to isolate for seven days). The NSTU encourages all its members to follow this advice as it will help reduce case numbers in our communities and by extension our health care facilities and schools.

Please have a productive and peaceful first week after the break. If you have any questions or concerns about this policy, please contact your executive staff officer.

In solidarity,

Paul

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the name 'Paul'.