

The Saskatchewan College of Family Physicians would like to support and reiterate the call for more caution in opening Saskatchewan schools this fall.

We have heard concerns from our members that family physicians want additional precautions in place to reduce the unnecessary risk to our children and families. The Safe Schools Plan should integrate masks and physical distancing at the outset, both of which help with the COVID-19 spread, along with frequent handwashing.

There is increasing evidence that school aged children can both be infected by, as well as spread, the COVID-19 virus. This may create an environment where the virus spreads both within the school, and within families, potentially to those who are at an increased risk for severe illness. As such, we recommend that masks be part of any reopening.

The SCFP is urging additional safety measures to keep our children, teachers, and other staff safe as we reopen schools this fall. The SCFP asks that school resumes at a minimum of Safe Schools Plan level two and includes a clear mask mandate for students and teachers. It is imperative that we take as many protections as possible for the safety of our families.

We encourage the Saskatchewan Ministries of Health and Education, The Saskatchewan Health Authority, and Dr. Saqib Shahab, to reconsider the phases of the reopen plan and to start cautiously and roll back safeguards slowly and thoughtfully.



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