

Dear students and families,

With the holiday season upon us, I wanted to reach out and thank you for your cooperation and patience this year. I know this school year has been unlike any other and we are all so excited to get back to normal but we all have a role to play in keeping our schools and communities safe.

We know that mask wearing, especially when combined with physical distancing is an effective way to curb the spread of COVID-19. That's why we want to invite New Brunswick students and school staff to take part in a "mask-up" campaign when students return to school in January. During the weeks of January 4-8 and 11 to 15, 2021, we're strongly encouraging everyone in schools across the province to wear their mask throughout the day as an extra layer of protection.

By continuing to follow simple rules, we can all help keep our schools healthy and safe and help us get back to normal in 2021. Remember:

- Wear your mask
- Keep your distance
- Wash your hands
- If you are sick, stay home
- When in doubt, get tested

I want to thank students for following mask-wearing policies over the past few months – keep up the great work. Your actions and good decisions, both inside and outside of the classroom, help keep all New Brunswickers healthy. I know it has not always been easy to adapt to all the new routines we've put in place through the Return to School plan. Thank you for your kindness and flexibility.

Have a wonderful holiday season. Please continue to care for yourselves and others and keep following Public Health's advice and guidelines.

Sincerely,



Dominic Cardy
Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development

