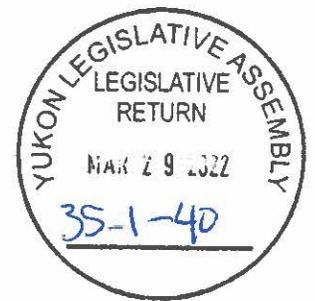


# LEGISLATIVE RETURN



SUBMITTED BY: Hon. Ms. McLean, Minister of Education

1. On [date], [MLA]

- asked the following question during the Oral Question Period at page(s) of *Hansard*
- submitted the following written question – WQ No. #
- gave notice of the following motion for the production of papers – MPP No. #

RE: [subject]

OR

2. This legislative return relates to a matter outstanding from discussion with Scott Kent, Member for Copperbelt South on March 21, 2022 related to:

Bill No. 203

Second Reading  Third Reading

Committee of the Whole: Vote 03 Education

Motion No. #

RE: Easing of masking in K-12 school settings

at page(s) 1499 of *Hansard*.

The response is as follows:

**What is the chief medical officer of health looking for in order to consider easing this [masking] measure in the classrooms?**

A thorough scientific evidence review shows mask mandates for children in school settings in North America are associated with lower incidence of COVID-19 infection.

With the Yukon transitioning from mandatory public health measures to discretionary use of measures across the territory, after March break, we expect to see:

- More gatherings in communities
- More inter-school activities and student interactions
- Greater mixing between close contacts in new groups

As a result of a more mobile and interactive community with increased social and student interactions, there could be an increase in COVID-19 case activity in the Yukon.

To ensure this transition period is managed sensibly and in a step-wise way, we continue to maintain the requirement that children wear masks in the classroom. We are closely following the epidemiology including case activity among students and those in early learning centres across the Yukon.

**What exactly are she and her cabinet colleagues looking for from the chief medical officer of health to ease this measure?**

For the next few weeks after March break, we will assess key COVID-19 indicators that tell us whether we are prepared to remove the masking requirement in schools and early learning centres.

Key indicators include:

- Case activity (counts, positivity rates, surveillance reports and absenteeism)
- Geographic distribution (the distribution of case activity throughout the Yukon)
- Percentage of people who are up-to-date on vaccinations within the age groups of those who attend schools and early learning centres

The epidemiology over the next few weeks will guide the territory to determine the best steps forward regarding the safety of school children, including the re-evaluation of masking in schools.

March 29, 2022  
Date

[Signature]  
Signature

## LEGISLATIVE RETURN

**Does she have any idea of a timeline for reviewing it or perhaps coming forward with an announcement about it?**

This will be done in two week intervals. We will assess case activity two weeks after March break, and again two weeks after that. Masking requirements in schools and early learning centres will be removed as soon as case activity shows it is sensible to do so.

This is a crucial transition period for the Yukon, and it must be managed rationally and in a way that is based on evidence. We are adjusting to the continued presence of COVID-19 while simultaneously shifting to more discretionary protections.

March 29, 2022  
Date

  
Signature

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