



MEMORANDUM

September 14, 2021
Regular Board Meeting

TO Board of Trustees

FROM Shauna Boyce, Superintendent

ORIGINATOR Mark Francis, Deputy Superintendent

RESOURCE Jordi Weidman, Director of Strategic Communications
Parkland School Division Stakeholders

GOVERNANCE POLICY Board Policy 2: Role of the Board
Board Policy 12: Role of the Superintendent

ADDITIONAL REFERENCE BP 2: Stakeholder Engagement and Communication
BP 2: Collaboration
Stakeholder Feedback

SUBJECT **COVID MEASURES SURVEY RESULTS**

PURPOSE

For information. No recommendation required.

BACKGROUND

The Board of Trustees establishes processes and provides opportunities for input from its stakeholders. The Board promotes positive community engagement and represents the community's needs, hopes and desires. This report is in support of these responsibilities.

REPORT SUMMARY

On Friday September 3, 2021, prior to any changes in COVID-19 Measures announced by the Government of Alberta (GOA), Parkland School Division (PSD) released a survey to stakeholders regarding their thoughts on current protocols and if changes were needed. Later that same day, the GOA announced the implementation of more regulations and protocols due to rising numbers of COVID cases, but exempt from those changes were school divisions. PSD also sent the survey to staff in the Division.

The following report highlights stakeholder feedback from the COVID Measures Survey Results. Preliminary results from this report were used to provide additional information to the Board of Trustees for the Special Meeting held Tuesday, September 7, 2021.

Administration would be pleased to respond to any questions.

MF:kz



PARKLAND SCHOOL DIVISION

Where the World Opens Up

COVID-19 MEASURES – 2021 FALL SURVEYS

September 9, 2021

OUR STUDENTS POSSESS THE CONFIDENCE, RESILIENCE, INSIGHT AND SKILLS REQUIRED TO THRIVE IN, AND POSITIVELY IMPACT, THE WORLD.

KEY MESSAGES

1. This survey was emailed to all parents/guardians of Parkland School Division on Friday September 3, 2021 prior to the Government of Alberta's announcement to implement increased COVID-19 measures which included masking in all indoor public places except school settings.
2. The survey closed Thursday, September 9, 2021.
3. This briefing note summarizes the responses received for both the parent/guardian survey and the staff survey.
4. 3, 588 parents/guardians responded to the survey. Additionally, 490 staff members responded to a separate survey asking similar questions.

BACKGROUND

The safety of our students and staff will always remain our top priority. We recognize the public debate and varying levels of anxiety when it comes to the pandemic response in the Province of Alberta. Parkland School Division's COVID-19 measures have been developed for use by Parkland School Division schools and outreach sites and are based on the guidance documents developed by the Government of Alberta.

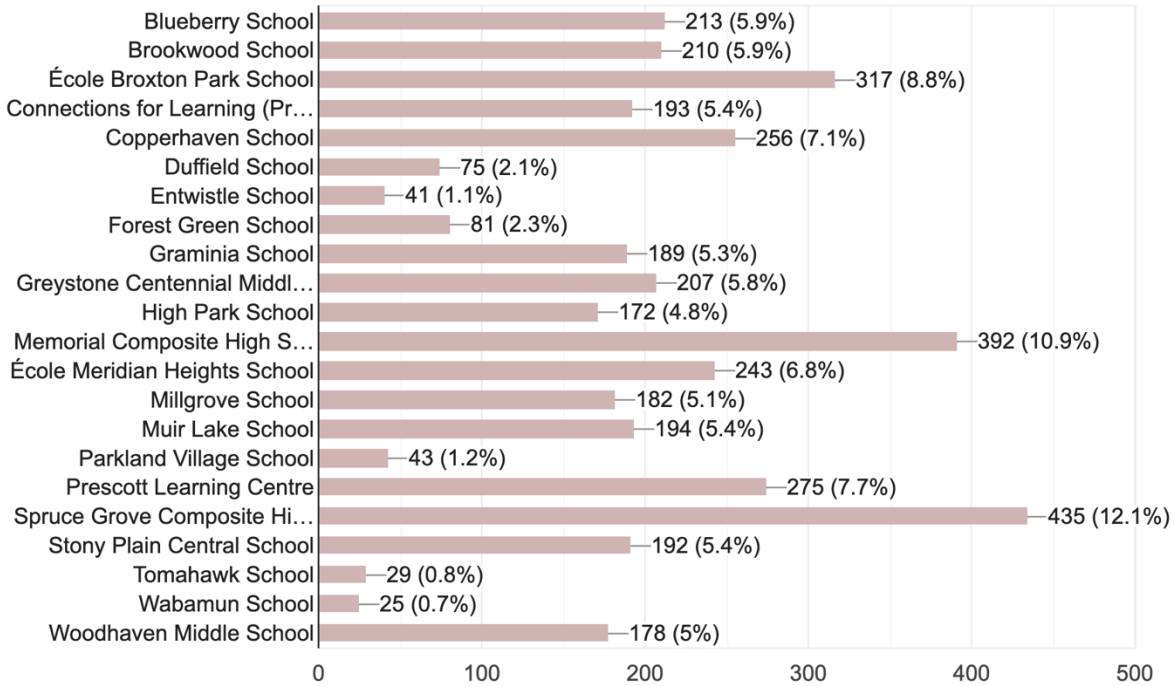
As PSD Guidance for School Re-Entry Principal's Handbook is based on direction from the Chief Medical Officer of Health and the Government of Alberta, the measures and the PSD guidance are subject to change based on new or updated recommendations or requirements. Parents/Guardians and Staff were surveyed separately to gauge their level of comfort with the measures.

PARENT/GUARDIAN SURVEY

3,588 Responses breaking down as follows:

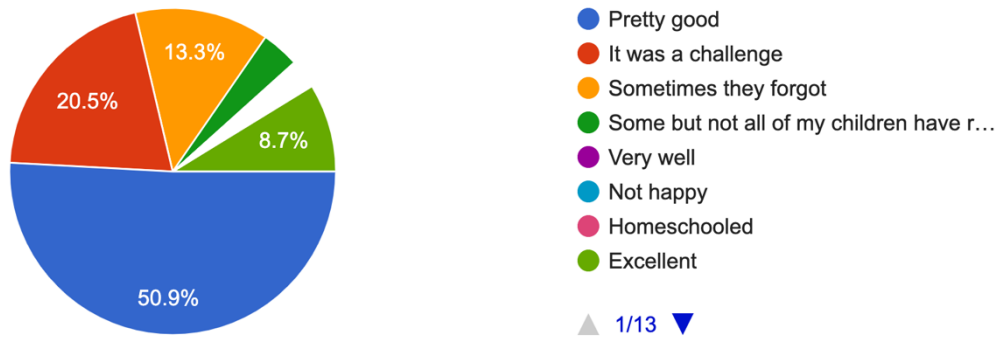
Please tell us where your child or children attend? Select all schools that apply.

3,583 responses



How have your children responded to mandatory mask wearing measures prior to July 1, 2021? *

3,569 responses



With the exception of you or your family member(s) catching COVID-19, which of the following considerations are most important to you as a parent/guardian? (Choose the box(es) that apply most to you)

My children’s mental health	77.7%
My children being able to see their friends and socialize	74.2%
My children missing out on learning from teachers	72.1%
How my children will cope if schools revert back to a combination of at-home distance learning	52.9%
My children being able to participate in extra-curricular activities (Sports, clubs, etc.)	46.7%
My children having the choice to mask or not	35.6%
My children participating in curricular activities (Music, choir, drama, etc.)	29.8%

OTHER CONCERNS STATED WAS AN EQUAL MIX OF THESE EXAMPLES:

“Parents should be allowed to choose if their children wear a mask. Teachers should also be allowed to choose whether or not they themselves should wear a mask.”

“Children are in great need of stability and consistency. Keeping changing the rules all the time is messing with their mental health. Creating anxiety and distress in many. Children need their group of friends, sports and hobbies, without limitations.”

“Children should not be mandated to mask. As children with needs, reading facial expressions is imperative to their ability to learn and communicate”

“Bring back the masks to protect our kids.”

“My biggest concern is keeping my unvaccinated child safe from getting covid”

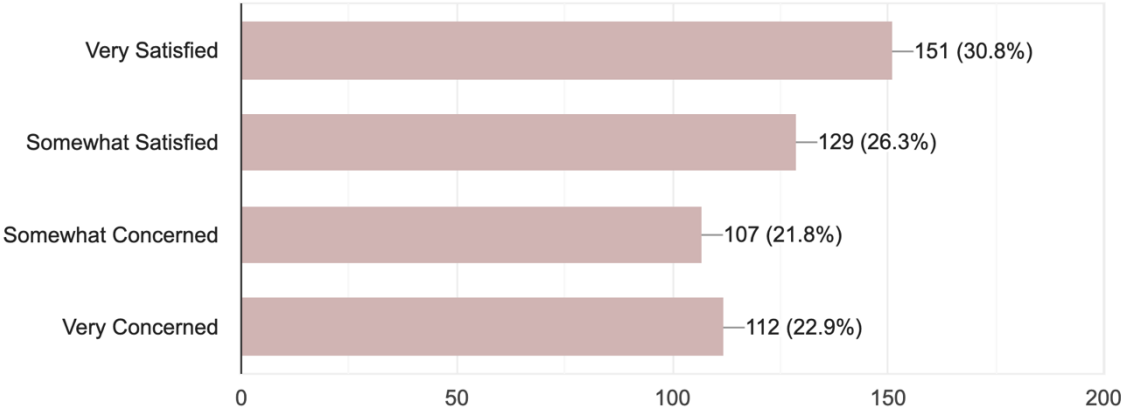
Comments since the September 7th Special Board Meeting have been polarizing and equal ranging from:

“Masks are not a violation of rights but a tool if utilized properly to help stop the sickness spread”

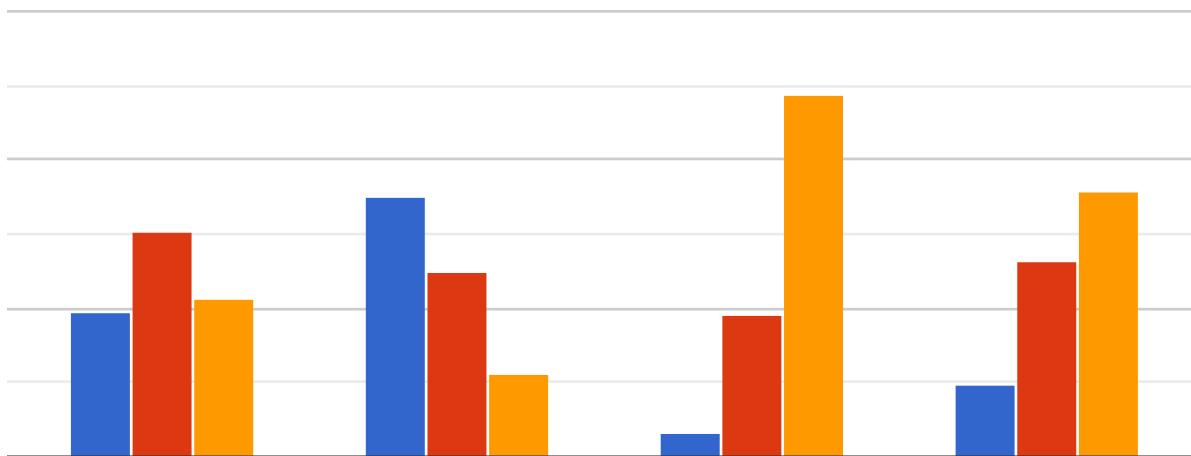
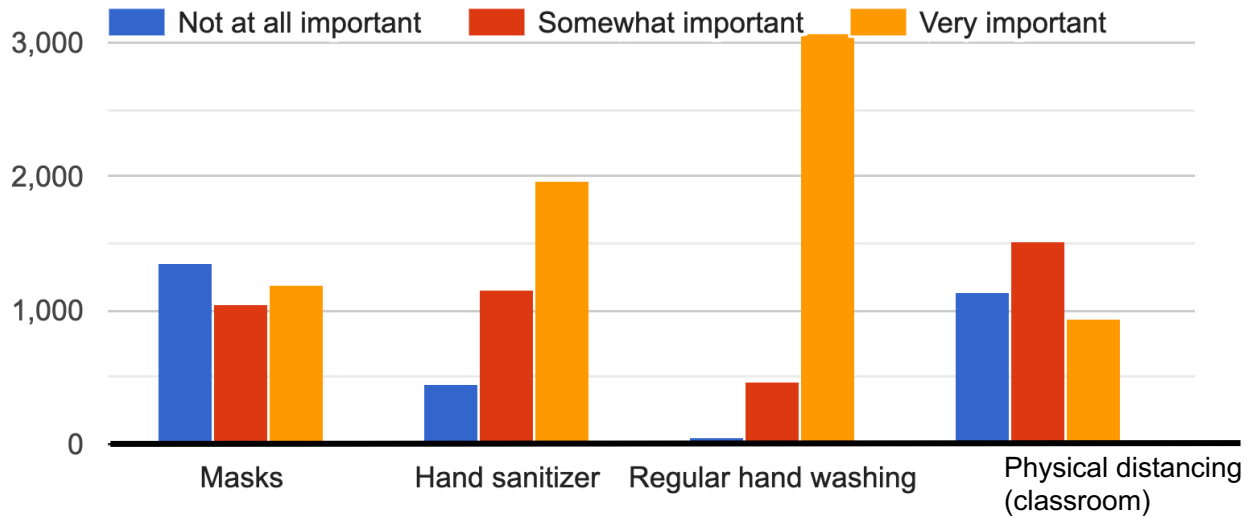
“I believe that it is extremely important for families to have freedom of choice on whether they want to mask or not. There are many children whose mental/physical health and learning capabilities are being negatively impacted by mandates.”

What is your level of comfort with Parkland School Division's current COVID-19 protocols and guidelines?

490 responses



The health and safety of our students and staff is our priority and we would like your input regarding the importance of the following measures in making you feel comfortable having your child or children attending in-person classes.

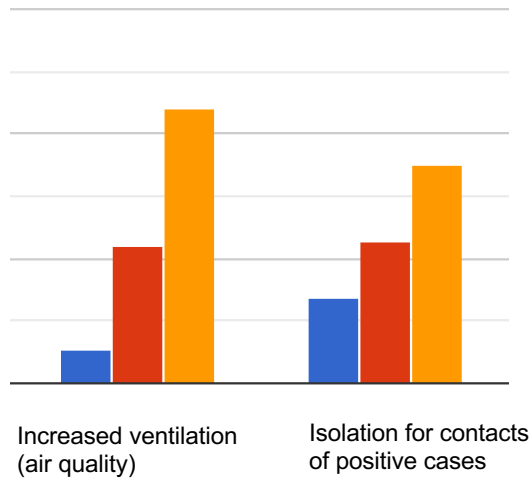


Physical distancing (in school but not classroom)

Physical distancing (outside the school)

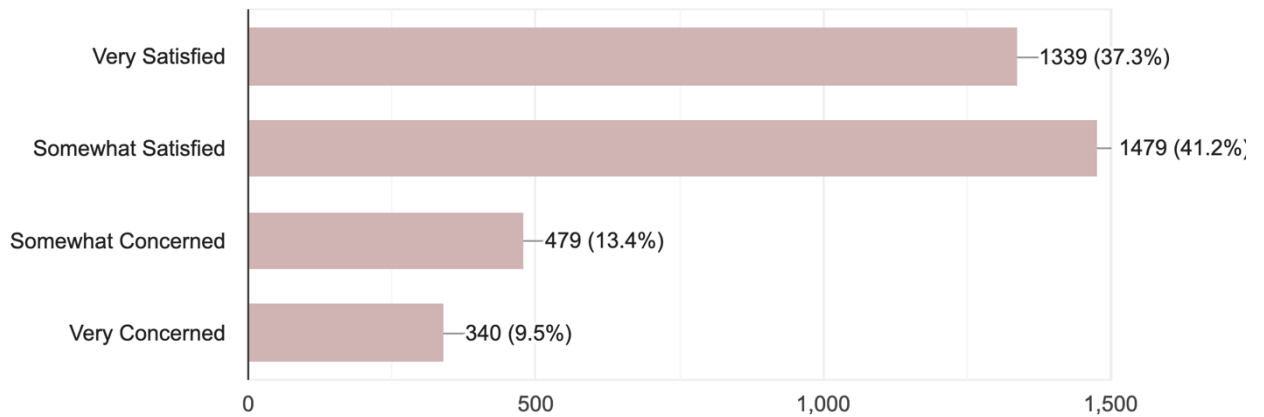
Enhanced cleaning protocols

Stricter protocols for responding to students and staff who are sick



What is your level of comfort with Parkland School Division's current COVID-19 protocols and guidelines?

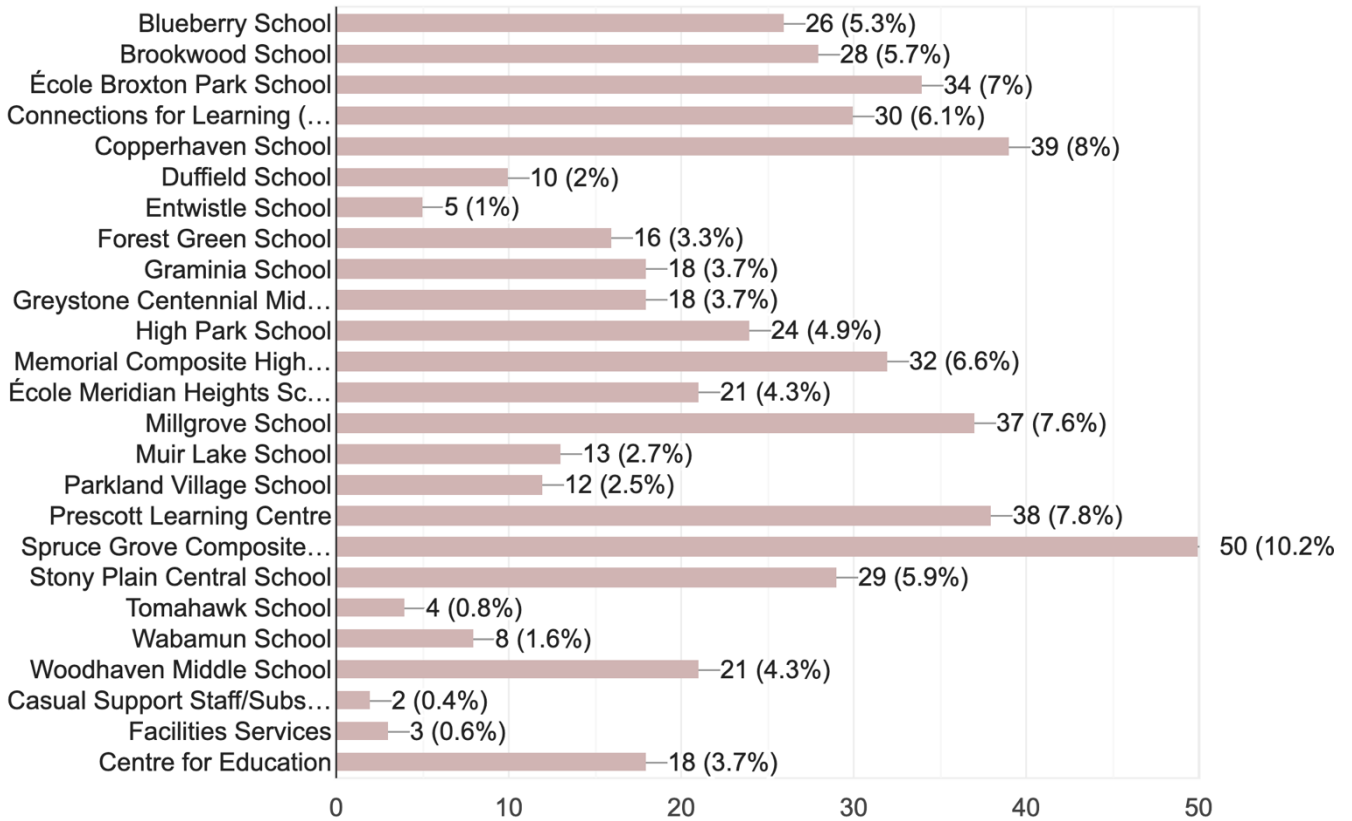
3,588 responses



STAFF SURVEY

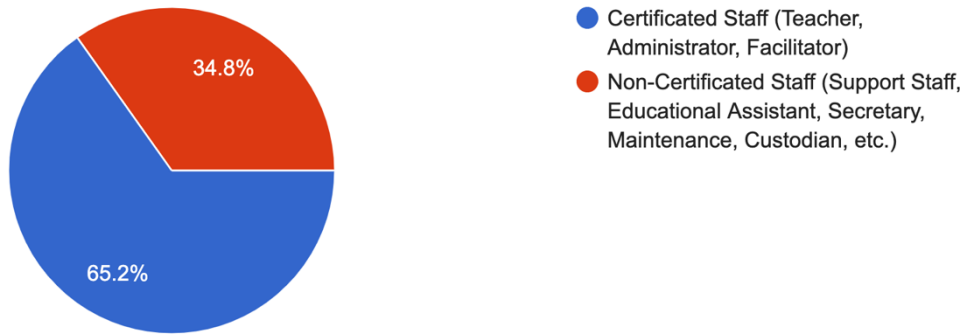
Please tell us which school or PSD site applies to you.

488 responses

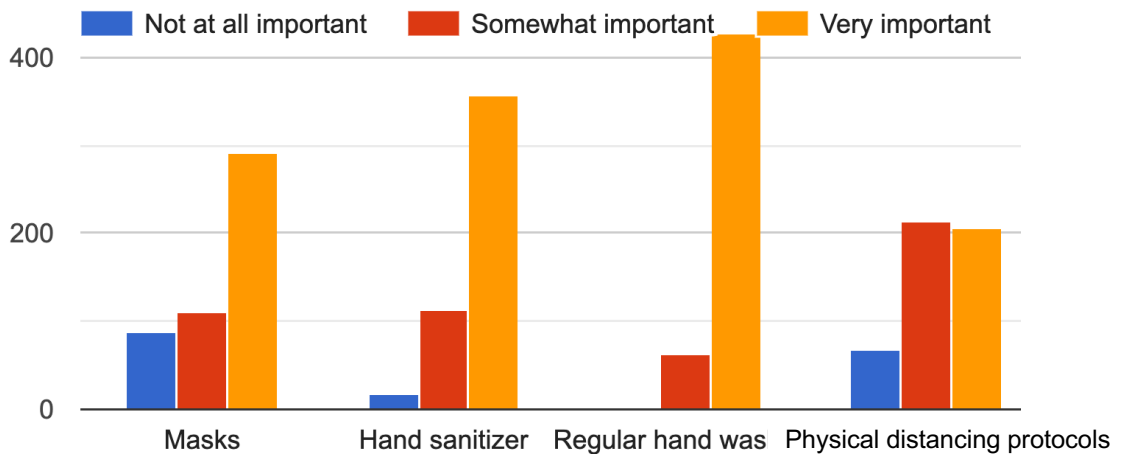


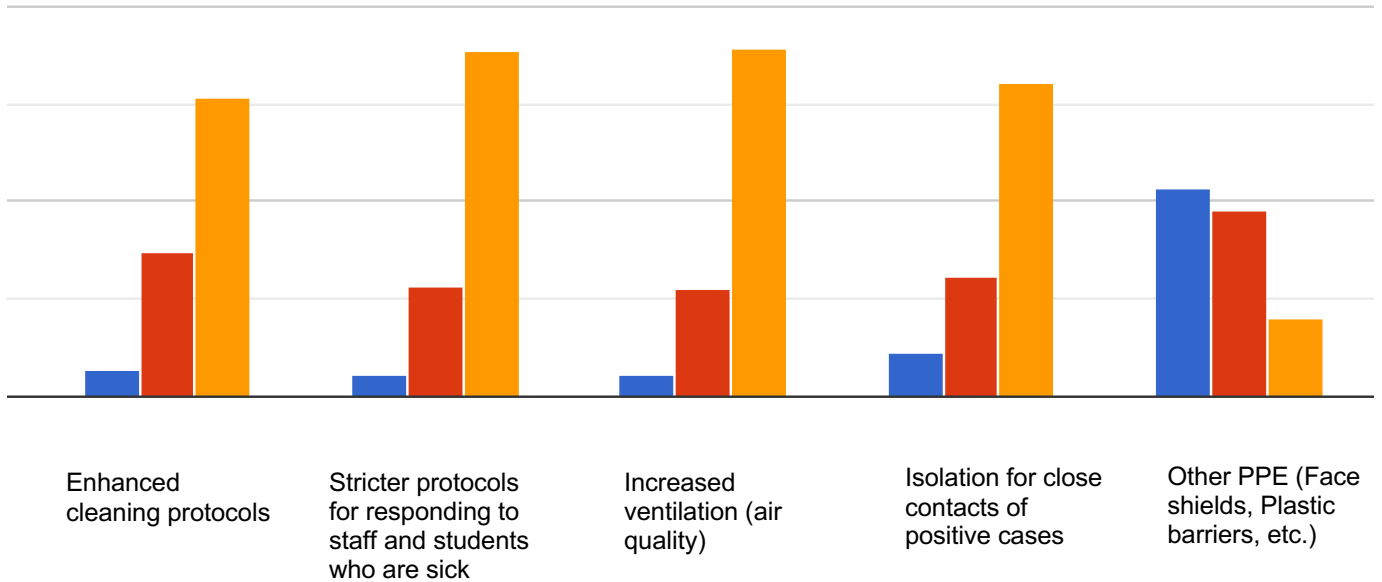
Choose the option that best applies to your role

488 responses



The health and safety of our students and staff is our priority and we would like your input regarding the importance of the following health measures.





What is your level of comfort with Parkland School Division's current COVID-19 protocols and guidelines?

490 responses

