

May 13, 2021

Dr. Krista Jangaard,  
President and CEO  
IWK Health Centre  
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Dear Dr. Jangaard:

**Re: IWK EIBI Masking**

I am writing today regarding the health and safety of NSGEU members working in the Early Intensive Behavioural Intervention Program (EIBI) at the IWK.

Members working in EIBI have expressed significant concerns that family members present during home visits with clients are not required to wear face masks. Where client's homes are our members' workplace, the NSGEU feels that having unmasked residents present in the home during home visits constitutes an unsafe workplace and places members at an unacceptable risk.

As the employer, you should be following the directions of Public Health. For the past year all Nova Scotians have been instructed that the mask they wear is to protect others, not for their own personal protection. NSGEU members are wearing masks during visits to ensure clients in the household are protected but when other household individuals are not being required to wear masks, it puts undue risk on our members. The NSGEU believes that where possible every effort should be made to allow members to conduct home visits virtually. When a virtual visit is not possible, families should be mandated to wear masks in their home during visits in order to receive service, unless there are underlying medical reasons then alternate arrangements can be made.

The NSGEU has communicated with and will support members who decide to exercise their right to refuse if they feel they have reasonable grounds to do so.

I look forward to your response.

Yours truly,



Jason MacLean  
President

JML/lb