RNAO
Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario
L'Association des infirmières et infirmiers autorisés de l'Ontario

the VOICE for
registered nurses,
nurse practitioners
and nursing students
in Ontario

COVID-19 webinar

Ontario is opening up again: What is most important now?

Mar. 14, 2022, 2 - 4 p.m. ET

RNAO.CA

Today's Webinar

Welcome	Susan McNeill, Associate Director, RNAO
Pulse check: • What is on your mind as the province opens up and public health measures are lifted? • What is going well? • What concerns do you have for your workplace, your families and communities?	All
RNAO Initiatives • In Focus • RNAO's Provincial election platform	Dr. Doris Grinspun, RNAO CEO
Open Disucssion and Q & A	All
Calls to action	Dr. Doris Grinspun, RNAO CEO

Today we recognize the lives lost due to COVID-19.
#NationalDayOfObservance
RNAO

RNAO Media release

RNAO Home > Media releases > Ontario's decision to drop mask mandate puts politics ahead of science, ris...

Ontario's decision to drop mask mandate puts politics ahead of science, risking gains made

Toronto, March 9, 2022

The Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario (RNAO) says the government's decision to drop the province's mandatory mask mandate in most indoors settings is ill-conceived and puts politics ahead of science. And, so is dropping vaccine mandates in long-term care homes.

"It's premature and runs the risk of undoing the gains made to contain the spreed of COVID-19," says RNAO CEO Dr. Doris Grinspun, adding "in addition to vaccination, the mask mandates are the most important defenses against the virus. Ontarians have grown accustomed to wearing masks, considering it essential to keep them and their loved ones safe."

Less than a week ago, the province's chief medical officer of health Dr. Kieran Moore admitted there may still be more than 20,000 new COVID-19 cases per day during his weekly press conference. At that time, he emphesized that masks "are protective" and that they "decrease your personal risk." Grinspun says the province's decision flies in the face of evidence, and that there isn't enough data to support an end to masking.

While the province's vaccination campaign has been largely successful, many in Ontario are still not fully vaccinated, including protection from a third dose. Moreover, "children under the age of five don't qualify to be vaccinated, and the vaccination rate for those aged 5-11 remains stubbornly low with only 30 per cent having had the two doses recommended for their protection," Grinspun says, adding that "dropping the requirement to wear masks in schools is particularly alarming given the ongoing lack of proper ventilation systems in schools."

Further, Grinspun says "leaving the decision to wear a mask up to parents and children is very problematic in a school setting. Children heavily influenced by their peers may not have the tools to demonstrate the 'kindness and compassion' the government seems to be relying on from Ontarians at this time. And, telling people it is a matter of 'choice' leaves children who continue wearing a mask at school open to taunts and harassment from other children."

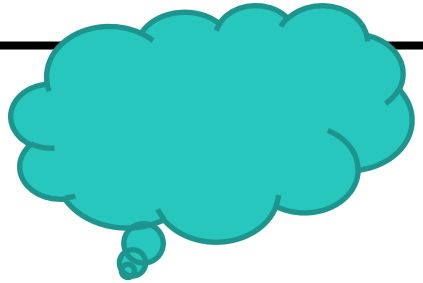
RNAO @RNAO · 17h

#LISTEN: Today at 5:35 p.m. ET, our President @MorganHoffarth will be on @AM900CHML to discuss the Ontario government's $5000 job retention incentive for nurses. #onpoli #NursingCrisis @ScottTalking

Listen live: globalnews.ca/radio/900chml/

Ontario: Dropping mask mandates; dropping vaccine mandates in long-term care homes; $5,000 incentive for nurses

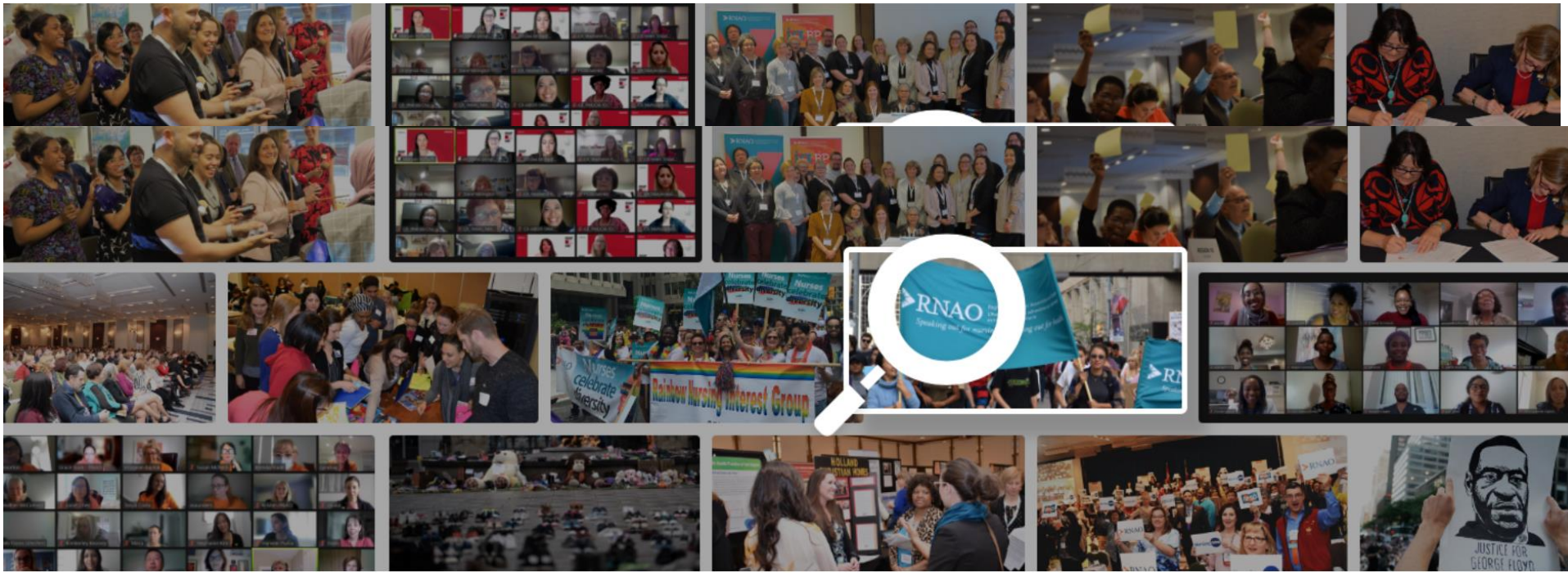
Pulse check



- What is on your mind as the province opens up and public health measures are lifted?
- What is going well?
- What concerns do you have for your workplace, your families and communities?

IN FOCUS

In Focus | RNAO.ca



[RNAO's provincial election platform 2022 | RNAO.ca]

Open discussion and Q & A

Taking Action

RNAO

CMAT

Mission to help Ukraine

Calling registered nurses and nurse practitioners