# JCSH News and Resource Bundle for September 3 2021

Hello everyone

Here is the News and Resource bundle for this week.

Cheers

Susan

News Articles:
1. 3019. Back-to-school FAQs and Q&A: Delta variant, preventing infection, testing and international examples

“This fall, we once again start a school year during a pandemic.” The two stories found in the links below are accessible in full – they provide a great deal of information: How to make [the best choices](https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamanetworkopen/fullarticle/2777982) for students by parents, policy makers, or school administrators; How global data sources [assist in risk](https://www.nature.com/articles/s41467-020-19478-2) calculations; How to monitor changes to [balance](https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/publications-data/children-and-school-settings-covid-19-transmission) decision-making. The wisest approach appears to be a [layered](https://preventepidemics.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/160_PE_COVID-in-Schools_Fact-Sheet_0721_Rev-A_v4.pdf) one, say epidemiologists and researchers; and focus in schools has shifted from cleaning and disinfecting surfaces, to air quality and ventilation. [Vaccination](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736%2820%2932657-X/fulltext) provides the greatest protection against infectious diseases. And, “for children, the [risks associated with school closures](https://dx.doi.org/10.1097/MD.0000000000026709) have surpassed the health risks associated with COVID-19.” What is clear is that the pandemic is not over, and the federal government, provinces and territories, and the rest of the world are establishing safety guidelines to help keep students and all who care for them safe.
[Back-to-school FAQs on children’s health & COVID-19: Delta variant, preventing infection, testing and international examples (theconversation.com)](https://theconversation.com/back-to-school-faqs-on-childrens-health-and-covid-19-delta-variant-preventing-infection-testing-and-international-examples-164684?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20August%2031%202021&utm_content=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20August%2031%202021+CID_29e11454265b10bbb1a7673a0d7bf682&utm_source=campaign_monitor_ca&utm_term=mitigate%20the%20spread%20of%20COVID-19%20in%20schools%20how%20testing%20and%20other%20measures%20can%20help%20and%20whats%20been%20implemented%20in%20other%20countries)

[COVID-19 back to school Q&A: Is it safe for unvaccinated children to go to school in person? Is the harm of school closures greater than the risk of the virus? (theconversation.com)](https://theconversation.com/covid-19-back-to-school-qanda-is-it-safe-for-unvaccinated-children-to-go-to-school-in-person-is-the-harm-of-school-closures-greater-than-the-risk-of-the-virus-166870?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20September%201%202021&utm_content=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20September%201%202021+CID_13372a3c0afb1a546476bdb995081f63&utm_source=campaign_monitor_ca&utm_term=COVID-19%20back%20to%20school%20QA%20Is%20it%20safe%20for%20unvaccinated%20children%20to%20go%20to%20school%20in%20person%20Is%20the%20harm%20of%20school%20closures%20greater%20than%20the%20risk%20of%20the%20virus)

2. 3014. Yukon First Nations’ first-ever school board sets high hopes for a new kind of learning this year

In response to lower high school completion rates and other student outcomes in First Nations’ students, a brand new First Nations’ School Board works to build trust in parents, teachers, and students. “The auditor-general reports clearly outline systemic failures for Indigenous students,” says Chiefs Committee chair Dana Tizya-Tramm, Chief of the Vuntut Gwitchin. “And nothing ever changed – not until the Yukon First Nation Education Directorate.” Education will be reimagined, says Mr. Tizya-Tramm. “We will not just be educating students. We will be graduating knowledge holders, because Indigenous ways of education taught individuals how to be a family member and a member of society, not just the square root of 106.”

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/canada/article-yukon-first-nations-first-ever-school-board-sets-high-hopes-for-a-new/>

3. Manitoba youth concerned about mental health: Survey

More than 300 young people, consulted by Manitoba’s children’s advocate, have said that better mental health and addition services as well as anti-poverty programs are needed. In the report, [The Right To Be Heard](https://manitobaadvocate.ca/the-right-to-be-heard-a-special-report-on-the-manitoba-advocate-for-children-and-youths-youth-listening-tour-2021/), released mid-August, "Youth talked about the interconnectedness of racism, mental health, substance use, violence and poverty… in rural and remote communities in our province, we heard that access to transportation is also a barrier to accessing adequate health-care services," said acting children’s advocate, Ainsley Krone. "Youth were clear with us that they want to see less talk and more action from people in power, including from our office. They want their voices and opinions listened to and taken into consideration when decisions are being made," she said.

[Manitoba youth concerned about mental health: survey - Winnipeg Free Press](https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/local/manitoba-youth-concerned-about-mental-health-survey-575132312.html?_cldee=c2pob3JuYnlAZWR1LnBlLmNh&recipientid=contact-970dede4f1d1e6118105480fcfeaa931-caef04338194490292b28e9f732aab39&esid=735b6271-d001-ec11-94f0-0022486d6841)

4. 3012.(August 23) Canada’s cannabis legalization has not resulted in more stoned teens: Study

A new [study](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8315217/) published in the *Journal of the Canadian Academy of Child Psychiatry* has found that the “[fears](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5449235/) that legalization of recreational weed in Canada would put pot in the hands of children and ravage the country’s youth” have not been realized. Youth cannabis consumption has not increased, report the study’s authors, Rebecca Haines-Saah and Benedikt Fischer, and youth do not appear to be suffering undue harms from cannabis use as a result of legalization. However, the authors state that improvements can be made: “Comparable ‘race-based’ data are not available in Canada, but are urgently required given the documented presence of entrenched racial bias, targeting and surveillance of Black and Indigenous youth in Canadian policing and criminal justice systems,” notes lead author Dr. Haines-Saah. (See full article, in the Resources section)

[Canada’s cannabis legalization has not resulted in more stoned teens: study | Winnipeg Sun](https://winnipegsun.com/cannabis-news/canadas-cannabis-legalization-has-not-resulted-in-more-stoned-teens-study?_cldee=c2pob3JuYnlAZWR1LnBlLmNh&recipientid=contact-970dede4f1d1e6118105480fcfeaa931-caef04338194490292b28e9f732aab39&esid=735b6271-d001-ec11-94f0-0022486d6841)

Resources:

Resource 1: 3017. (Aug 30) (Resource) Youth Cannabis use and Legalization in Canada – Reconsidering the Fears, Myths and Facts Three Years In

This article is available in full through Open Access.Written by Rebecca Haines-Saah and Benedikt Fischer, it contains this and other conclusions after reviewing the evidence since legalization in Canada: “more precision about the types of use that may constitute elevated risk for neuro-cognitive harms will allow for improvements in both clinical interventions and public health messaging, beyond the abstinence focused approaches that predominated when cannabis was illegal.”

[Youth Cannabis use and Legalization in Canada – Reconsidering the Fears, Myths and Facts Three Years In (nih.gov)](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8315217/)

Resource 2: 3018. (Resource) Medicinal Cannabis in Children and Adolescents with Autism Spectrum Disorder: A Scoping Review

This article is available as an Open Access View. From the Abstract:

“Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) is a neurodevelopmental condition estimated to affect 1 in 66 children in Canada and 1 in 270 individuals worldwide. As effective therapies for the management of ASD core and associated symptoms are limited, parents are increasingly turning to clinicians for advice regarding the use of medicinal cannabis to manage behavioural disturbances.

Early reports regarding medicinal cannabis in paediatric ASD symptom management are presented as positive; the evidence, however, is limited to very few retrospective cohort and observational studies. Evidence of safety and efficacy from prospective clinical trials is needed.”

[Medicinal cannabis in children and adolescents with autism spectrum disorder: A scoping review - Fletcher - - Child: Care, Health and Development - Wiley Online Library](https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1111/cch.12909)