

13 August 2021



Dear Suzuki Families,

We all want nothing more than to return to normal after this long, trying pandemic. However, we are reluctant to return to our 'normal' teaching protocol on account of the following:

1. Several countries around the world have entered their 4<sup>th</sup> wave, despite vaccinations.
2. Just a few weeks out of lockdown and Ontario's COVID case numbers are already climbing. A 4<sup>th</sup> wave may be inevitable in Ontario. Indeed, some experts believe that we are already in a fourth wave.
3. Not everyone is vaccinated and there is no vaccine available at this time for children under 12. 60-70% of our students are 12 years of age and under.
4. Paul Stevens, the President of the BSA, sought the opinion of his doctor. She explained that even if teachers have been fully vaccinated, they are still able to contract the infection and then transmit it to their young students, who may then take it home to their families and friends.
5. Schools will be returning to in-person learning in September. Those schools will be keeping students in cohorts to minimize risk for spread of COVID. While this may sound promising, we realize that our teachers have students from many different schools. Contact amongst students attending their lessons could potentially be a contributing factor driving a 4<sup>th</sup> wave.

As your Burlington Suzuki Board, we feel a great sense of responsibility to ensure our students receive the highest quality of music education while considering the safety of our students, their families, and our teachers.

In conclusion, we decided to err on the side of caution. In the off chance there is a fourth wave and the infection numbers soar, we are holding off asking for the BSA fees at this time and will continue with on-line lessons come September.

We are confident by mid-October, just one month after teaching has resumed, we will have a much better idea as to where we stand and will review the situation then.

In the meantime, we intend to begin consideration of the conditions under which lessons will begin in person once we determine it is safe to do so. This will include discussions with our teachers and the church.

Your teacher will be in touch late August or early September to remind you of the start date and answer questions you may have about start-up.

We will be in touch mid-October.

Once again, we appreciate and thank you for your patience and understanding.

Sincerely,

The BSA Board