



REPORT TO

REGULAR BOARD

RETURN TO SCHOOL UPDATE

*"I can do all things through him who strengthens me."
Philippians 4:13*

Created, Draft	First Tabling	Review
April 14, 2021	April 22, 2021	Click here to enter a date.
<p>Barbara Loporati, Senior Coordinator, Planning Services Corrado Maltese, Coordinator, Occupational Health and Safety John Wujek, Superintendent, Area 5 and Parent Engagement Shawna Campbell, Superintendent, Area 3 and Early Years Emma Moynihan, Supervisor, Communications and Public Relations Shazia Vlahos, Chief of Communications and Government Relations Michael Loberto, Superintendent, Planning and Development Services Deborah Friesen, Superintendent, Capital Development, Asset Management and Renewal Adrian Della Mora, Executive Superintendent of Human Resources Omar Malik, Acting Chief Information Officer</p>		
<h3>INFORMATION REPORT</h3>		

Vision:

At Toronto Catholic we transform the world through witness, faith, innovation and action.

Mission:

The Toronto Catholic District School Board is an inclusive learning community uniting home, parish and school and rooted in the love of Christ.

We educate students to grow in grace and knowledge to lead lives of faith, hope and charity.



Brendan Browne, PhD
Director of Education

D. Koenig
Associate Director
of Academic Affairs

S. Camacho
Acting Associate Director of
Facilities, Business and
Community Development

A. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The last update to the Reopening Action Plan was submitted to the April 8, 2021 Student Achievement Committee meeting for information and consideration. This report provides additional information concerning items occurring since that time. The Reopening Action Plan is updated as necessary and is available on the TCDSB website. Key updates and strategies are provided for consideration.

This week's report includes updates regarding the TPH and Ministry announcements regarding school closures, saliva testing and supports for families of special needs students, vaccination rollout and responses to motions regarding ventilation and air quality received at previous Board meetings.

TCDSB schools will continue to follow safety measures and guidance from Toronto Public Health as schools return to in person learning.

The cumulative staff time required to prepare this report was 20 hours

B. PURPOSE

To provide the Board with updates as they pertain to the TCDSB Reopening Action Plan.

C. BACKGROUND

The TCDSB Reopening Action Plan, Staff Manual and Transition to Distance Learning Plan continue to reflect the process for operating schools safely. Items from Board motions and Ministry updates that are confirmed have been included as required. Schools will continue to follow established protocols for virtual and in person learning.

D. EVIDENCE/RESEARCH/ANALYSIS

Toronto Public Health and Ministry Announcements

1. ***Toronto Public Health issued a Section 22 order on April 6, 2021 to close all publicly funded schools in Toronto effective Wednesday, April 7, 2021.*** Students were expected to return to in-person learning on Monday, April 19, 2021
2. Principals and families were issued communications regarding details of the school closures, and the immediate shift to remote learning. ***Students and staff were reminded to take personal belongings home, and informed that school principals and custodians would be at schools on Wednesday, April 7, 2021 for students/families to access items as needed.***
3. ***TCDSB families were issued an April Break Health and Safety Reminder on April 9, 2021.*** Students and families were reminded of the public health measures to follow to help prevent and limit the spread of COVID-19, provided with a listing of Ontario's asymptomatic targeted testing sites, and a number of online resources for elementary and secondary students to access throughout April Break.
4. ***The Premier made an announcement April 12, 2021 related to a return to remote learning following the April break, for an unknown amount of time.*** Families were issued communications regarding details of the continued school closures, information regarding in-person learning available for students with special needs, and details about mental health and well-being supports available during this time.

Vaccinations

5. ***Every employee was notified April 9, 2021 that beginning the week of April 12th, eligible education staff would be able to register for vaccination appointments. Eligible staff totaled approximately 1,300 active staff supporting students with complex needs, 7,500 active staff working in hot spot schools.*** Eligible staff received a confirmation message from TCDSB directly advising them of their eligibility, encouraging vaccination and its safety and how to register for a vaccine.
6. ***On April, 12, 2021 Toronto Public Health confirmed educational workers who live in COVID-19 "hotspots" in Toronto or Peel were also eligible for a prioritized vaccine. This totaled approximately 2,700 active staff in eligible hot spots based on their home postal code.*** Confirmation messages were issued to staff directly based on their home postal codes on file.

Hospital for Sick Children

7. ***The Director, Associate Director and Health and Safety staff met with Hospital for Sick Children staff regarding the saliva testing kit program for schools.*** The Hospital will prioritize the supply of the testing kits to all special needs programs that are opening the week of April 19, 2021 to support in person learning for special needs students. Kits will be available for distribution to staff and students as they return to school on Wednesday, April 21st. Kits can be returned to schools and there is a daily pickup of the kits so that test results can be returned within a 24-48 hour timeline.
8. ***Hospital for Sick Children staff will also share the location of testing centres that are specializing in supporting testing of families with special needs children.*** Staff will distribute this information to principals so that the information can be shared with families.

Ventilation, Windows and Indoor Air Quality

9. ***At the August 14, 2020 Special Board meeting Trustees approved the following motions regarding ventilation, windows and air quality:***
 - “That a professional engineer be contracted to assess, develop a plan to address window options and retrofits as required.”*

 - “That school air quality data be obtained in older school facilities that may have identified air quality issues and staff make recommendations for additional measures and upgrades to be taken to improve the current conditions. If the remaining 3 weeks is not a realistic timeline to address air quality then approval be requested to the Ministry to delay the start of school in impacted schools or some classrooms to ensure adequate safety conditions.”*
10. ***In response to the above and noted in the October 1, 2020 Return to School Update report, a contract was awarded to Pinchin Ltd. Building Science consultants undertake an investigation of apparent ventilation rates in three sample schools.*** The investigation estimated ventilation rates by measuring carbon dioxide (CO₂) concentrations in sample classrooms and administration areas in three schools representing three window type/ventilation scenarios. Sensors were installed on classroom doors and windows to determine whether the length of time they were open affected ventilation rates. The scope of study also included evaluation of potential modifications to windows to increase opening area.

11. ***On February 18, 2021, included in the Return to School Update report and through presentation, consultant Pinchin Ltd. provided a presentation to respond to motions regarding ventilation, windows and air quality from earlier Board meetings.***
12. ***Following the Pinchin presentation February 18, 2021, the Board approved eighteen (18) resolutions and requested a report back on the implementation of these resolutions at the April Board meeting.*** The resolutions and action/status updates are shown in Appendix ‘A’.

CVRIS Funding

13. ***The Ministry has confirmed approval of \$25.76M in Federal COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure Stream (CVRIS) for TCDSB.*** The approved projects by Ward and project category are listed in *Appendix ‘C’*. Over 400 projects were approved, in the following categories:
 - Heating and ventilation system replacements
 - Window replacements
 - Nutrition Room upgrades (handwashing)
 - Water bottle filling stations
 - Cooling centres
 - New mechanical ventilation systems (two pilot schools)
 - Ventilation/air conditioning upgrades in portable classrooms
 - Upgrading handwashing facilities
 - Playground Reserve projects
 - Other playground projects
 - Child Care playground expansion/division
 - Child Care separate washrooms/separate entrance
 - Wi-Fi cabling infrastructure and access points
14. ***Selection of projects already planned under other funding sources may free up funds in these areas for other projects.*** These original funding allocations will need to remain as contingency allowances until the CVRIS projects are completed, as some projects may have costs exceeding the CVRIS funding amount. Funds previously allocated from other sources are as follows:
 - School Renewal: \$9.2M
 - Playground Reserve: \$0.7M
 - ICT Infrastructure Reserve: \$2.0M

Technology

15. *Orders continue to flow to students and supply levels are good.* An additional 3,200 Chromebooks will be ordered shortly.

E. IMPLEMENTATION, STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN

1. *Communications continue to be shared with all staff and families centrally related to cases in school settings and reminders from TPH about remaining vigilant in practicing health and safety measures when in person learning is active.*

F. CONCLUDING STATEMENT

This report is for the consideration of the Board.