



REPORT TO

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT AND WELL BEING, CATHOLIC EDUCATION AND HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE

RETURN TO SCHOOL UPDATE

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

Created, Draft	First Tabling	Review
April 1, 2021	April 8, 2021	Click here to enter a date.

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INFORMATION REPORT

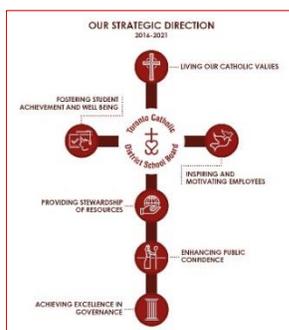
Vision:

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.



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A. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The last update to the Reopening Action Plan was submitted to the March 25, 2021 Regular Board 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 Ministry announcement from April 1st, Asymptomatic and Symptomatic testing initiatives and plexiglass barrier distribution.

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

Ministry Announcement

1. *The Premier made an announcement April 1, 2021 related to in person learning following the Easter break/April break.* The province will enter a month long shutdown period commencing on Saturday April 3, 2021 *however*

- schools will remain open.* The April break will proceed as planned ***and it is expected that students will return to in person learning following the break.***
2. Principals and families were issued communications regarding details of the announcement prior to Easter break. ***Students and staff were reminded to take personal belongings home as well as what they may need in the event of a province-wide pivot to remote learning.*** The Ministry indicated that they would be sending a memo outlining health and safety protocols to parents and staff to ensure a safe return to school after the Easter and April breaks. Self screening is an important reminder to all staff and parents to ensure that all schools remain a safe and healthy environment for both employees and students. The province intends to also embark on a significant advertising campaign to reinforce all safety measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19.
 3. ***The Ministry will be providing direction in an operational guidance memo for the start up of school in September.*** They hope to release this information along with the Grants for Student Needs information sometime in April. Staff continue to work on different models in order to prepare for the 2021-2022 school year.

Asymptomatic Testing

4. ***As part of the Ministry Asymptomatic initiative, Life Labs has confirmed asymptomatic testing at the following Toronto HUB locations next week with nearby TCDSB schools invited to the testing opportunity:***
 - *Brebeuf College – Thursday, April 8*
 - *Richview Collegiate – Friday, April 9*

Symptomatic Testing

5. ***The Hospital for Sick Children has been piloting take-home saliva kits for symptomatic testing in a small number of schools. The pilot has shown great success & will be phased in around April 19, 2021 or when in person learning returns.***
6. ***Schools were randomly selected by Sick Kids to ensure equity. Additional schools will be brought on in subsequent phases until the end of the school year.***
7. ***TCDSB Schools identified to participate in the pilot include:***
 - *St James Catholic School*
 - *St Mark Catholic School*
 - *Monsignor Percy Johnson Catholic Secondary School*

- *St Bartholomew Catholic School*
- *Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati*
- *St Martin de Porres Catholic School*
- *St Joan of Arc*
- *St John Henry Newman High School*
- *St John Paul II Catholic Secondary School*
- *Francis Libermann Catholic Secondary School*

Plexiglass

1. ***Distribution of student desk barriers is ongoing.*** Deliveries of barriers are continuing this week with installation in classrooms of greater than 15 students to be completed during April Break.
2. ***A survey regarding the use of plexiglass in classrooms and offices was conducted from March 10 – 25, 2021 and a total of 4,645 responses were received from 102 TCDSB schools.*** 17% of staff responded and 83% of parents/guardians. Overall, the majority of survey respondents (79%) support the continued use of student desk barriers as a health and safety measure to reduce the spread of COVID-19. Feedback received included the quality and cleanliness of desk barriers in classrooms and offices. See *Appendix 'A'* for detailed survey results.

Technology

3. ***Orders continue to flow, and supplies are being replenished.*** An additional 2,000 Chromebooks have arrived, and a subsequent order will be placed.

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.