



August 20, 2021

Dear TCDSB Families,

As we prepare to return to school next month, the Toronto Catholic District School Board (TCDSB) continues to work with healthcare partners and government officials to ensure the health and safety of all TCDSB staff and students. We would like to provide the following important information related to the health and safety of our students and staff this school year.

### **Immunization Disclosure Policy**

As you may know, the Ontario government has announced the introduction of a vaccination disclosure policy for all publicly funded school board employees, with rapid antigen testing requirements for staff who are not immunized against COVID-19. As directed by the Ministry of Education, we will be developing an Immunization Disclosure Policy for TCDSB staff. More details will be shared when available.

### **Youth Vaccination Eligibility**

While there has been significant progress with youth aged 12-17 receiving their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, health experts continue to encourage higher vaccination rates to help stop the spread of COVID-19 and to allow for a safer return to normal activities.

To ensure more children and youth can benefit from the protection offered by the vaccine, the province has extended eligibility of the Pfizer vaccine to children born in 2009 or earlier. All children turning 12 years old before the end of 2021 are now eligible for their first dose of COVID-19 vaccine. For more details visit: COVID-19 vaccines for youth.

### **Voluntary Vaccination Clinics**

We will continue to work with Toronto Public Health (TPH) and other healthcare partners to run voluntary vaccination clinics in or nearby schools in the coming weeks to make vaccines even more convenient and accessible for eligible students, their families, educators and school staff returning to school this fall.

Details and information about these clinics will be shared locally.

### **Updated Mask Protocol**

At this time, TPH continues to advise that all staff and students are required to wear non-medical or cloth masks/face coverings indoors on school property, and outdoors if physical distancing cannot be maintained. If a student cannot wear a face mask for medical reasons, a Prevalent Medical Conditions form must be completed with medical practitioner documentation.

Together, we have learned so much from this past year and we know together we will provide safe and healthy learning environments to support student achievement and well-being for all TCDSB students.

Thank you for your continued partnership.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. Browne".

Dr. Brendan Browne  
Director of Education