



REPORT TO

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

RETURN TO SCHOOL 2021-22

*"The Lord gives sight to the blind, the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down, the Lord loves the righteous."
Psalm 146:8*

Created, Draft	First Tabling	Review
August 31, 2021	September 2, 2021	Click here to enter a date.

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INFORMATION REPORT

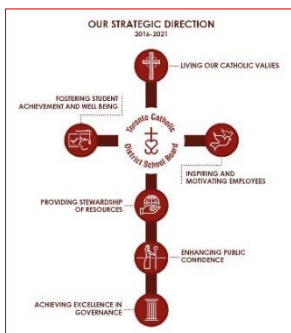
Vision:

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 TCDSB Reopening Action Plan was presented and posted as of the August 19, 2021 board meeting.

Several key events and communications have been received that have further informed the plan and staff guidelines.

August 17, 2021	Vaccination Clinics in Schools
August 17, 2021	Vaccination Policies mandated
August 17, 2021	Toronto Public Health Guidance released
August 27, 2021	School Ventilation Dashboard posted
August 27, 2021	Screening Tool Update

This report provides information concerning the above mentioned releases and highlights updates in key areas pertinent to the Reopening Action Plan.

The cumulative staff time required to prepare this report was 25 hours

B. PURPOSE

To provide the Board with information regarding the TCDSB Reopening Action Plan.

C. BACKGROUND

1. *Several communications and updates have been received since the release, August 19, 2021, of the TCDBS Reopening Action Plan.* Updates are relayed to school administrative staff as they become available. This will continue as the start of school approaches and throughout the school year.

D. EVIDENCE/RESEARCH/ANALYSIS

Students Devices and Internet for Remote Learning Needs

2. *There are approximately 19,200 devices (2,000 equipped with internet) currently with students for remote learning from the 2020-21 school year.* There are approximately 6,000 devices available for new orders in the 2021-

22 year. Devices remain with students until the pandemic conditions and remote learning needs are re-assessed this fall.

Vaccination Clinics in Schools

- 3. The Ontario government is working with public health units and publicly funded school boards to plan and host vaccination clinics in or nearby schools to continue to fight COVID-19.*** Clinics are expected to run before school starts and during the first few weeks of school. The program will provide accessible and convenient access to vaccines for eligible students and their families, as well as educators and school staff who are returning to school this fall.

Vaccination Policy

- 4. To support the return to school plan, the Ministry of Education has introduced a vaccination disclosure policy for all publicly-funded school board employees, and staff in private schools as well as for all staff in licensed child care settings for the 2021-22 school year.*** A tool for making this disclosure is set to be launched by September 7, 2021 at the latest, additional detail and instruction will be communicated to staff. TCDSB is preparing policy documentation for the next meeting of the Governance and Policy Committee. Further information is forthcoming in the next few days for staff.
- 5. Rapid antigen testing*** will be part of requirements for staff who are not immunized against COVID-19. ***Test kits will be delivered directly to schools through the current delivery method for Personal Protective Equipment.***

Voluntary Vaccination Status Collection - Students

- 6. Toronto Public Health (TPH) has requested that Toronto school boards request the voluntary disclosure of the vaccine status of all students 12 years of age and over.*** They have done this in consultation and with the blessing of the Privacy Commissioner. Families will be receiving a communication on Friday with additional details and local schools will be collecting this voluntary information beginning on the first day of school. A notice of collection disclosure is also being provided to families, with instructions for Principals.

Professional Development

7. ***Professional Development for all school-based staff will be held on the September 2, 7 and 8, 2021 PD Days.*** To align with Ministry priorities TCDSB is providing professional learning to staff on the following topics:

- Health and safety training
- Faith and Mental Health and Well-being
- Anti-Racism and Anti-discrimination
- Anti-sex Trafficking
- Anti-bullying including cyber-bullying
- Instructional Equity and Math

Screening Tool Update

8. ***The Ministry advised of updates made to the [COVID-19 school and child care screening tool](#) and the [COVID-19 screening tool for employees and essential visitors in schools and child care settings](#).*** Updates to the screening tools reflect the latest advice from the Ministry of Health for schools, child care and other workplace settings and have been included in documentation released to school principals. ***TPH has provided an updated [screening tool](#) to align with the Ministry release.***

Key changes to the screening tools include:

- **Symptoms** – in alignment with the Ministry of Health’s [COVID-19 Reference Document for Symptoms](#), the screeners now include a shortened list of symptoms that are most commonly associated with COVID-19.
- **Consideration for immunization status** - in alignment with the Ministry of Health’s [COVID-19 Fully Immunized and Previously Positive Individuals: Case, Contact and Outbreak Management Interim Guidance](#), asymptomatic individuals who are fully immunized or who were previously positive within the past 90 days and have since been cleared, are not required to isolate if they are in contact with an individual who is symptomatic or who tests positive for COVID-19, unless otherwise directed by the public health unit.
- **Isolation period** – in alignment with the Ministry of Health’s [Management of Cases and Contacts of COVID-19 in Ontario](#) and [COVID-19 Guidance: School Case, Contact, and Outbreak Management](#), asymptomatic high-risk

close contacts of a case are now required to isolate for 10 days, unless they are fully immunized or previously tested positive, as above.

- **International travel** – unvaccinated children under the age of 12 are now exempt from federal quarantine if they travelled in the company of someone who qualified for an exemption from quarantine based on vaccination status. However, they may not attend school or child care for 14 days after their arrival.
- **Rapid testing** – the screening tool now includes a question about a positive screen on a rapid antigen or home-based self-testing kit.

Ventilation Dashboard

17. *The TCDSB is optimizing air quality in schools* and learning environments through improving ventilation and/or filtration. This is a key element in the multiple protective strategies to support healthy and safe learning environments for staff and students. Staff have created [a school ventilation dashboard](#), which is now available on the TCDSB website, including ventilation systems for each school as well as filtration measures.

E. IMPLEMENTATION, STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN

1. *Our school communities continue to be informed by the [TCDSB Return to School](#) web page and regular communications via School Messenger.* This page is updated with relevant information and provides FAQs for ease of reference.

F. CONCLUDING STATEMENT

This report is for the information of the Board.