



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
October 6, 2021	October 7, 2021	Click here to enter a date.

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**INFORMATION REPORT**

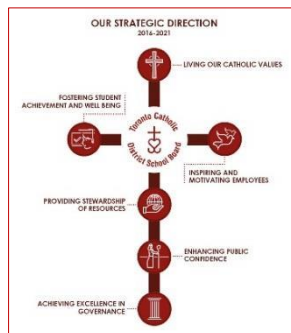
**Vision:**

*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. This report provides updates in key areas pertinent to the Reopening Action Plan.

*The cumulative staff time required to prepare this report was 5 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 throughout the school year.

## D. EVIDENCE/RESEARCH/ANALYSIS

### COVID-19 Case Counts

2. *COVID-19 Case Counts are reported and updated on the Board's dashboard on a daily basis; [Confirmed ACTIVE COVID-19 Cases in TCDB Schools.](#)*

### Screening Tool

3. *As the 2021-22 school year continues, the Ministry provided recent updates made to the [COVID-19 school and childcare screening tool.](#)*

Key changes are focused on providing clarity to users and individuals, and do not represent policy changes. Updates to the screening tools include:

- **Symptoms** - Clarifying that staff, students and children should stay home from school and childcare if they are unwell, even if they do not have symptoms that are most associated with COVID-19 and monitor before returning to school.
- **Testing** - Clarifying that rapid antigen tests are not for use on individuals with symptoms of COVID-19 or on high-risk close contacts.

- **Vaccination and Immunization Status** – Revisions were made to the structure of the vaccination status and COVID-19 case history question to clarify that the individual could be vaccinated or had previously tested positive within the last 90 days.
  - **Personal Health Information and Immunization Status** - Clarifying that the purpose of asking if an individual is fully vaccinated or was previously positive with COVID-19 in the past 90 days is for providing correct isolation requirements. A reminder has been added to note that no public health information is being collected when individuals complete the screening tool.
  - **International Travel** – the international travel question has been revised to provide better clarity about who can and cannot attend school after travelling. While unvaccinated children under the age of 12 are exempt from federal quarantine if they travelled in the company of someone who qualified for an exemption from quarantine based on vaccination status, they may not attend school or childcare for 14 days upon their return. Individuals with all other quarantine exemptions (e.g., travelling for cross-border custody arrangements; travelling for medical treatment) may continue to attend school or childcare.
4. *Copies of the new screener are available for download [here](#).* Like the 2020-21 school year, the downloadable screening tool will be made available in multiple languages.

#### **September Enrolment and Reorganization Update**

5. *Each September involves a re-organization of elementary staff across the system as our projections are reconciled with the actual number of students enrolled.* While disruptive, it is an important annual process that allows us to align our resources to meet the needs of students. *Funding is based on actual enrolment* and our staffing is tightly aligned with how many students are enrolled and where they are enrolled. The result is that some of our schools are “overstaffed” as there are less students than projected in March. When projections were approved in March, it was assumed that all students would return “in person” for the start of school in September. Re-alignment and reorganization is therefore necessary.
6. *Reorganizations are never easy, and this year’s process is compounded by the significant number of elementary students that have not actually shown up to school and thus remain in a pre-registered designation.* Preliminary enrolment information was shared with Trustees earlier this week. We are

looking at the big picture in terms of impact, contractual and Ministry compliance requirements, and ways to mitigate concerns. Mitigation strategies include:

- Having our school admin follow up directly with families that are still in the pre-registration phase to provide support and encouragement to have their child attend school.
- We have initiated a targeted social media campaign to encourage our Kindergarteners to start school.
- Analyzing the impact to some of our most marginalized communities to lessen the burden on schools that have been and continue to be the hardest hit by this pandemic.
- Considering schools who might be losing multiple staff members to see how we might be able to lessen the impact

7. *While we anticipate being able to absorb some costs and hopefully access some additional Ministry funding specific to the situation here in Toronto, some elementary schools have been impacted and experienced disruption.* We recognize and appreciate the heightened anxieties and sensitivities with this year's reorganization due to the pandemic. We thank our staff and parents for their partnership and understanding as we operationalize this intricate process.

## **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.
2. *The TCDSB partnership with Toronto Public Health is ongoing and has continued since the start of the pandemic.* Toronto Boards meet regularly with TPH to discuss direction and guidance to keep our schools safe.

## **F. CONCLUDING STATEMENT**

This report is for the information of the Board.