



Planning and Priorities Committee

Report No. 17

PPC:018A

Wednesday, September 14, 2021

4:30 pm

Electronic Meeting

Members Present Trustees Alexander Brown (Chair), Michelle Aarts, Rachel Chernos Lin, Stephanie Donaldson, Trixie Doyle, Harpreet Gill, Parthi Kandavel, Shelley Laskin, Dan MacLean, Christopher Mammoliti, Chris Moise, Patrick Nunziata, Zakir Patel, Robin Pilkey, Yalini Rajakulasingam, Anu Sriskandarajah, Chris Tonks, Indigenous Student Trustee Isaiah Shafqat, and Student Trustee Evan Woo.

Regrets James Li, Alexandra Lulka, David Smith, Jennifer Story and Manna Wong

All trustees participated by electronic means in accordance with [amendments to Section 7 of Ontario Regulations 463/97, Electronic Meetings.](#)

PART A: Committee Recommendations

1. Indigenous Land-Based Learning [4135]

The Committee considered a report from staff (see PPC:018A, page 1) presenting information regarding the Boyne River Natural Science School site.

Moved by: Trustee Rajakulasingam

Seconded by: Trustee Mammoliti

The Planning and Priorities Committee **RECOMMENDS** that the TDSB move towards ensuring that the Indigenous Land-based Learning Centre at the Boyne River Natural Science School site begin preparations to serve TDSB students and the wider Indigenous Community, supported through the TDSB Urban Indigenous Education Centre, guided by the Elders Council.

Carried

2. Implementation of a Mandatory Vaccination Procedure [4151]

The Committee considered a report from staff (PPC:018A, page 13 and attached) presenting a procedure regarding mandatory vaccination.

Moved by: Trustee MacLean

Seconded by: Trustee Mammoliti

The Planning and Priorities Committee **RECOMMENDS** that report be received.

Carried

PART B: Information Only

3. Call to Order and Acknowledgement of Traditional Lands

A meeting of the Planning and Priorities Committee was convened electronically on Tuesday, September 14, 2021 from 4:32 p.m. to 6:40 p.m. with Alexander Brown presiding.

4. Approval of the Agenda

On motion of Trustee Donaldson, seconded by Trustee Nunziata, the agenda was approved.

5. Declarations of Possible Conflict of Interest

No matters to report

6. Delegations

No matters to report

7. Report From Trustees Appointed to the Ontario Public School Boards' Association

The Committee heard an oral update from Trustees Donaldson and Laskin on the activities of the Ontario Public School Boards' Association, including the following:

- OPSBA sent an open letter to Premier Ford on August 13 calling for the Ontario Government to implement a policy and strategy for making vaccination mandatory in schools, and the Government's response requesting that school boards create Immunization Disclosure Policies
- OPSBA's attendance at Liberal Leader Steven Del Duca's vaccine summit on Monday, August 30, 2021
- An update on the Above and Beyond social media campaign which is meant to highlight the heroes/good news stories of public education.
- Reporting on the "Transitioning from the COVID-19 School Experience" discussion. Monthly meetings among invited partners will commence in October and continue through January to generate recommendations for the 2022-2023 GSN consultation process.
- OPSBA is working with CSBA on a Federal Election resource package for trustees and school boards and contains sections on Indigenous Education, mental health and well-being, and the COVID-19 response.
- Upcoming key dates include:
 - o September 24-25, 2021 – Board of Directors Meeting
 - o November 3, 2021 – Fall Regional Council Meeting

The report was circulated to trustees.

8. School Reopening: Update

The Committee heard a presentation from Dr. Vinita Dubey, Associate Medical Officer of Health and Nicole Welch, Director, Toronto Public Health providing an update on COVID-19 (see attached).

The Committee also heard a presentation from staff providing an update on enrolment, class size and reorganization (see attached).

9. Adjournment

On motion of Trustee Kandavel, seconded by Trustee Laskin, the meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

PART C: Ongoing Matters

No matters to report

Submitted by: Alexander Brown, Committee Chair

**TDSB COVID-19
MANDATORY VACCINATION PROCEDURE**

Audley Salmon, Interim Executive Superintendent - Employee Services

Leola Pon, Executive Officer - Legal Services

Planning and Priorities Meeting

September 14, 2021





BOARD OF TRUSTEES' RESOLUTION AUGUST 25, 2021

- Objective: healthy and safe learning and working environments
- Director to develop mandatory COVID-19 vaccination procedure
- Procedure will address:
 - Formal attestation & proof of vaccination
 - Education on benefits of vaccination
 - Regular testing
 - *Human Rights Code* accommodation requests
- Endeavor to work collaboratively with TPH, local health partners, employee groups and federations, and UIEC
- September 9 or as soon as practicable thereafter

KEY DATES – PROCEDURE DEVELOPMENT

Key Dates	Description
August 25	Board of Trustees' motion re Mandatory Vaccination
September 1	Stakeholder consultation begins
September 7	Chief Medical Officer of Health Instruction under <i>Reopening Ontario Act</i> re mandatory vaccination policy
September 8	GPC meeting - Update
September 13	Ministry of Education memorandum on rapid antigen testing
September 14	PPC meeting – Finalized Procedure

**MyVaccination Status Responses as of
September 14 @ 3 pm:**

Of responses received to date, approx. **94%** of staff have reported that they are vaccinated.



OVERVIEW OF KEY PROVISIONS

- **Application: to whom does the Procedure apply**
 - **Staff, Trustees, and “Other Individuals”** who are expected to have direct contact with staff and students
 - Does not apply to individuals who work remotely and whose work does not involve in-person interaction
 - Not applicable to staff on LOAs and secondments
 - Commitment to consult community-based Indigenous health care providers and with communities with a history of underservice in healthcare and lower rates of vaccination as identified by TPH
- **Phase in period for unvaccinated staff**
 - **September 7**: deadline to submit attestation & proof of vaccination
 - **November 1**: deadline to complete vaccinations (e.g., 2/2 doses)
 - “Fully vaccinated” status within 14 days thereafter

OVERVIEW OF KEY PROVISIONS

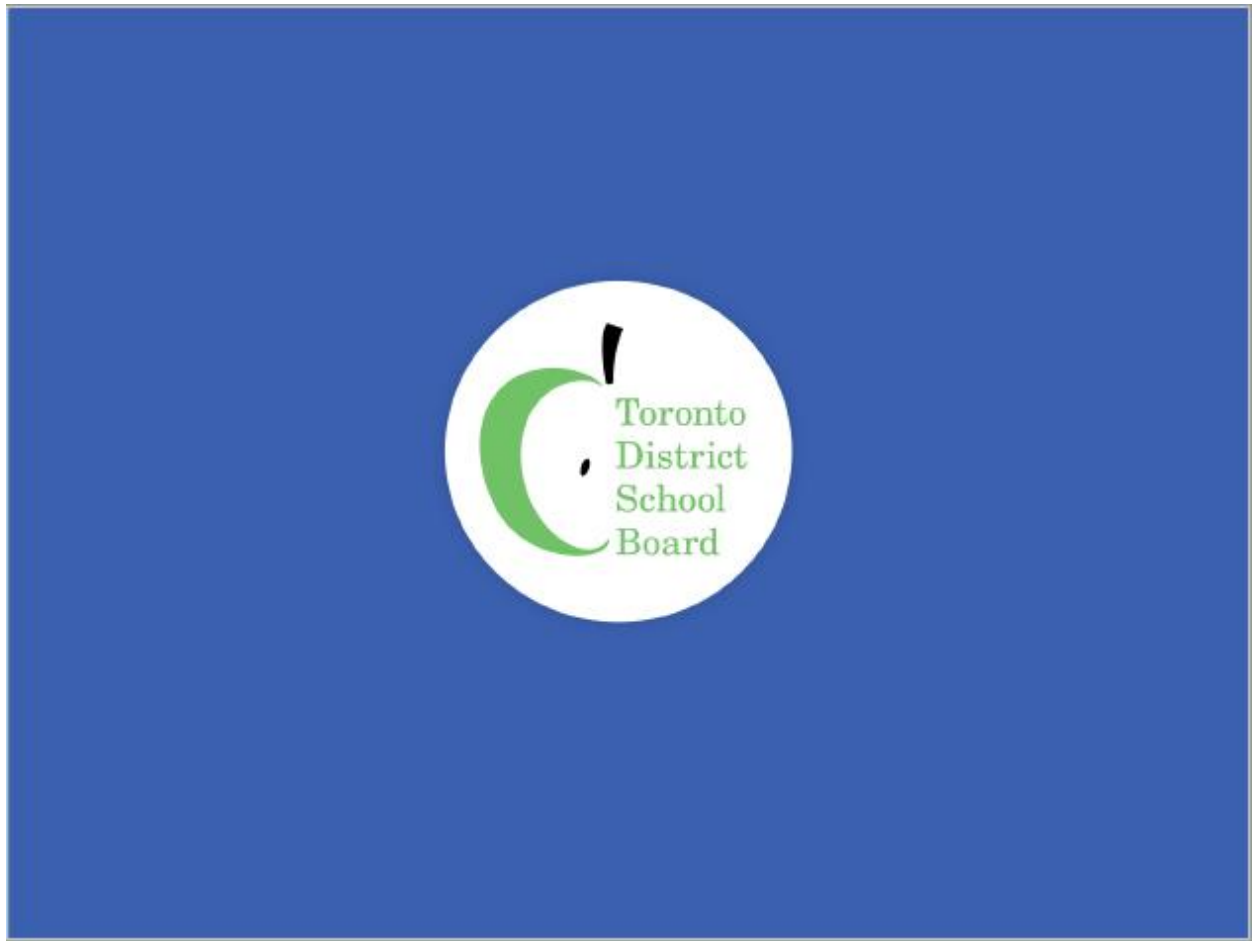
- **Condition for new employees**
 - Must be fully vaccinated before starting work
- **Exemptions and accommodations** under *Human Rights Code*
 - If granted, testing is required
- **Data collection, reporting and protection of privacy**
 - Secure data collection
 - Limited access by identified TDSB staff

OVERVIEW OF KEY PROVISIONS

- **Regular testing and reporting for those who are not fully vaccinated**
 - September 13 new EDU direction
 - Three (3) days' separation between testing dates (e.g., Monday-Thursday)
 - Test kit availability and distribution (details TBA)
- **Education program & resources**
 - not fully vaccinated (except Code exemptions), or have not disclosed vaccination status
 - Ministry has advised details will be available shortly

OVERVIEW OF KEY PROVISIONS

- **No harassment, bullying or discrimination**
- **Non-compliance:**
 - Staff must report to work/attend TDSB site as usual *in the interim*
 - Administrative or disciplinary action
 - Audits
 - False attestations



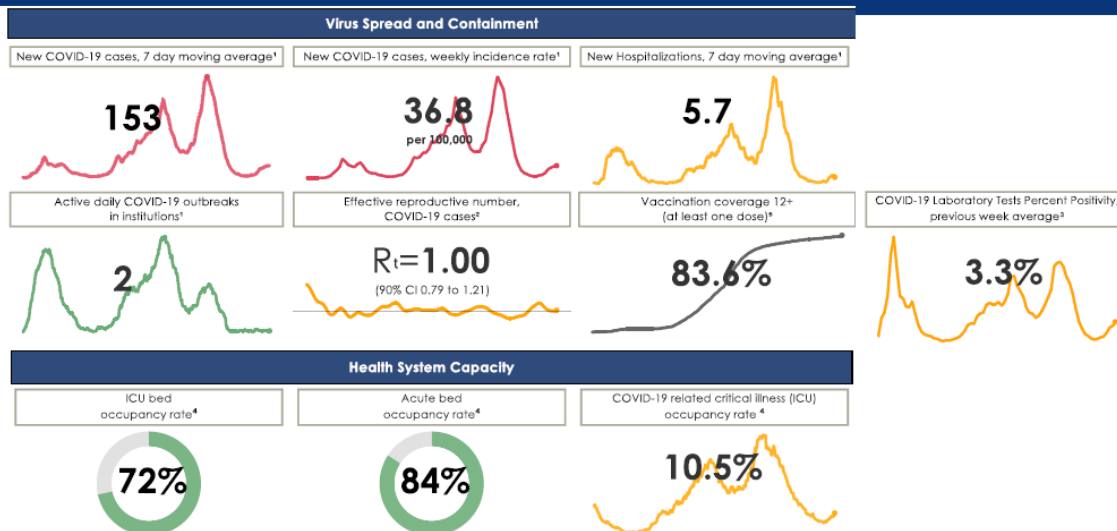
COVID-19: Update To TDSB trustees September 14, 2021



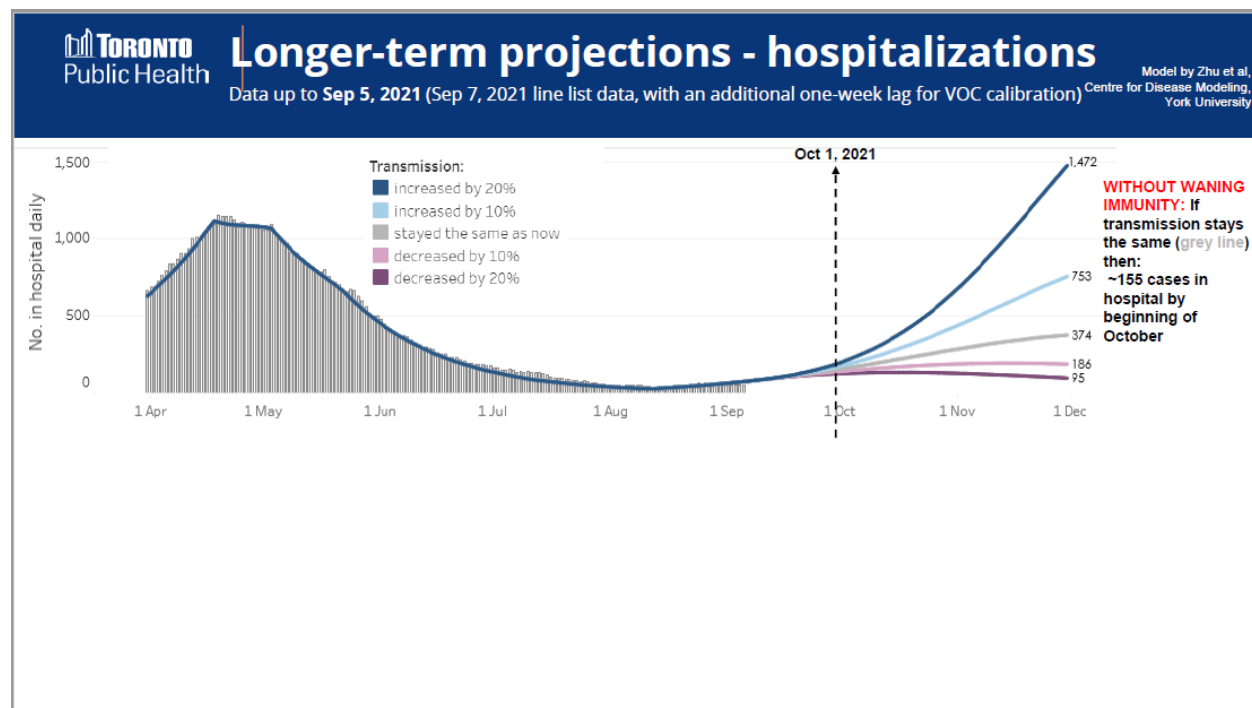
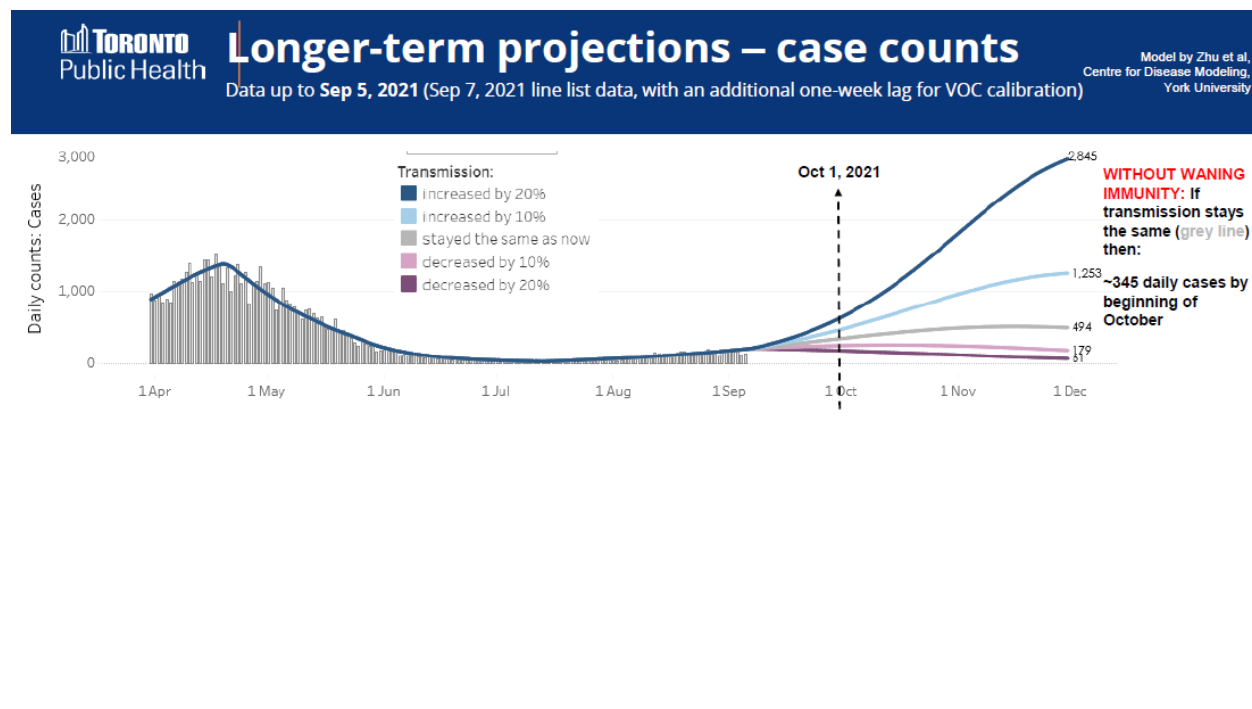
Dr. Vinita Dubey
Associate Medical Officer
of Health (AMOH)
Toronto Public Health


Nicole Welch
Director & Chief
Nursing Officer
Toronto Public Health

Monitoring dashboard –Sept 7*, 2021



* **Notes:** 1) Data as of: September 7, 2021 2) R_t calculated by date of infection using confirmed case data from August 1, 2020 to August 29, 2021 3) Data as of: Week ending August 28, 2021
4) Data as of September 5, 2021 5) Data as of: Sep 7 2021 6) Data for May, 2021






School Data-Toronto COVID-19 Data- No outbreaks for 2021-22 School year

Active Outbreaks In Schools in 2021-2022 school year	Cumulative Outbreaks In schools in 2020-21 school year	Total Case Counts In Schools in 2020-21 school year
0	389	1815

- **Average Cases per outbreak = 4.7**
- **Average Outbreak duration= 20.4 days**
- **For number of cases in schools, please go to [the Ministry of Education](#) website**
- **For Toronto COVID Data, see the TPH website: [Status of Cases in Toronto](#)**

Data as of : Sept 14



School Outbreak definition

- **Outbreak definition in a school:**
 - 2 or more lab-confirmed COVID-19 cases in students and/or staff or other visitors,
 - with an epidemiological link,
 - within a 14-day period,
 - where at least one case could have reasonably acquired their infection in the school, or before/after school program (including transportation, extracurricular).

UPDATED Sept 8 TPH COVID-19 School Guidance

COVID-19 GUIDANCE
Revised September 8, 2021

COVID-19 GUIDANCE
Revised September 8, 2021

COVID-19 GUIDANCE
Revised September 8, 2021

COVID-19 Guidance for Schools JK to Grade 12

The following recommendations are intended to help JK to Grade 12 schools and school boards to reduce the spread of COVID-19. It is based on provincial Ministry of Education guidelines ([COVID-19 Health, Safety and Operational Guidance for Schools \(2021-22\)](#)). As each site will be different, it is ultimately the responsibility of every school to review their own policies, procedures and site-specific circumstances, and assess their ability to operate while ensuring that the appropriate infection prevention and control (IPC) measures are implemented and maintained. The aim and purpose of this document is to assist individuals, schools, and school boards with information related to the Ontario Government's reopening framework, as well as Toronto Public Health requirements to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in the school setting. It is important to know that breaches of some of these directions may constitute offences under provincial regulations or other public health legal requirements. While we aim to provide relevant and timely information, no guarantee can be given as to the accuracy or completeness of any information provided. This guidance is not intended to nor does it provide legal advice and should not be relied upon or treated as legal advice. Users seeking legal advice should consult with a qualified legal professional.

This guidance is recommended for all schools in Toronto. The guidance in the document is based on the current state of COVID-19 in Toronto. If rates of COVID-19 increase or decrease, the guidance may change. Schools with high vaccination rates, or neighborhoods with lower COVID-19 rates are still recommended to follow all of this guidance.

For publicly-funded schools (i.e. Toronto District School Board (TDSB), Toronto Catholic District School Board (TCDSB), CFS Vancouville, and CFS Men Aweny), where there is a difference between this guidance document and your school board's internal policies and procedures, your school board's plan should take precedence.

Updated information about COVID-19 can be found in Toronto Public Health's [COVID-19 Easy Sheet](#).

Important Updates:

As of September 8, Toronto Public Health is recommending that schools and school boards pause extra-curricular activities, field trips and high contact sports with mixed cohorts for the start of the school year, while school routines are established. Please read the health and physical education (page 18), clubs (page 21) and field trips (page 22) sections below for more information.

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416.338.7600 | toronto.ca/COVID19 |

416.338.7600 | toronto.ca/COVID19 |


416.338.7600 | toronto.ca/COVID19 |

LINK: [HTML](#) [PDF](#) [FRENCH PDF](#)

COVID-19 School Guidance Document

Goal – to preserve the in-school learning environment with as few interruptions as possible

- ❖ Based on current local situation TPH recommended gradual reintroduction of extra-curricular activities, field trips and high contact sports with mixed cohorts until school health and safety protocols and procedures are well established and routine, and cohorts are established.
- This interval of gradual reintroduction is important, given that we know the Delta variant is circulating in the community and the Ontario Science Table recently recommended that residents reduce their contacts to limit COVID-19 spread.
- TPH will continue to work with School Board Directors of Education to update the guidance




UPDATED

English PDF
French


Located on
the TPH
School
Website
[here](#)

TORONTO PUBLIC HEALTH'S (TPH) COVID-19 DECISION GUIDE FOR PRINCIPALS TO DISMISS COHORTS TO SELF-ISOLATE


This tool is to be used by Principals to assist in making a decision to dismiss a case's cohort(s) for self-isolation (e.g., classroom, bus, extracurricular activities, before/after school programs attended by the case) while awaiting the results of the TPH investigation. TPH will investigate all positive cases related to a school and notify their close contacts in a school through a letter. The Communicable Disease Investigator (CDI) will contact the Principal and advise of next steps. If the Principal has any questions while they await for the CDI to contact them, they can contact their TPH COVID-19 School Liaison Nurse. If they are unable to reach their nurse, they can contact our Hotline at 416-338-7600. Please see the TPH COVID-19 School Contact List for more details.




Principal informed of a positive COVID-19 case or symptomatic student/staff




Staff/student has symptoms but no laboratory result





Follow school protocols and COVID-19 School Decision Guide for students and staff.







Laboratory confirmed positive for COVID-19






Report to Toronto Public Health Online School Reporting






Dismiss members of case's cohort(s) for self-isolation, including classroom, bus, extra-curricular and before/after school programs attended by the case, who have not been fully vaccinated with a COVID-19 vaccine*, until Principal receives further direction from the TPH CDI. The case's siblings and household members who are not fully vaccinated* with a COVID-19 vaccine, also need to stay home.

August 27, 2021

 TORONTO Public Health

TORONTO.CA/COVID19



Student and Staff Decision Tools (HTML)

COVID-19 Decision Tool for School Students

For elementary and secondary students (K-Grade 12)
Version 4.0 updated September 2, 2021


Please note: that the terms **Fully Vaccinated**, **Previous recent COVID-19 infection**, **Full list of symptoms of COVID-19** and **Symptoms** are referred to in this document. Their definitions for the purpose of this document are listed below and should only be interpreted exactly as defined.

Definitions:


- Fully vaccinated:** Fully vaccinated means 14 days or more after getting a second dose of a two-dose COVID-19 vaccine series or a single dose of a one-dose vaccine series. They may not need to self-isolate as long as they don't have symptoms.
- Previous recent COVID-19 infection:** Person has tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 90 days and has been cleared by public health. They may not need to self-isolate as long as they don't have symptoms.
- Full list of symptoms of COVID-19:** Watch closely for any symptom of COVID-19, especially if a close contact of someone who tested positive. The full list of symptoms include: fever or chills; cough; trouble breathing; decrease or loss of taste or smell; nausea, vomiting or diarrhea; sore throat; runny or stuffy nose; abdominal pain; headache; pink eye; or a decrease or loss of appetite.
- Symptoms:** The daily screening tool lists five symptoms to screen for each day. For students they include: fever and/or chills, cough, trouble breathing, decrease or loss of taste or smell, or nausea, vomiting or diarrhea. For staff/volunteers/adult learners they include: fever and/or chills, cough, trouble breathing, decrease or loss of taste or smell, headache, sore muscles or joints.

Updated COVID-19 screening for symptoms:
All students must complete a self-screening questionnaire before going to school. Students with a chronic health issue that is medically diagnosed and unrelated to COVID-19, should look for **new, different or worsening symptoms**.


Does the student have any of the following symptoms on the daily screening tool?




Fever > 37.8°C and/or chills




Cough



Difficulty breathing



Decrease or loss of taste or smell



Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea

The student should be excluded from school under the following conditions:

- If the student has **one or more symptoms** even if it is mild or has resolved, the student should stay home, self-isolate, and get tested or contact their health care provider.
- If anyone in the student's **household** has one or more COVID-19 symptoms the student should also stay home, self-isolate and follow instructions from public health.*
- If the student has been in close contact with a person who has COVID-19 they will need to stay home and self-isolate for 10 days, even if they don't have symptoms, and even if they test negative.**
- If the student has **travelled outside of Canada** they must self-isolate for 14 days if they do not qualify for a federal quarantine travel exemption.**
- Anyone who is **sick or has any symptoms of illness** should stay home and seek assessment from their health care provider if needed.

COVID-19 Decision Tool for School Staff and Visitors

September 8, 2021

For all situations listed in the flow chart below:

- (A) Close Contact**
 - Anyone who is a close contact of a positive case will have to self-isolate for 10 days, and should arrange to get tested.
 - For everyone self-isolating in the home, household members can go to their daily community use but should not leave the home for other non-essential reasons. Essential reasons include: errands such as obtaining groceries, attending medical appointments or picking up prescriptions. Household members who are fully vaccinated with COVID-19 vaccine or have tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 90 days and were cleared by public health can return to day home.
 - If the close contact is a staff member and/or a visitor, they should self-isolate for 14 days after getting a second dose of a two-dose COVID-19 vaccine series or a single dose of a one-dose vaccine series or 10 days after getting a positive test result for COVID-19. They should not return to work or school until they are cleared by public health.
 - They should still go to work/school if recommended.
 - They should remain in their home and avoid contact with visitors and other household members who are not fully vaccinated with COVID-19 vaccine.
- (B) Travel Outside of Canada**
 - Anyone who has travelled outside of Canada is required to self-isolate for 14 days. They are to follow the [federal quarantine travel exemption](#).
 - If the visitor does not have symptoms, household members can go to their daily community use but should not leave the home for other non-essential reasons. Essential reasons include: errands such as obtaining groceries, attending medical appointments or picking up prescriptions. Household members who are fully vaccinated with COVID-19 vaccine or have tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 90 days and were cleared by public health can return to day home.
 - There are some exceptions for people eligible to enter Canada who also meet specific [federal quarantine travel exemption](#) criteria.
 - If the visitor does not have symptoms, and is exempt from [federal quarantine travel exemption](#), household members do not need to stay home.

School staff/visitors must complete a self-screening questionnaire every day at home, and follow the prompts:

Have symptoms? Not a close contact. No travel outside of Canada.

Stay home, self-isolate and get tested. Household members should self-isolate for at least 10 days and get tested, unless they are fully vaccinated with COVID-19 vaccine or tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 90 days and were cleared by public health.

Get for test

Test negative: School staff/visitors should stay home, self-isolate for at least 10 days, and follow public health advice. Household members who are not fully vaccinated with a COVID-19 vaccine or who have not tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 90 days and have been cleared by public health should self-isolate for at least 10 days and follow public health advice.

Test positive: School staff/visitors can go back to school if it has been 24 hours since their symptoms started improving, as long as A and B do not apply.

Did not go for test


Stay home and self-isolate for 10 days. Can return to school after 10 days if symptoms are improving, as long as A and B do not apply.

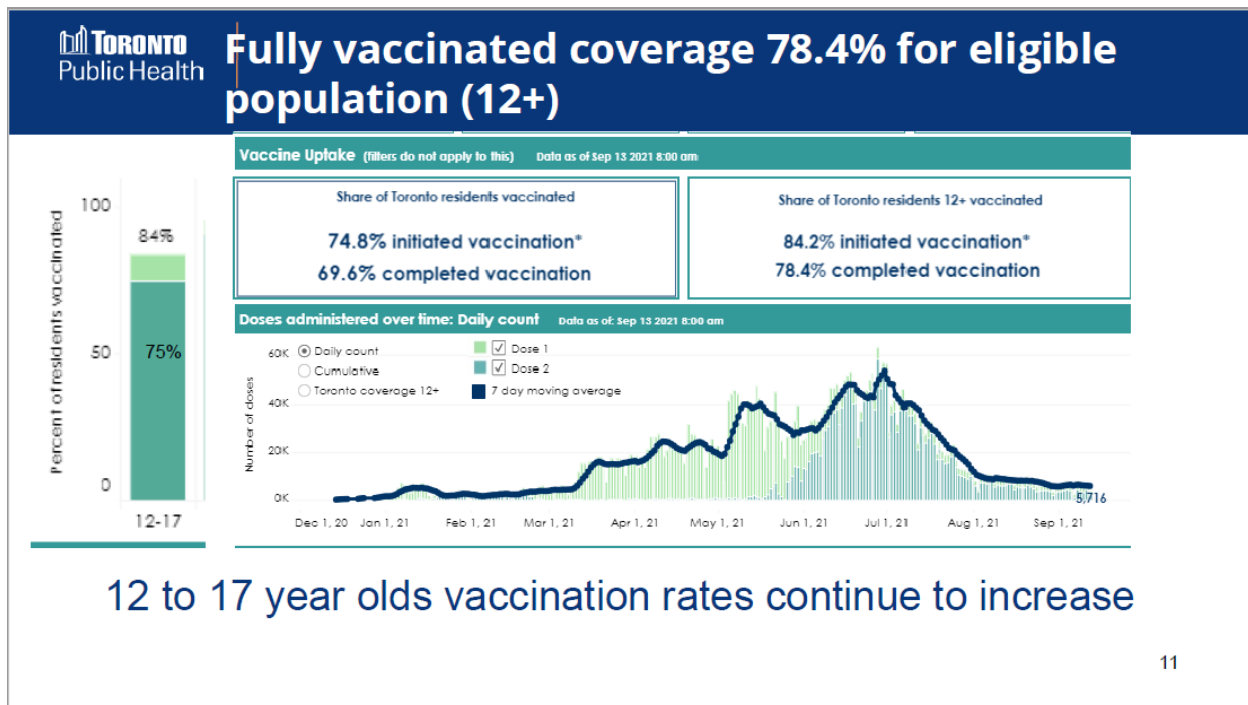
Household members should self-isolate for at least 10 days, unless they are fully vaccinated with COVID-19 or tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 90 days and were cleared by public health.

If any household members develop symptoms, they need to self-isolate and get tested.

If there is an alternative diagnosis from a health care provider, they can return to school once their symptoms are improving for 24 hours, as long as A and B do not apply. Household members can also return to work/school.

TORONTO.CA/COVID19

 TORONTO Public Health



TORONTO Public Health | **Thank You!**

THANK YOU!

Merci

Thanks for working to help keep schools safe.

Images from: Pixabay

Planning and Priorities Committee

September 14, 2021





Agenda

- Enrolment
- Class Size
- Reorganization



Enrolment

- Every year we monitor enrolment at school opening
- This year is unique because usually it is done once a week at the end of each week
- After two days of school last week enrolment data is relatively “soft”
- In order to make more informed decisions seeing enrolment trends over a few more days is necessary
- The first weekly enrolment report will be generated by the Planning Department later this week/early next week

Class Size

- Class sizes for 2021/2022 school year will comply with Collective Agreements and applicable regulations
- FDK
 - Average Class Size of 26 students
 - Cap of 29 students
 - Up to 10% of FDK classes may have up to 32 students
- Primary
 - Cap of 20 students
 - Up to 10% of primary classes may have up to 23 students
- Junior
 - Average Class Size of 24.5 students
- We will use enrolment data as of September 23 (count date) as the basis for reorganization that will occur in the following weeks

Class Size Data

Count of FDK Classes by Class Size

46 FDK classes greater than 29 students out of 7,020 elementary classes.

Class of 1-9 Students	Class of 10-15 Students	Class of 16-29 Students	Class >29 Students
103	244	969	46

Count of Primary Classes by Class Size

52 Grade 1-3 classes greater than 23 students out of 7,020 elementary classes.

Class of 1-9 Students	Class of 10-20 Students	Class of 21-23 Students	Class >23 Students
84	2,143	397	52

Class Size Data

Count of Grade 4-6 Classes by Class Size

101 Grade 4-6 classes greater than 30 students out of 7,020 elementary classes.

Class =<24 Students	Class of 25-30 Students	Class >30 Students
1068	709	101

Count of Grade 7-8 Classes by Class Size

131 Grade 7-8 classes greater than 30 students out of 7,020 elementary classes.

Class =<24 Students	Class of 25-30 Students	Class >30 Students
459	514	131

Responding To Large Class Sizes

- We continue to monitor all class sizes prior to the count date especially those in Gr 4-8
- Where enrolments are significantly over projection and class sizes are very large, additional staffing has been provided after discussion with principals, superintendents and Employee Services

