Impact of COVID-19 Update

January 12, 2021

Toronto District School Board

Agenda

- Toronto Public Health Update

- Schools Dismissed by Toronto Public Health

- Provincial Testing Update

- Students with Special Education Needs

- Mental Health and Well-Being Supports

- Elementary Switching Survey Update

- Toronto Public Health Response

- Virtual Elementary School DECE UpdateSecondary Quadmester Changeover

- Virtual School Budgets

Geographic Overview:
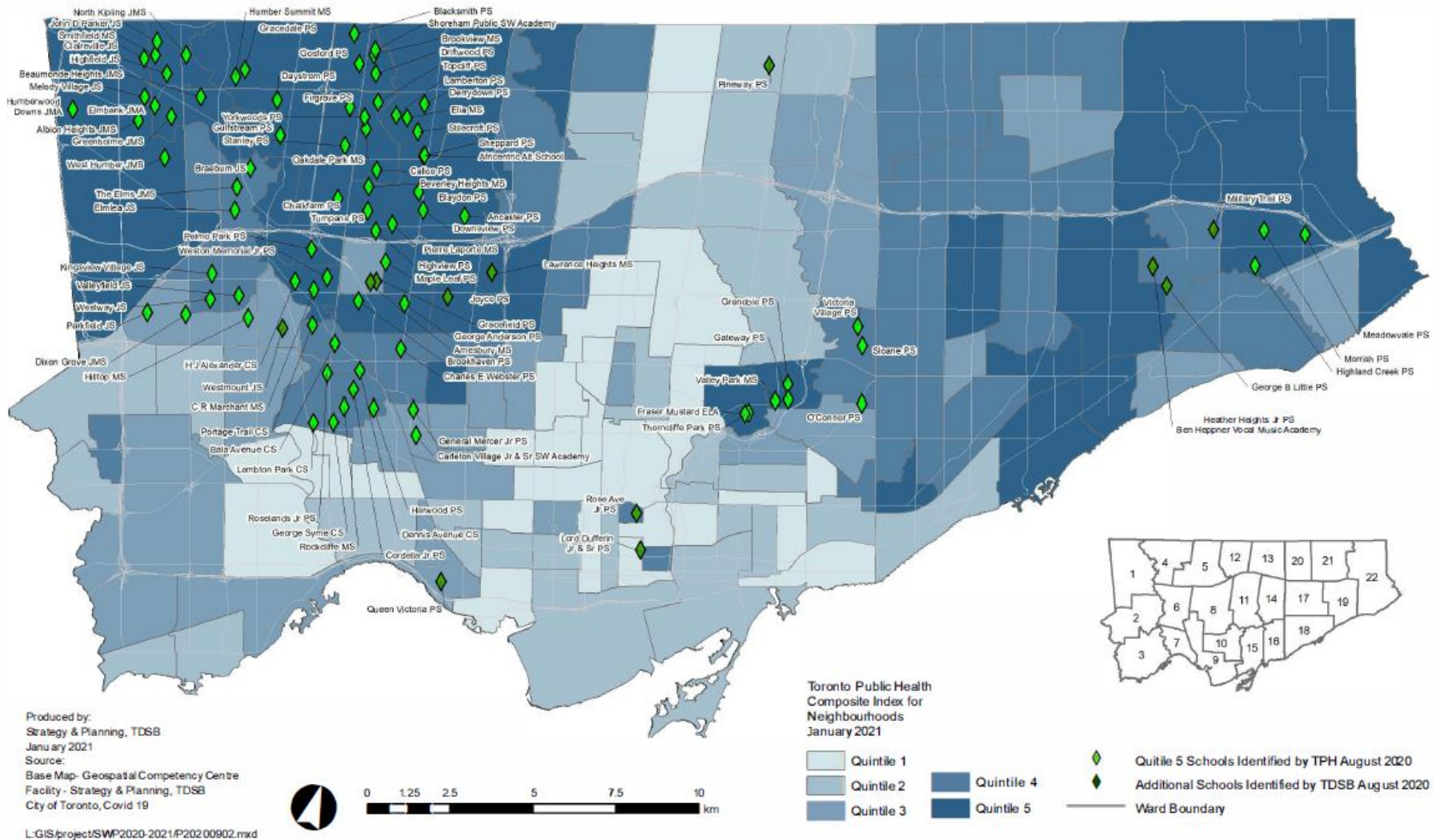# August 2020 High Risk Neighbourhoods and High Risk Schools
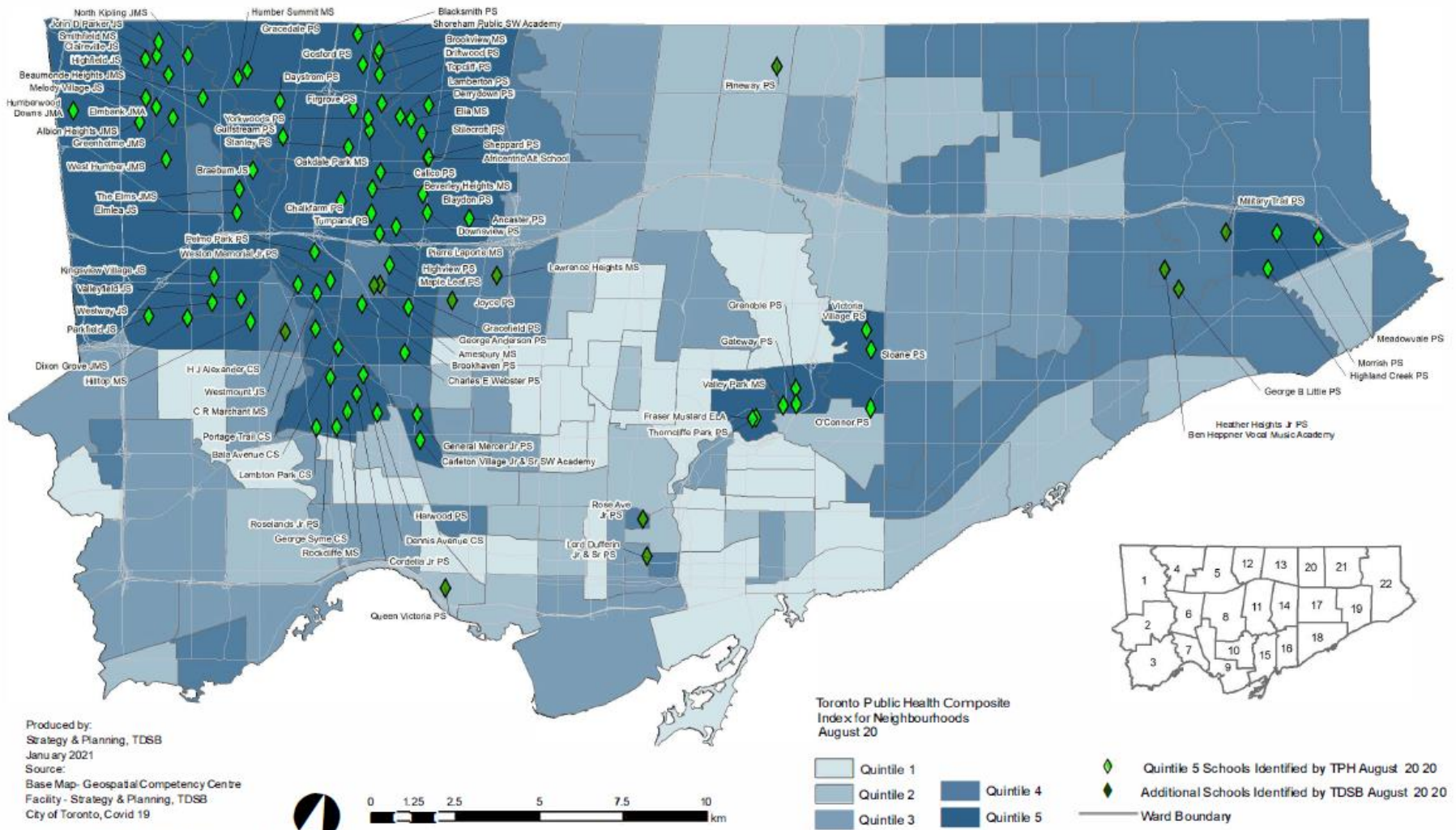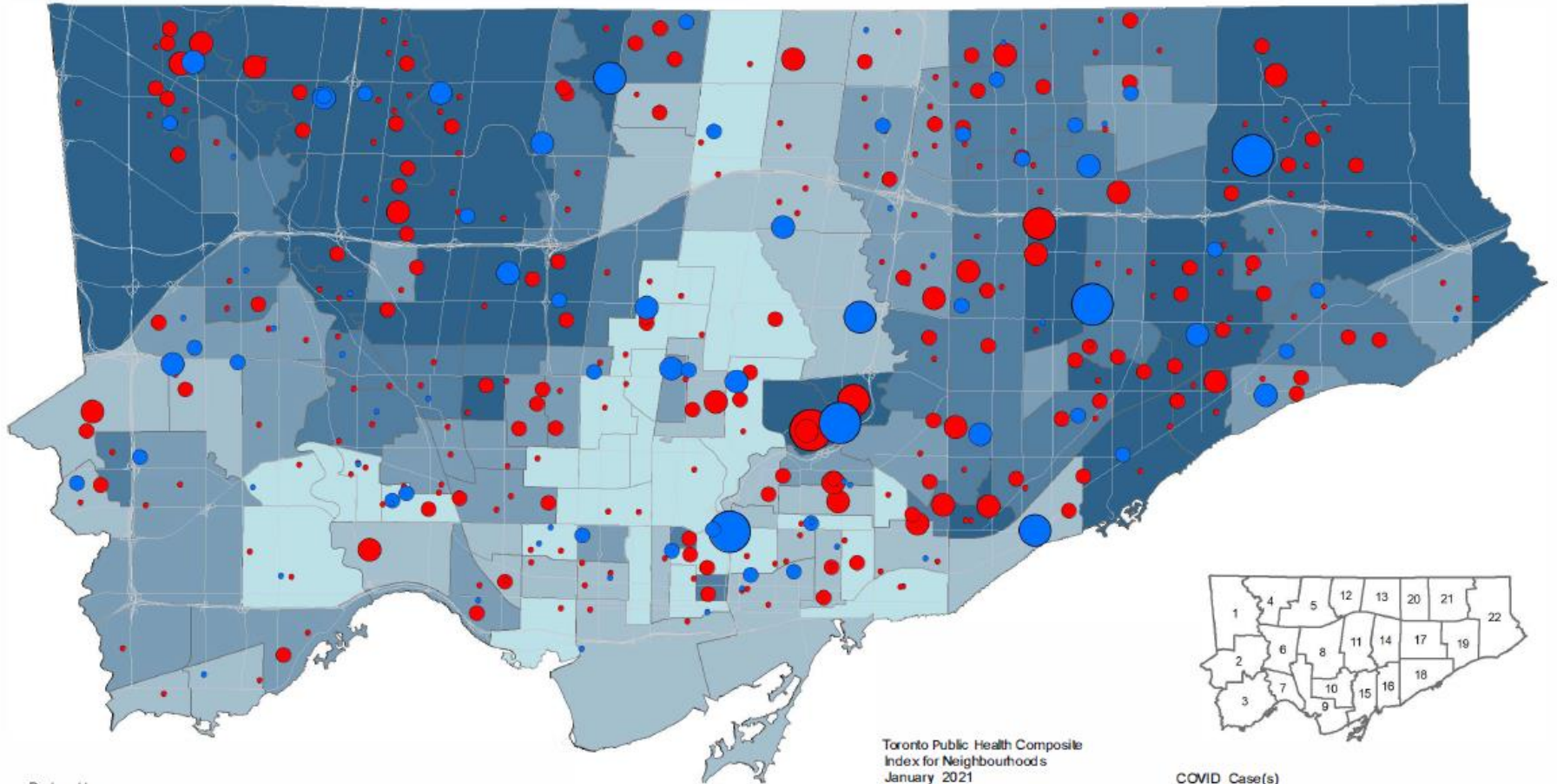
Geographic Overview:
Updated High Risk Neighbourhoods

Geographic Overview:
Updated High Risk Neighbourhoods and
Targeted Testing Pilot Schools and Dismissed Schools

January 12, 2021
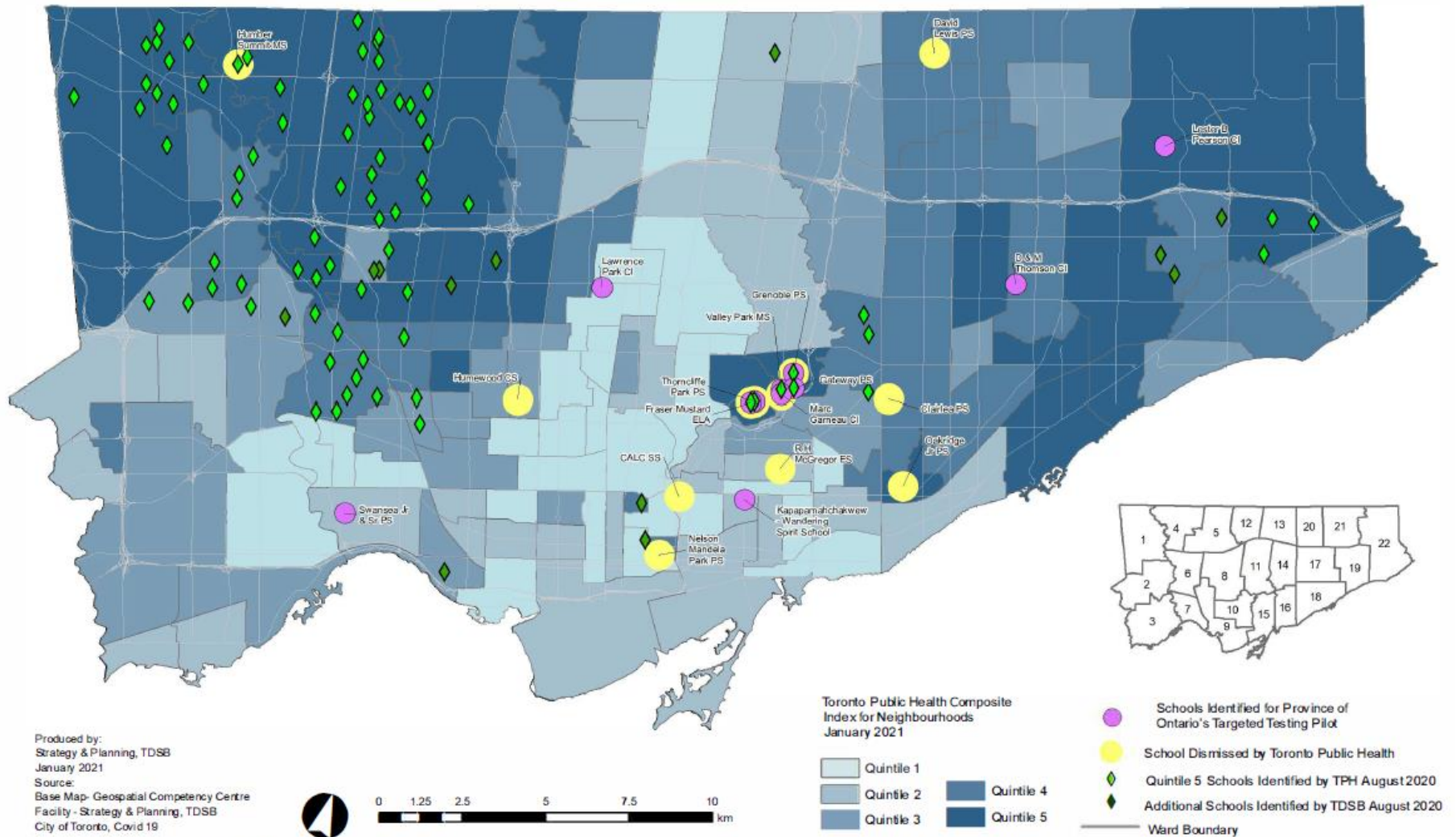
Geographic Overview:
Updated High Risk Neighbourhoods and Schools with COVID Cases November-December 2020
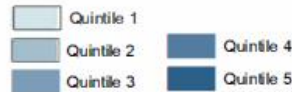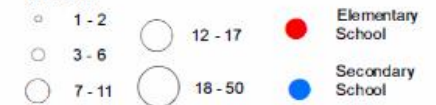
COVID Cases for High Risk Schools Identified in August 2020 Compared to the Other Schools

	Number of Schools	In Person Enrolment	Virtual Enrolment	Total Enrolment	COVID Cases	COVID as % of In Person Enrolment	Average Number of COVID Cases per School
High Risk Elementary Schools	93	17,789	15,920	33,709	279	1.57%	3.0
Other Elementary Schools	379	88,569	47,242	135,811	681	0.77%	1.8
All Elementary Schools	472	106,358	63,162	169,520	960	0.90%	2.0

Toronto Public Health Update

- The control measures already put in place by Toronto Public Health and the TDSB (physical distancing, screening and mandatory PPE) are more stringent than the measures that were in place in Britain

- TPH does not believe that students are at higher risk when PPE and other health measures are followed

- Toronto Public Health is reviewing TDSB's plan for switching of students between virtual and in-person schools and the potential impacts on cohorts.

Schools Dismissed by Toronto Public Health

Prior to the Winter Break, 12 TDSB schools were dismissed due to evidence of potential widespread transmission of the virus within the schools:

- Humber Summit MS (Ward 4)
- Humewood CS (Ward 8)
- Nelson Mandela Park PS (Ward 10)
- Fraser Mustard ELA (Ward 11)
- Marc Garneau CI (Ward 11)
- Thorncliffe Park PS (Ward 11)

- Grenoble PS (Ward 14)
- CALC (Ward 15)
- RH McGregor ES (Ward 15)
- Clairlea PS (Ward 18)
- Oakridge Jr PS (Ward 18)
- David Lewis PS (Ward 20)

TPH has notified the schools that the outbreaks are over.

Provincial Testing Update

- Ministry of Education and Ministry of Health conducted a pilot program to support disease control and develop testing strategies

- Schools in the province's 4 regions with high incidence of active cases (Toronto, Peel, York, and Ottawa) were offered school-wide COVID-19 testing

- Testing was voluntary for all students and staff in the schools

- Testing occurred at the school or at a COVID Assessment Centre

- Program lasted 4 weeks: November 23 to December 18

- Toronto Public Health identified the schools based on the school having multiple cases of COVID-19 for which there were no epidemiological links and/or where multiple cohorts had been dismissed

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Provincial Testing Update

11 TDSB schools participated in the school-wide testing:

- Swansea Jr Sr PS (Ward 7)

- Lawrence Park CI (Ward 8)

- Fraser Mustard ELA (Ward 11)

- Marc Garneau CI (Ward 11)

- Thorncliffe Park PS (Ward 11)

- Gateway PS (Ward 14)

- Grenoble PS (Ward 14)

- Valley Park MS (Ward 14)

- Wandering Spirit School (Ward 15)

- David and Mary Thomson CI (Ward 17)

- Lester B Pearson CI (Ward 21)

Provincial Testing Update

Next steps:

- Ministry of Education will release a report in the next couple of weeks

- Ministry of Education is exploring options for continued testing

- Toronto Public Health, the Local Health Integration Networks, and the Toronto school boards are working together to streamline the testing process such as standardizing the parental consent form and the line lists (lists of students and staff to be tested)

Provincial Testing Update

TDSB's preliminary results December:

	Students	Staff	Family Members	Total
# of tests completed	2,266	462	687	3,415
# of positive tests	64	8	94	166
positivity rates	2.82%	1.73%	13.68%	4.86%

Comments:
 1)Testing results for Toronto pilot was 15 schools with an overall (all school boards) positivity rate of 4.3%
 2) Average positivity in the neighbourhoods of the tested TDSB schools during this time ranged from 2.6% to 12.1%
3) Toronto Public Health reported weekly positivity rates between 6.2% to 10.3% during this period

Students with Special Education Needs

From provincial news release on December 21, 2020:

"As part of the government's efforts to protect the most vulnerable, boards will be required to make provisions for continued in-person support for students with special education needs who cannot be accommodated through remote learning for whom remote learning is challenging."

Students with Special Education Needs

- Upon return to school on January 4, 2021 - Principals and Vice Principals were engaged in discussions with parents regarding needs of students who might require in-person accommodation during the remote learning period
- By January 5, 2021 - we had a very accurate understanding of where in-person accommodations were needed. Principals were also required to:
  - Confirm staffing arrangements (teachers and support staff)
  - Arrange for Occasional Teacher(s) to support the usual classroom teacher where one teacher would have students who will be learning in-person while other students students are learning remotely; If all students are attending in-person or all are learning remotely, an OT would not be required.

Students with Special Education Needs

Transportation

- Principals and Vice-Principals were asked to send the names of their respective students who require in-person accommodation and who would typically receive bussing to Transportation.

- Once transportation was arranged, the transportation company reached out to parents to confirm pick up and drop off times. Should a parent wish to send the child to school until transportation can be arranged, Principals were to ensure the plan was supported by confirming appropriate staff were present.

Students with Special Education Needs

LHIN Support

- For students who have been confirmed for in-person accommodation and who may also have existing services required by LHIN Nurses, Principals were asked to reach out to their respective LHIN coordinator to ensure they are aware of the students return to in person school, to ensure students support.

Students Attending In-Person Schools During Remote Learning

Information as of January 11, 2021

Learning Centre	Number of Schools With Students Attending	Number of Students Attending
LC 1	18	140
LC 2	10	54
LC 3	6	34
LC 4	18	181
Total	52	409

Remote Learning Mental Health Supports

- Staff will continue to support students with special education needs regardless of where they are learning
- Same process for referrals for all supports remain in place
- Virtual, culturally-relevant mental health/wellness support available
- Calendar of Professional Support Services student/family virtual groups to be posted on school websites

tdsb
Professional
Support Services

PSS Supports in Virtual/Remote Learning & Bricks & Mortar

Type of Support	Virtual	Bricks & Mortar	Areas of Support
Individual/Family Counselling	✓	✓	☐ Anxiety ☐ Coping/stress mgt. ☐ Low mood/depression ☐ Trauma due to racism, hate, discrimination ☐ Negative thoughts/self-harm ☐ Domestic/partner violence ☐ Sexual violence ☐ Culturally relevant support ☐ Positive mental wellness/health
Group Counseling/ Supports	✓	✓	☐ Equity/Human Rights ☐ Critical social conversation (support) ☐ Consent/social skills ☐ Socialization ☐ Self esteem/emotion management ☐ Breathing/mindfulness ☐ Positive/healthy relationships
Classroom Interventions	✓	✓	☐ Positive Peer Relationship building ☐ Classroom community building ☐ Restorative Practices ☐ Rights for others ☐ Supporting classroom trauma interventions
Crisis	✓	✓	☐ Assessing emerging needs/supports ☐ Community violence impacts ☐ Healing circles/restorative practices

B&M to VS Transfer Data by LC and Grade

	LC 1	LC 2	LC 3	LC 4	Total:
	1189	1969	2424	898	6480

By Grade								
KG	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8
160	123	96	97	121	136	139	177	175
207	136	144	170	180	195	253	292	322
256	194	210	210	230	302	323	347	344
142	64	101	86	95	108	106	97	94
765	517	551	563	626	741	821	913	935

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LC 1	LC 2	LC 3	LC 4	Total :
896	947	971	830	3644

By Grade								
KG	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8
222	109	92	83	67	92	70	65	96
206	110	85	103	78	95	87	87	96
231	95	73	90	72	100	108	79	125
203	92	88	78	73	73	89	63	61
862	406	338	354	290	370	354	292	378

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	LC 1	LC 2	LC 3	LC 4	Total :
	293	1022	1453	68	2836

By Grade								
KG	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8
-62	14	4	14	54	44	69	112	79
1	26	59	67	102	100	166	205	226
25	99	137	120	158	202	215	269	219
-61	-28	13	8	22	25	17	34	33
-97	111	213	209	336	371	467	620	557

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Toronto Public Health Response

- Given the potential of mixing cohorts that would result from the elementary switching opportunity, we sought the feedback of Toronto Public Health.

- They reiterated that the state of the COVID-19 pandemic in Toronto is at the highest rate of cases we have seen to date and that the case counts, rate and percent positivity across the City is high, including in children. There have been about 100 new cases in children reported daily for the past week or more.

- TPH indicated that when schools return to in-class instruction, while public health measures will be in place to prevent the spread of COVID-19, with high community case counts, cases are likely to be brought into the classroom, increasing the risk for transmission at school.

- With that in mind, TPH has concerns that an elementary switch date for February 16 may pose public health risks — different from the switch date in the fall.

Toronto Public Health Response

As a result, TPH is asking the Board to consider two possibilities:

1. Only have a 1-way switch from in-person learning to virtual learning at the February 16th date. This will enable in-person classrooms to reduce in size, and will increase physical distancing.

2. If a 2-way switch must be completed, it would be preferable to occur when there is more time of no in-person classes prior to making changes to cohort membership. For example, in the event that schools are closed for an extended period of time now, the switch can occur before students return to the classroom, or consider moving it to later in the year when community case rates in Toronto have decreased, and when there is a period of time of school closure prior to making changes to cohorts, such as after March Break.

Virtual Elementary School - DECE Update

Learning Centre	Position	Allocation	Totals
VS LC1	DECE - Regular	85	90
VS LC1	DECE - French	5	
VS LC2	DECE - Regular	108	114
VS LC2	DECE - French	6	
VS LC3	DECE - Regular	134	139
VS LC3	DECE - French	5	
VS LC4	DECE - Regular	83	89
VS LC4	DECE - French	6	

Secondary Quadmester Changeover

- No movement to Virtual SS for Quad 3, which begins February 8, 2021
- Movement to Bricks & Mortar schools possible if space in specific courses is available

Virtual Learning

- Deadline to opt into Quad 3 Virtual Learning in Bricks & Mortar schools: January 11th at Noon
- Families were asked to complete Google Form
- Bricks & Mortar schools will develop course offerings/ timetables given staffing, class size, student course requests through:
    - virtual learning courses
    - hubs with neighbouring schools
    - simultaneous learning option where other models aren't possible

Virtual School Budgets

- New guidelines are being established to provide support to Virtual school teachers on procurement and reimbursement of virtual classroom expenditures.
- Provide teachers with a maximum reimbursement allotment for materials supporting the classroom of $100 per teacher. Reimbursement is subject to approval and with submission of supporting receipts.
- Preliminary virtual school budget of $400K to the four elementary VS and $150K to the secondary VS.
- Additional budget allotments will be provided if projected expenses exceed preliminary budget allocation.
- Technology devices, digital resources and licenses are currently paid through the IT budget.