



March 11, 2022

Re: TDSB Update – Covid-19 Health and Safety Measures

Dear Child Care and Before and After School Program Colleagues,

As you are likely aware, Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health recently announced additional changes to COVID-19 guidance for the province, followed by additional details from the Ministry of Education providing specific guidance to school boards as well as to child care.

As we move to a more sustainable, long-term approach to living with COVID-19, operators are encouraged to continue with the layers of protection that make you feel comfortable. This may be an anxious time for many following two years of COVID-19 measures, and we ask that you please show respect for others and their individual choices within your community, based on their own assessment of their risk. We want our schools to continue to be welcoming and inclusive spaces for all, regardless of personal decisions related to COVID-19 health measures.

While Trustees have requested the Ministry of Education grant additional transition time for TDSB, until we hear further, please see the important information below as you plan for the upcoming transitions.

Effective March 14th, 2022:

Vaccination Disclosure Policy

The Ministry's instructions related to vaccination disclosure policies are to be revoked across all sectors. Therefore, the TDSB's Procedure PR734 – *COVID-19 Vaccination Procedure for Employees, Trustees and Other Individuals* will be rescinded March 14th. Unvaccinated staff will no longer be required to undertake rapid antigen testing, and staff without approved exemptions may return to work.

Effective March 21st, 2022:

Masking and Personal Protective Equipment

Masks will no longer be required for staff, children, or any other individuals in our buildings. Some may choose to continue with this practice and respectful, welcoming, and inclusive communication is encouraged.

Cohorting, Distancing and Visitors

Cohorting and distancing will no longer be required in schools. Elementary students and children in child care can play and learn together across cohorts, classes and grades, both indoors and outdoors. Shared space can be fully utilized without distancing. Limitations on in-person gatherings and assemblies will also be removed and schools and child cares can plan and host in-person events. Parents and visitors will also be welcomed back into schools.

Screening Verification

A [Daily COVID-19 self-assessment](#), which includes understanding of [federal travel guidelines](#), should continue to be done before leaving for work or school, but, as of March 21, 2022,

children and staff are no longer required to show verification of their daily screening. Parents and Visitors are also required to do a COVID-19 self-assessment before entering TDSB buildings.

As per the guidance from the Ministry of Education, the following health and safety measures will continue to remain in place in TDSB schools:

- Completion of a [daily screening](#) before coming into a TDSB building for all staff, students, and visitors
- Enhanced cleaning
- Optimizing air quality and ventilation, including HEPA Filters
- Encouraging hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette
- Distributing Rapid Antigen Tests to support symptomatic testing

COVID-19 Testing and Updates

The province will continue to provide Rapid Antigen Test kits to school boards bi-weekly to support symptomatic testing for students, staff, child cares/BASP's.

The TDSB, in partnership with Toronto Public Health and the Ministry of Education, will continue to closely monitor the COVID-19 situation. Thank you for your continued work to keep our communities safe and healthy. As always, should you have any questions, please reach out to a member of our team.

Thank you,

Child Care Services

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