



## Small Schools Make a Difference

September 2, 2021

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

We hope that the first day of school was a positive one for your child(ren). We are extremely happy to see them back in school and will work very hard to follow all the required safety protocols to keep everyone safe and in school!

There is much discussion regarding COVID-19 vaccinations, and we wanted to provide you with an update on what is currently required by school boards across the province.

The Government of Ontario and the Ministry of Education are currently requiring school boards across the province to **collect data** on the number of staff who are fully vaccinated, by September 7, 2021. **No other direction regarding mandatory vaccinations has yet to be provided to school boards.**

Data will be collected from school board staff (including occasional staff and school board trustees), as well as anyone who delivers services in schools and interacts with students and staff, including contractors and bus drivers.


By September 15, 2021, all school boards will be required to publicly post the percentage of school board staff (and those identified above) who are fully vaccinated on their websites. "Fully vaccinated" means that the individual has received two doses of an approved vaccine, with the second dose being received at least 14 days ago. We remind everyone that individual COVID-19 vaccination status remains private health information and is confidential and private.

School boards are waiting for further direction that we anticipate hearing by mid-September. **In the meantime, any staff who are not vaccinated will be required to take a COVID-19 rapid test on a regular basis (frequency to be determined by public health, but at least once per week) to verify that they do not have the virus, as another layer of protection.**

We want to reassure you that educators will be wearing their masks, engaging in hand-hygiene, wearing eye protection when unable to maintain 2 metres of distance, and will report the results of their daily screening prior to reporting to work.

Again, we anticipate further direction from the Ministry of Education in the very near future. Please contact your child(ren)'s principal(s) if you have further questions.

Yours in education,



**Nicole Morden Cormier**  
Director of Education