

July 30, 2021

Memorandum to: Chairs of District School Boards
Directors of Education
Secretary/Treasurers of School Authorities

From: Stephen Lecce
Minister of Education

Nancy Naylor
Deputy Minister of Education

Subject: COVID-19 Vaccination Encouragement

Thank you for your ongoing efforts to ensure that schools remain healthy and safe places to learn and work.

As the 2021-22 school year quickly approaches, we remain committed to the health, well-being and safety of students, educators, school staff and the broader community.

Although Ontario's vaccine rollout continues to reach individuals aged 12 years and older with first and second doses, greater vaccination coverage is required across all age cohorts and priority populations in order to provide protection against COVID-19 and variants.

To further increase vaccine uptake and support a safe return to school in September, we are encouraging school boards to continue working closely with their public health unit(s), community organizations and other key stakeholders to ensure all education workers, students 12 years and older and their families have access to the vaccine should they wish to receive one.

Parents can support their child to be fully or partially vaccinated against COVID-19 prior to the start of the school year as an important step in the fight against this disease. For more information about the COVID-19 vaccine and to book an appointment, please visit: <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/covid-19-vaccines-ontario>.

Vaccines are safe, effective and the best way to protect yourself, your child and your family from COVID-19. Vaccines help to stop the spread so we can safely and gradually resume more activities.

We are encouraged by the progress made to date and remain committed to ensuring a healthy and safe start to the upcoming school year. As we have done throughout this pandemic, we will continue to rely on the expert advice and recommendations from Ontario's Chief Medical

Officer of Health and other medical experts to ensure we keep children, students, staff, and families safe.

The faster everyone gets vaccinated, the sooner we can resume more activities and end the pandemic. Thank you again, for your ongoing commitment to the students of Ontario.

Sincerely,

Stephen Lecce
Minister

Nancy Naylor
Deputy Minister

c: Dr. Homer Tien, Chair, Vaccine Task Force
Dr. Kieran Moore, Chief Medical Officer of Health
President, Ontario Public School Boards Association (OPSA)
Executive Director, Ontario Association of Public School Boards (OPHCE)
President, Association franco-ontarienne des conseils scolaires catholiques (AFOCSC)
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President, Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association (OCSTA)
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President, Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario (ETFO)
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