



REPORT TO

CORPORATE SERVICES, STRATEGIC PLANNING AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE

RETURN TO SCHOOL UPDATE

*"The Lord gives sight to the blind, the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down, the Lord loves the righteous."
Psalm 146:8*

Created, Draft	First Tabling	Review
January 13, 2021	January 21, 2021	Click here to enter a date.
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INFORMATION REPORT		

Vision:

At Toronto Catholic we transform the world through witness, faith, innovation and action.

Mission:

The Toronto Catholic District School Board is an inclusive learning community uniting home, parish and school and rooted in the love of Christ.

We educate students to grow in grace and knowledge to lead lives of faith, hope and charity.



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A. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The last update to the Reopening Action Plan was submitted to the January 14, 2021 Student Achievement Committee meeting for information and consideration however the report was deferred to January 21, 2021 Corporate Services. This report provides additional information concerning items occurring over the last week following the writing of the report scheduled for Student Achievement. The Reopening Action Plan is updated as necessary and is available on the TCDSB website. Key updates and strategies are provided for consideration.

On January 13, 2021, the Province extended the closure period for all schools to February 10, 2021. All student learning will continue remotely. Details concerning construction allowable under the current restrictions are provided. The province also announced that education workers will be moved to the frontline essential worker category for Phase 2 of the COVID-19 vaccination plan.

Toronto Public Health has released a Fact Sheet on the two COVID-19 vaccines being distributed.

Technology continues to be distributed to students in support of the remote learning platform currently in place.

TCDSB schools will continue to follow safety measures and guidance from Toronto Public Health when schools return to in person learning.

The cumulative staff time required to prepare this report was 20 hours

B. PURPOSE

To provide the Board with updates as they pertain to the TCDSB Reopening Action Plan.

C. BACKGROUND

1. *The TCDSB Reopening Action Plan, Staff Manual and Transition to Distance Learning Plan continue to reflect the process for operating schools*

safely. Items from Board motions and Ministry updates that are confirmed have been included as required. Schools will continue to follow established protocols for virtual and in person learning.

D. EVIDENCE/RESEARCH/ANALYSIS

Continuation of Distance Learning for all TCDSB Schools

1. ***On January 7, the Province announced schools in Toronto would be closed to in-person learning until January 25, 2021. This localized closure was further updated on January 13 for elementary and secondary schools and remains in effect until February 10, 2021.*** As a result, student learning continues in remote learning mode during this time.

2. ***Enhancements to student distance learning during the closure include:***
 - continuity of classes with no interruption to learning as in-person elementary classes transitioned to remote learning, as per the [TCDSB Transition to Remote Learning Plan](#)
 - in-person secondary schools moved from the hybrid model to fully remote learning to ensure course continuity and no interruption to learning
 - asynchronous and synchronous learning time requirements have been applied, as outlined by the province under [Policy/Program Memorandum \(PPM\) 164](#)
 - special consideration for in person attendance given to high needs MEDD ISP Special Education Students
 - in the fall, all teachers were required to create a Brightspace or Google classroom, in order to be ready should a transition to remote learning be required; Zoom was added in November as an option for video conferencing (previously only Google Meet was available)
 - devices for students continue to be made available, when required; safety protocols in place to ensure safe pickup of devices from the school by the parent/student
 - remote clinical intervention, by social workers and psychologists to support student mental health and well-being, continues through principal referral
 - distance learning and “check and connect” monitoring for all special education students by special education staff

COVID-19 Vaccinations

3. ***Included in the January 13, 2021 announcement the province has mapped out the next steps for transitioning into Phase Two of COVID-19 vaccinations.*** In order to vaccinate Ontarians as safely and quickly as possible, the government is expanding the list of health care providers who can administer COVID-19 vaccines.
4. ***Groups eligible to receive vaccines as part of Phase Two of the Ontario immunization program will include:***
 - Older adults, beginning with those 80 years of age and older and decreasing in five-year increments over the course of the vaccine rollout;
 - Individuals living and working in high-risk congregate settings;
 - ***Frontline essential workers (e.g., first responders, education workers, food processing industry);***
 - Individuals with high-risk chronic conditions and their caregivers; and
 - Other populations and communities facing barriers related to the determinants of health across Ontario who are at greater COVID-19 risk.

COVID Vaccine FAQs

5. ***Toronto Public Health (TPH) has released a Fact Sheet (Appendix 'A') on the two COVID vaccines currently being administered.***
This fact sheet is available on the TPH website in multiple languages

<https://www.toronto.ca/home/covid-19/covid-19-protect-yourself-others/covid-19-vaccines/>

Communications

6. ***Communications to staff and families regarding the extended school closures until Feb. 10 were issued as well as information about vaccines.***

Renewal and Capital Construction Work during Provincial Lockdown

7. ***Information released by the Provincial government state that construction projects and services that support the operations of, and provide new capacity in schools and child care centres are permitted to open under the Provincewide Shutdown announced on January 12, 2021.*** Based on this information, construction and related work on TCDSB Capital and Renewal

projects is continuing. All contactors are required to follow Provincial regulations on enhanced public health and workplace safety measures and TCDSB COVID-19 health and safety protocols while working at TCDSB sites.

Technology

8. ***Approximately 2,500 Chromebooks were pre-shipped to all elementary schools in the first week of January to support student needs for remote learning.*** Each elementary school received a base of 5 devices and an increase amount using a fair and equitable distribution plan based on the number of students and socioeconomic factors. The process remained simple for families by contacting the school to make a device request and coordinating a time for pick up. Principals were provided with information and instructions on how to track the assignment and pick-up of pre-shipped devices.
9. ***Over 2,000 Chromebooks that were pre-shipped to elementary schools have already been assigned and picked up by students and families.*** For schools that are running low or have depleted their pre-shipment inventory, ***additional devices are being delivered based on the school needs. Any emergency needs are also being addressed*** such as internet by expeditiously configuring and delivering iPads with internet.
10. ***An additional 500 Chromebooks have been pre-shipped to elementary schools based on additional student needs.*** Regular processing for secondary schools and the St. Anne Academy virtual school continues to flow. There are approximately 2,000 Chromebooks and 800 iPads remaining in supply with the vendor to continue to process and fulfill student device needs.

E. IMPLEMENTATION, STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN

1. ***FAQs continue to be gathered from parent feedback.*** The board continues to provide updates, frequently asked questions and answers on the board website, social media channels, and shared with families via School Messenger.

F. CONCLUDING STATEMENT

This report is for the consideration of the Board.