



REPORT TO

CORPORATE SERVICES, STRATEGIC PLANNING AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE

DELEGATION RESPONSE – COVID RESTRICTIONS

You will be secure, because there is hope; you will look about you and take your rest in safety. Job 11:18

Drafted

March 8, 2022

Meeting Date

March 10, 2022

Shawna Campbell, Executive Field Superintendent

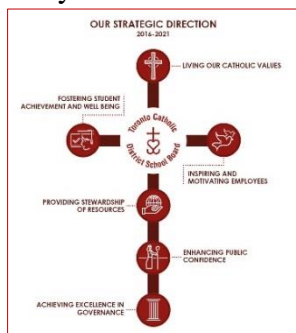
INFORMATION REPORT

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.



Brendan Browne

Director of Education

Adrian Della Mora

Associate Director of Academic
Affairs & Chief Operating Officer

Derek Boyce

Associate Director of Facilities,
Business & Community Development

Ryan Putnam

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A. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A delegation was received at the March 3, 2022 meeting of the Student Achievement Committee concerning Mandating Restrictions. This report summarizes how staff continue to revise workplace health and safety expectations informed by the Ontario Chief Medical Officer of Health, Toronto Public Health, and the Ministry of Education.

The cumulative staff time required to prepare this report was 4 hours

B. PURPOSE

1. This report responds to a delegation from a TCDSB parent at the March 3, 2022, Student Achievement and Well-Being meeting.
2. This report outlines the evolving nature of Covid-19 mitigation strategies and how the TCDSB has implemented applicable Toronto Public Health and Ministry of Education guidance to limit the spread of Covid-19 in our schools.

C. BACKGROUND

1. *Since the onset of the pandemic in March 2020*, TCDSB has continued to follow the guidance of Toronto Public Health (TPH) and Ministry Health officials to ensure the implementation of Covid-19 safety strategies in our schools.
2. *The Board approved that mask be worn indoors for all students JK-12, staff, and visitors, with the exception of those with medical exemptions, until masks are no longer required or recommended in the general population to prevent the spread of Covid-19.* This has been incorporated into the updated TCDSB Reopening Action Plan and Staff Guidelines.
3. *In order for extracurricular activities to resume in schools safely in 2021, TPH outlined high risk activities and provided recommendations for staff to safely implement protocols.* Eating, drinking, singing, and talking in close proximity to others while unmasked were included in these activities. The heightened concerns of transmission of the Omicron virus prompted further

reminders in recent months to ensure masking protocols were implemented where distancing between students was not possible.

4. ***Regular mask breaks are encouraged.*** As children are unmasked during lunch gentle reminders to limit those activities while unmasked were provided. The reminder phrase “no mask, no voice” was recommended by TPH as one of the strategies that could be employed as a gentle reminder of the mask rules to help mitigate high risk activities during brief unmasked periods. Brief, quiet lunches were encouraged to reduce the spreading of respiratory droplets.
5. ***TPH guidance to ensure distancing is maintained during outdoor activities recommends designated zones for each cohort.*** This allows for outdoor play while mitigating the spread of the virus. Recommendations for masking outdoors were given where distancing between cohorts was not possible.

D. EVIDENCE/RESEARCH/ANALYSIS

1. ***Administrators and Teachers have been provided with regular updates*** and implementation strategies to encourage and remind children of safe practices during Covid. Updates on all protocols are shared at regular K-12 Principal meetings, and presentations to principals by Toronto Public Health and TCDSB Health and Safety Department.
2. ***Punitive measures have never been encouraged*** as students are supported through these challenging circumstances. Mask breaks were implemented regularly. Omicron recently heightened concerns and increased mitigation protocols temporarily however all staff have been reminded of reasonable measures and age-appropriate strategies.
3. ***The province is beginning to transition away from covid protocols*** as we emerge from the pandemic. In the coming weeks students will experience decreased restrictions on activities and resumption of typical school life.
4. ***Provincial guidance continues to stress a conservative and cautious approach to existing measures in place at Ontario schools.*** TCDSB will continue to follow the guidance of the province and TPH as the status of the pandemic changes.

E. METRICS AND ACCOUNTABILITY

1. *TCDSB Covid protocols will continue to be updated, eased, and implemented reflecting the latest guidance from TPH and Ontario Ministry of Health.*

F. CONCLUDING STATEMENT

This report is for the information of the Board of Trustees.