

## COVID-19:Update for TDSB Trustee Meeting February 9, 2021



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- COVID-19 data
- Variants of Concern and Schools
- Public health measures to keep schools safe
- Testing recommendations
- COVID-19 vaccine



#### **School Data**

Active	Cumulative	Total Case
Outbreaks	Outbreaks	Counts
In Schools	In schools	In Schools
1	176	1162

- Average Cases per outbreak=6
- Average Outbreak duration= 21.8 days
- For number of cases in schools, please go to <u>the</u> <u>Ministry of Education</u> website
- For Toronto COVID Data, see the TPH website: <u>Status of Cases in Toronto</u>

Data extracted February 9, 2021



#### Figure 2. COVID-19 cases in school-aged children by age group and week,

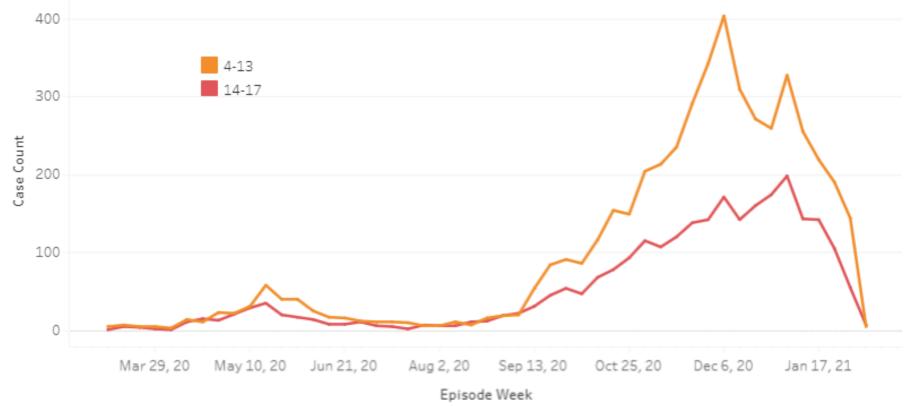




Figure 3. Case rate of COVID-19 per 100,000 population by age group and episode week, Toronto

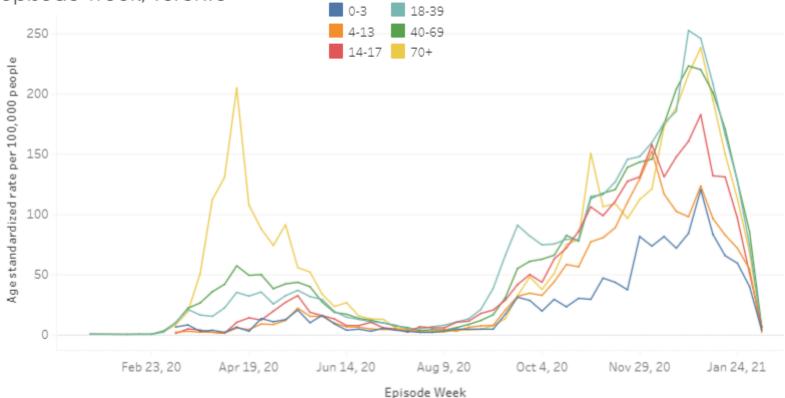
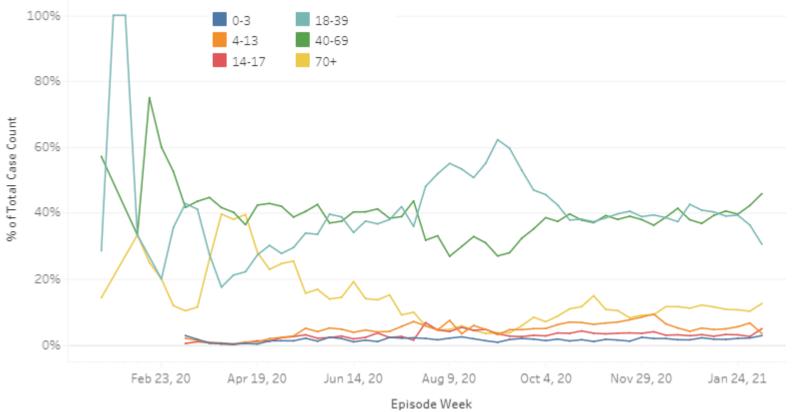




Figure 4. Proportion of COVID-19 cases by age group and episode week, Toronto





#### COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2) Variants

#### **SARS-CoV-2** Variants

#### **About Variants**

New variants of SARS-CoV-2 or COVID-19 have been reported in the news in recent weeks.

- Viruses constantly change through mutations
- New variants of a virus are expected to occur over time.
- Sometimes new variants emerge and disappear, and sometimes they emerge and persist
- New variants may lead to either decreases or increases in severity of illness, frequency of death, and how easily the virus spreads.



### **COVID-19 Variants**

### UPDATE ON VARIANTS OF CONCERNS (VOC) See next slide

UK VOC 202012/01, B.1.1.7 with 7 amino acid substitutions

South Africa VOC 501Y.V2, B.1.351 IC-0433 with 7 amino acid substitutions

Isolate from travelers from Brazil, B.1.1.248

IC-0561 with 12 amino acid substitutions

There are potentials of other emerging variants

From: PHO



### **NOVEL (SARS-CoV-2) Variants**

Concerns:

SARS-CoV-2 Variants

- 个 Transmissibility

- $\downarrow$  Vaccine efficacy (vaccine escape mutants)
- ↓ Detection (diagnostic escape mutants)
- Implications:
  - 个Cases 个Hospitalizations 个Deaths
  - Effectiveness of interventions directly (e.g., vaccine escape mutants) and indirectly (e.g. 个 transmissibility)
  - Vaccination strategy?

Early evidence suggested higher transmissibility in children, that does not seem to be the case right now.



**NOVEL (SARS-CoV-2) Variants - Update on COVID-19 Projections from Science Table** 

### Key Findings of modelling by Science Table- related to schools

- The new variant of concern (UK variant) is spreading in Ontario and is a significant threat to control the pandemic.
- Modelling and international examples suggest that maintaining health interventions will support continued reductions in cases, even with a return to school.



#### How to we help keep schools safe from COVID-19 Variants

- Continue and stay vigilant with public health and IPAC measures -screening, masking, hand hygiene, physical distancing of 6 feet two meters, ventilation and cleaning and disinfection.
- Continue to encourage all to stay home if they are sick and go for testing if they have COVID-19 symptoms.
- If a VOC is identified in a school, intensive case and contact management



### **Public Health Measures in School**

#### Screening – staff, students, visitors

	Date:	тт	îme:
1. Does the student have any	of the following new	or worsening	symptoms?*
Fever > 37.8°C	Cough Diffic	ulty breathing	to D Loss of taste
Feeling unwell, muscle aches		No Discontinue	
If "YES" to any symptom: Stay h & self-	ome isolate + 🕦 G	et Or	Contact a health care provider
2. Is there a child or sibling in	n your household wh	o has one or mo	ore Yes No
2. Is there a child or sibling in of the above symptoms? 3. Has the student travelled			
of the above symptoms? 3. Has the student travelled	outside of Canada in	the past 14 day	
of the above symptoms? 3. Has the student travelled 4. Has the student been not	outside of Canada In fied as a close contac	the past 14 day ct of someone	Yes No

Cleaning and Disinfection **Frequent cleaning** of surfaces

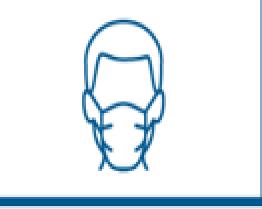
## Physical Distancing **Between** Cohorts Stay 2 m (6 ft) apart or wear a mask. **Healthy Habits**



Wash hands with scap and water.

#### **Keeping students** in cohorts

#### Student/Staff/Visitor Face Mask Use



#### Ventilation in classrooms

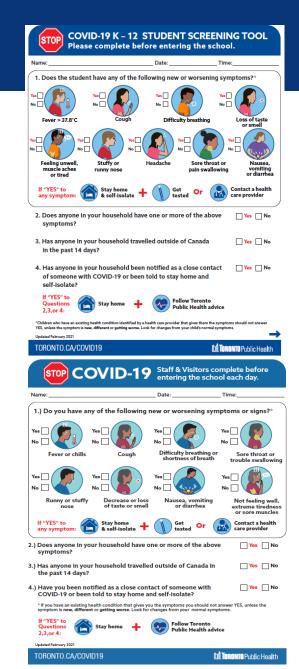


#### **School Screening Tools**



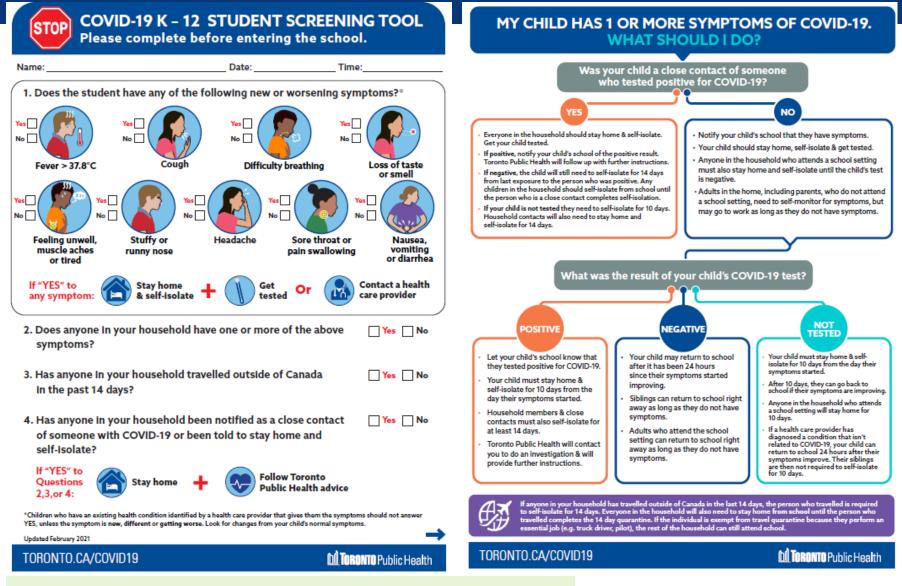
Screening tool changes for both Student and Staff/Visitor Screening

- Symptom list remains the same for students/staff
- In effect as of February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021
- Will also be checked to ensure completed each day.



#### **International Toronto** Public Health

### **Student** (JK-12) Screening Tool

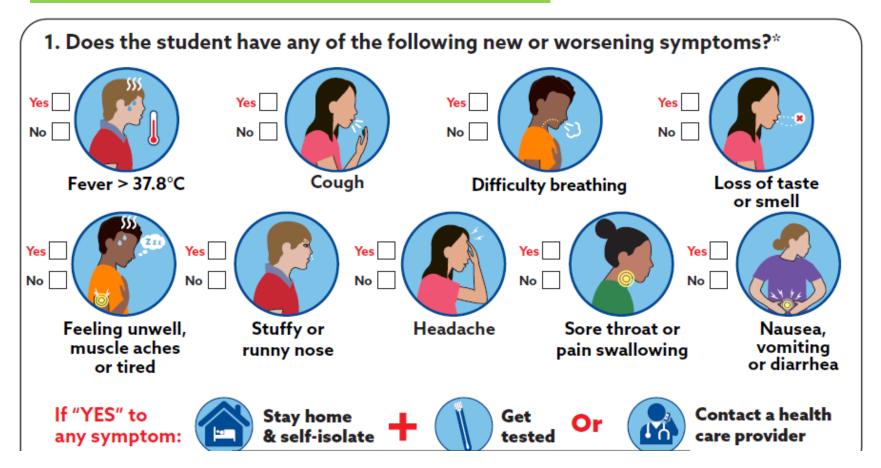


Link to student screening <u>questionnaire</u> and <u>poster</u>



#### **Student** (JK-12) Screening Tool

#### Symptoms remain the same

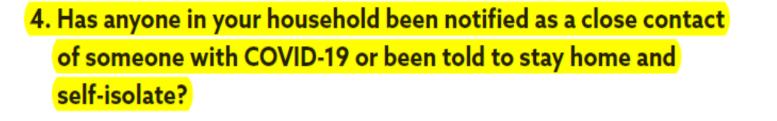




#### **Student (JK-12)** Screening Change highlighted in Yellow

2. Does anyone in your household have one or more of the above symptoms?

3. Has anyone in your household travelled outside of Canada in the past 14 days?





Yes

Yes

No

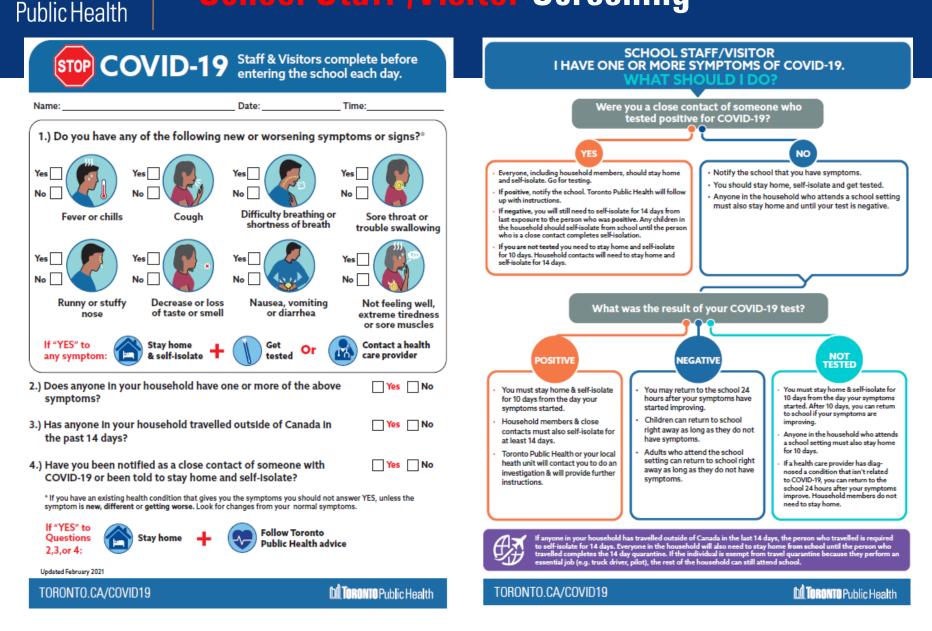
No



\*Children who have an existing health condition identified by a health care provider that gives them the symptoms should not answer YES, unless the symptom is new, different or getting worse. Look for changes from your child's normal symptoms.

### School Staff /Visitor Screening

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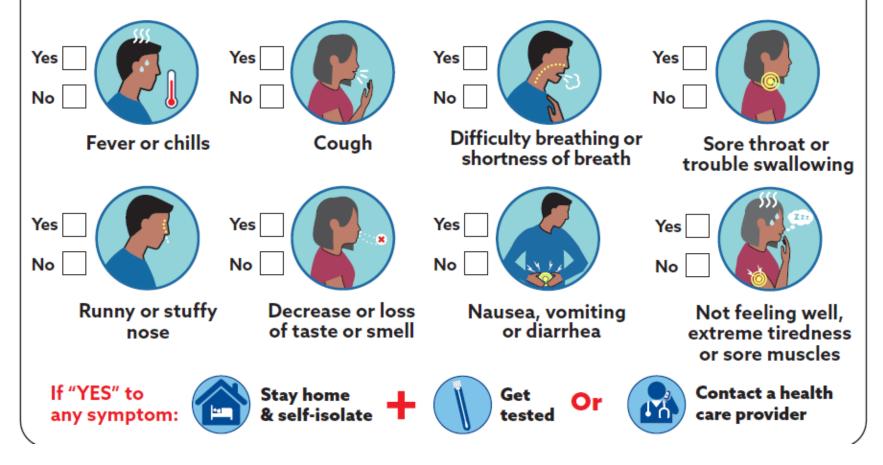
Link to school staff/visitor screening <u>questionnaire</u> and <u>poster</u>



### **School Staff /Visitor Screening**

#### Symptoms remain the same

1.) Do you have any of the following new or worsening symptoms or signs?\*





No

No

No

Yes

Yes

Yes

2.) Does anyone in your household have one or more of the above symptoms?

**DI TORONTO** 

**Public Health** 

3.) Has anyone in your household travelled outside of Canada in the past 14 days?

4.) Have you been notified as a close contact of someone with COVID-19 or been told to stay home and self-isolate?

\* If you have an existing health condition that gives you the symptoms you should not answer YES, unless the symptom is **new**, **different** or **getting worse**. Look for changes from your normal symptoms.





### **Prevention Measures: Face Masks**

#### THE BEST MASK IS THE ONE THAT FITS WELL



TORONTO.CA/COVID19

M TORONTO Public Health

https://www.toronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/94f0-The-Best-Mask-that-Fits-Well.pdf



# Stay-at-home except to attend school or work

- Students can attend school each day, but should not gather with others, even those in their cohort.
- Continue to support stay-at-home measures to keep schools as safe as possible.
- Stay at home except to attend school, exercise outdoors or for healthcare appointments.
- Limit contact outside of school to only the people you live with.



**Testing in Schools** 

### Testing is one tool to help monitor COVID-19 in the school setting and keep schools safe.



#### **COVID-19 Testing in Schools – Fall/ Winter** 2020

Two types of COVID-19 Testing strategies that took place in Toronto Schools in Fall/Winter 2020

- 1) Ministry of Education School Wide Testing
- 4 week pilot in schools identified in Peel, York, Ottawa and Toronto
- For schools in Toronto, TPH identified the school based on the following criteria: multiple cases of COVID-19 with an unknown source and unclear epidemiologic links and/or where multiple cohorts had been dismissed from the school.
- 2) Co-ordinated testing- TPH work with Ontario Health and testing partners to organize testing opportunities when a cohort is dismissed by TPH due to high risk exposure.



#### School Testing Update: MOE pilot

#### Phase 1: Schoolwide Testing Summary November 23<sup>rd</sup> to Dec 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Total Schools recommended for testing as part of MEDU:	Total number of individuals recommended for expanded testing:	Total number of individuals tested:
18	Toronto Region schools	2878 students, 558 staff*

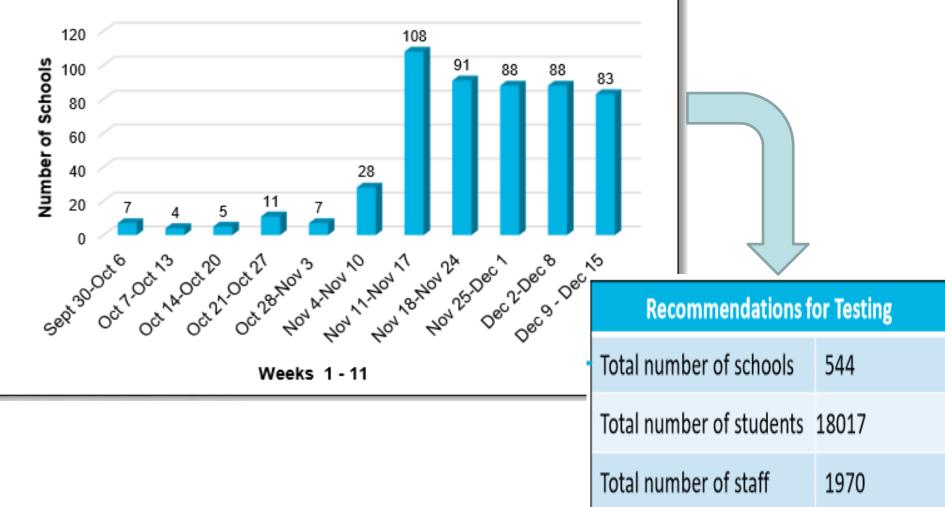


- Average of 607 students per school (range 195 to 1,116) recommended for expanded testing.
- Testing uptake:
  - Students: median 31% (range 4.8 to 95.0%)
  - Staff: median 54%
- Overall positivity rate for students:
  - median 1.2% (range from 0 to 11%)
- Positivity rates varied across schools. Several schools had no positive student cases while others had higher positivity rates. School positivity rates tended to reflect community rates.



#### School Testing Update: Coordinated Testing Sept- Dec 2020

#### Number of Schools Recommended for Testing by TPH\*





**Testing recommendations** 

#### Symptomatic Testing

- Students and staff who have even one mild symptom of COVID-19
- Household members who have even one mild symptom



#### **Toronto Public Health's Asymptomatic Targeted Testing Recommendations**

Asymptomatic testing:

- TPH continues to recommend large amounts of asymptomatic testing related to schools.
- TPH collaborates with testing partners to coordinate testing for all high-risk cohorts.
- Over 550 cohorts were supported in the Fall using this testing program.



**Toronto Public Health's Asymptomatic Targeted Testing Recommendations** 

COVID-19 testing in schools occurs following:

- Case and contact investigations (including dismissed cohorts)
- Outbreak management (including whole school testing when recommended).



**Toronto Public Health's Asymptomatic Targeted Testing Recommendations** 

Expanded testing (whole school asymptomatic testing) may be recommended if:

- a) Case(s) in the school with unknown acquisition OR
- b) Multiple cohorts were dismissed OR
- c) Confirmed case identified with a variant of concern.



Learnings on testing in schools

- Low uptake of testing overall
- Take-home, mobile, on-site testing and reminders to parents and one to one consultation with families supports higher testing uptake.
- Less invasive testing options are preferred in school settings, such as saliva or oral/nose.



Areas to address for testing

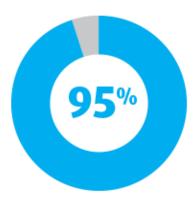
- Reduce barriers to testing (location, time, stigma, type of test, increased access to income replacement, job security etc.)
- Better access to testing
- Testing access and turn around for symptomatic students (so public health can take timely action if positive, or they return to school quickly if negative)
- Communication to parents, staff and administrators to increase uptake



### **COVID-19 Vaccines**









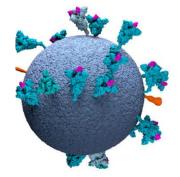
Approved by Health Canada

Met safety & quality standards 94-95% effective in large trials 2 dose schedule

## Public Health COVID-19 Vaccines for use in Canada

Manufacturer	Pfizer	Moderna
Approved by Health Canada	9 Dec. 2020	23 Dec. 2020
Age Eligibility	16 years +	18 years +
2-Dose Schedule	21 days apart	28 days apart
Potential Allergens	Polyethylene glycol (PEG)	Polyethylene glycol Tromethamine

## Public Health How the vaccine works...



- These proteins will stimulate our body to start making antibodies against COVID-19
- The mRNA breaks down and is removed from our body within days
- The vaccine does not contain the virus, so it cannot give us COVID-19

## Public Health What is in the vaccine...

The vaccine is made up of:

- messenger RNA (mRNA)
- lipid molecules, including polyethylene glycol
- salts, sugars and buffers (tromethamine)

Both vaccines do not contain gelatin (pork), preservatives, formaldehyde, thimerosal, aluminum, latex, antibiotics, virus, animal or human cells.



### **Common Side Effects**

As with any medication or vaccine, there may be some side effects:

- pain, redness & swelling at injection site
- headache, fatigue
- muscle ache, joint pain
- fever, chills, nausea, vomiting



- under arm swelling or tenderness (in Moderna vaccine)
- less common is enlarged lymph nodes

The effects will last only a few days.

## Public Health Ontario's Distribution Plan as of Feb 02

Phase 1 Dec 2020 to Mar 2021	Phase 2 Mar 2021 to July 2021	Phase 3 Aug 2021 onwards
<ul> <li>health care workers</li> <li>hospital employees</li> <li>residents and staff of LTCH, RH &amp; congregate settings</li> <li>essential caregivers</li> <li>adults in Indigenous communities</li> <li>344,615 doses administered</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>all health care workers</li> <li>residents in LTCHs, RHs, etc.</li> <li>home care patients</li> <li>shelters, community living</li> <li>Indigenous communities</li> <li>older adults, 80+</li> <li>frontline essential workers</li> </ul>	all Ontarians

#### https://covid-19.ontario.ca/covid-19-vaccines-ontario

## Public Health The race to save lives...

#### As of February 8, 2021:

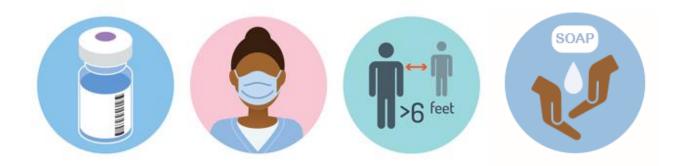
- 134 million doses of COVID-19 vaccine have been given in 64 countries.
- United States has given 32.8 million doses.
- Countries with the highest vaccination rates are Israel, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, Bahrain, United States, Italy & Germany

https://www.bloomberg.com/graphics/covid-vaccine-tracker-global-distribution/ https://ourworldindata.org/covid-vaccinations



### **Public Health Measures**

Vaccines are one of many tools we have to fight the COVID-19 pandemic. It will take time before we have enough vaccine to get everyone vaccinated.



We still need to wear a mask, keep our distance and wash our hands frequently.

Taken from US CDC



### **Trusted Sources of Information**

- Toronto Public Health
- Ontario Health
- Telehealth Ontario: 1-866-797-0000
- Government of Canada
- Your healthcare provider



### If you have more questions:

Schools and parents/caregivers can also call us at **416-338-7600** Contact Toronto Public Health 8:30 a.m. – 8 p.m. **416-338-7600** 

TTY: 416-392-0658 Email: <u>PublicHealth@toronto.ca</u>

## **Description Toronto** Public Health

#### COVID-19 Guidance: Elementary & Secondary Schools

Last updated: November 4, 2020 at 5:55 p.m.

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Toronto Public Health partnered with Maple Leaf Sports and Entertainment (MLSE) to raise awareness about ways we can reduce the spread of COVID-19. Find out what local athletes and coaches have to say about staying healthy in unprecedented times <sup>(i)</sup>, why we need to watch our distance <sup>(i)</sup> and wearing your mask at school <sup>(i)</sup>.

On June 19, the Government of Ontario released its safety plan for the resumption of class for the 2020-21 school year <sup>(2)</sup>, outlining scenarios for how students, teachers and staff can safely return to classrooms in September. On July 30, the Government of Ontario released further plans for the safe re-opening of schools in September <sup>(2)</sup>.

Download Toronto Public Health's Guidance for Reopening Schools in (JK to 12) (also available below and in French in) and COVID-19 Prevention Checklist for Schools JK to Grade 12 in (also available below and in French in).

The Planning Guide for Schools in identifies issues and critical elements of emergency preparedness that organizations should consider in planning for a pandemic.

The Government of Ontario provides a daily update on COVID-19 cases reported in schools and child care centres (\*).

Also read Toronto Public Health's follow-up Instructions for school children, staff and visitors tested for COVID-19 (also available in French im).

	Expand All +	Collapse Ali —
Guidance for Re-Opening Schools JK to Grade 12		+
Checklist for Schools JK to Grade 12		+
COVID-19 Contact List for Schools		+
COVID-19 School Decision Guides		+
Back to School Confirmation Form		+
School Screening Tools		+
Student Nutrition Programs		+
Resources for Schools JK to Grade 12		+
Liaison Public Health Nurses		+
Information for Parents		+

#### We encourage schools to check toronto.ca/COVID19SchoolInfo

as new information is posted regularly.



### **Thank You!**

### Thank you for working to keep our school communities safe !

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