

September 14, 2021

Memorandum to: Directors of Education
Secretary/Treasurers of School Authorities

From: Nancy Naylor
Deputy Minister

Subject: **COVID-19 Vaccination Educational Video and School-Focused Vaccination Clinics**

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to ensuring that students and staff can return to a more normal, full-time, safer, in-person learning environment this fall. The purpose of this memo is to provide an update on the COVID-19 immunization disclosure policy and school-focused vaccination clinics.

COVID-19 Vaccination Educational Video:

As part of the government's COVID-19 immunization disclosure policy, individuals who are not vaccinated without a documented medical reason or those who choose not to disclose their vaccination status are required to undergo regular rapid antigen testing. These individuals are also required to participate, outside of working hours, in an educational program about the safety and efficacy of COVID-19 vaccines.

We are pleased to share with you a video for use in the COVID-19 vaccination educational programs. While we support individuals to seek out other credible sources of information about COVID-19 and COVID-19 vaccines, this video will meet expectations associated with the educational program requirement of the COVID-19 immunization disclosure policy. The video is available in French and English as well as American Sign Language (ASL) and Langue des signes québécoise (LSQ).

The video was produced by the Ministry of Education in collaboration with 19 to Zero, an independent, non-profit organization representing a coalition of academics, public health experts, behavioural economists and creative professionals. 19 to Zero works to engage and educate people on the scientific evidence around COVID-19 and COVID-19 vaccines. We have also partnered with Dr. Danielle Martin, a family doctor who is the incoming Chair at the Department of Family and Community Medicine at the University of Toronto and an internationally recognized health educator. The video is evidence-based and serves to educate individuals on the importance, safety and efficacy of COVID-19 vaccination.

Here are links to the videos:

- [COVID-19 Vaccination Information for Educators](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccination Information for Educators \(with ASL interpretation\)](#)

- [Informations sur le vaccin contre la COVID-19 à l'intention des éducateurs](#)
- [Informations sur le vaccin contre la COVID-19 à l'intention des éducateurs \(avec interprétation en LSQ\)](#)

School boards are encouraged to plan a way for individuals to provide proof that they have completed the educational session, where required. Options could include having the person sign a form digitally or in-person saying that they completed the educational session (i.e., an attestation).

School-Focused Vaccination Clinics

As Ontario continues with its vaccination program and rollout, the province's number one priority remains getting as many Ontarians vaccinated as possible. We know that many school boards have been working with their local public health unit(s) to host and promote school-focused clinics prior to and leading into the school year. Through your efforts, over 550 vaccine clinics in or nearby elementary and secondary schools are operational or are being planned for the near future to administer vaccines and support and protect communities against COVID-19.

Although Ontario's vaccine rollout continues to reach individuals aged 12 and over with first and second doses, greater vaccination coverage is required to provide protection against COVID-19 and variants. To date, more than 77% of youth aged 12-17 years old have had their first dose of the vaccine, and more than 66% of youth have been fully vaccinated.

To further increase vaccine uptake, we ask that all school boards continue working closely with their public health unit(s), to have plans in place that would provide opportunities for every student born in 2009 or later to be invited to a school-focused clinic and/or provide opportunities for every secondary school to host school-focused clinics. This includes providing clinics during instructional hours to support all students 12 years old and older, staff and families with ease of access to a vaccine, should they choose to get one. School boards and schools should continue to disseminate information from local public health units on the informed consent process to all students, parents, and guardians prior to hosting/participating in a school-based clinic, and to provide notification on when a school focused vaccination clinic will be hosted by a school.

The progress made to date is inspiring and we remain committed to ensuring a healthy and safe school year. Thank you again, for your ongoing commitment to the students of Ontario.

Sincerely,

Nancy Naylor
Deputy Minister

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Executive Director, Association franco-ontarienne des conseils scolaires catholiques (AFOCSC)
Executive Director, Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association (OCSTA)
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