COVID-19 Update

November 24, 2021

The **following** are the **updates** related to COVID-19 from the past few weeks:

COVID-19 Health & Safety

All TVDSB protocols can be located at:

Direct SharePoint Link: COVID-19 Protocols

Please note: Music Protocol #19 will be updated shortly to reflect the changes outlined in the COVID-19 Health, Safety and Operational Guidance for Schools, Version 4 document.

H&S SharePoint webpage: H&S Share Point Page

NEW! Information/ Clarification:

New Information:

Fall/ Winter 2021-2022 Covid-19 Health and Safety Updates for Schools: On Thursday, November 18, 2021, the Ministry of Education provided an updated version of the COVID-19 Health, Safety and Operational Guidance for Schools (2021-2022) Version 4. A few areas of change to highlight include:

- Changes to the **secondary school regular semester system**, effective February 2022 (p.4)
- Use of **cafeterias and shared spaces** (p. 12)
- **Assembles:** Effective January 2022, elementary in-person school assemblies or other student/school gatherings will not be permitted. Virtual options are to be offered. (p.13)
- **Music programming:** These changes will be reflected in an update to the TVDSB Protocol. Changes can be found on p. 19.

Also, please note the following information was also shared as per Ministry Memo:

- *"Schools and educators are encouraged to support as normal conditions as possible within the classroom cohorts during lunch and breaks (e.g., allowing students to sit in groupings and/ or circles to facilitate engagement and conversation between peers with as much distancing as possible within a cohort)."*
- *"In addition, elementary and secondary schools will be required to* ***implement daily on-site confirmation of screening prior to/upon arrival at school for at least two weeks following the winter break.*** *School boards are encouraged to continue this practice throughout the year, or as prescribed by a local health unit."* Please note that a NEW Elementary Student COVID-19 School and Child

Care Screening Process will begin in early December. More information will be provided to Elementary Administrators to share with staff. Secondary students will continue with the existing process and more information will follow about the two week, daily on-site confirmation to occur in January 2022.

Vaccinations for Students, Age 5-11: As announced recently, Health Canada has approved the Comirnaty COVID-19 vaccine (from Pfizer-BioNTech) for children between the ages of five to eleven. These vaccinations will begin at the local mass vaccination sites. Selected school sites within the MLHU region may be determined where access for TVDSB families is required to eliminate barriers. These clinics will occur outside of school hours and school administration and staff will be notified if their school site is selected.

Rapid Antigen Screening for Students for the Winter Break: The Ministry of Education has also announced a Rapid Antigen Kit take home initiative to support safe return of students after the winter break. These test kits will support all students to complete a **voluntary rapid antigen screening at home prior to the return to the classroom in January.** More information about the implementation and rollout of this initiative will be provided to school administrators and staff shortly.

Reminders/ Action Items:

TVARRIS Coding for Personal Travel – Staff that wish to travel and are unable to attend work due to travel restrictions will be required to use COVID-19 Personal Travel to code their absence. **This code is an unpaid absence.** Please ensure you understand any restrictions prior to your departure.

Sign In for All Visitors for Contact Tracing: Please ensure that all visitors, including TVDSB staff who are visiting a school, have signed in using the written or digital sign in process. School administrators are reminded to ensure that these records are consulted during COVID-19 Confirmed Case contact tracing.

COVID-19 Testing Programs

The following chart is offered to support awareness and knowledge of the various testing programs that exist:

Approach	When Used	Results
Diagnostic PCR **Self** Collection Kit	• Symptomatic • Asymptomatic high risk close contacts 	Need to be confirmed by a lab. Drop off locations will be provided by the Ministry. https://covid19results.ehealthontario.ca:4443/agree
Diagnostic PCR Testing at designated	• Symptomatic • Asymptomatic high risk close contacts	Collected at Assessment Centre

Assessment Centres		and sent to a lab for processing. https://covid19results.ehealthontario.ca:4443/agree
Screening Tool Self-Administered Rapid Antigen Testing Kit	**Staff** • Asymptomatic unvaccinated staff three times per week 	Completed at home results within 20 minutes. (Positive result requires to be confirmed by PCR Test above.)
	Voluntary Student at Home Screening Initiative for Winter Break • As announced by the Ministry of Education, this optional initiative will allow for students to be sent home with a package of 5 Rapid Antigen Tests to complete before returning from winter break. More information to follow about the implementation in TVDSB. 	Completed at home results within 20 minutes. (Positive result requires to be confirmed by a PCR Test above.)

Ontario

Appendix 1: Testing Approaches to Support the Education Sector

	Who	Approach	Objective	Implementation Status
PCR	• **Staff and students** • Symptomatic • Asymptomatic high-risk close contacts	**PCR Self-Collection Kit (Expansion)**	• Expansion to province-wide, building on pilot • Specimen collection at-home to facilitate access to testing; specimen dropped at participating community location	**Announced Oct 28** • All public schools • Active offer for Private and First Nation schools
ANTIGEN	• Required routine antigen screening for asymptomatic, unvaccinated **staff**	**Vaccine Policies**	• Keep kids in school by disrupting asymptomatic transmission by unvaccinated staff • Screening at-home, available province-wide	**Implemented as of Sept 27** • Oct 28 – increased testing frequency to 3x/week
ANTIGEN	• Asymptomatic **students** in high-risk settings	**Surveillance Screening**	• Keep kids in school by disrupting asymptomatic transmission • PHU-initiated based on local risk	**Announced Oct 5** • available at the direction of the local PHU
ANTIGEN	• Unvaccinated **students** • High-risk close contacts after classroom/school exposure	**Test-to-Stay**	• Where initiated by PHU, avoid whole school dismissal by using screening to continue in-class learning	**Announced Oct 28** • Memo issued to PHUs for implementation steps • available at the direction of the local PHU

*In addition to PCR testing available through designated testing facilities (e.g., Assessment Centres, mobile testing, etc)

Vaccinations Update:

TVDSB continues to support pop-up clinics within TVDSB buildings. Please note that more information will be provided about vaccinations for students aged 5-11. This will begin with mass vaccination clinics and there will be a few sites in MLHU which will operate outside of school hours.

To view list of community clinics offered by Middlesex-London Health Unit:
https://www.healthunit.com/pop-up-vaccination-clinics
To view list of community clinics offered by Southwestern Public Health:
https://www.swpublichealth.ca/en/my-health/covid-19-vaccine.aspx

Question/ Answer:

Q: Can a Rapid Antigen Test diagnose me as COVID-19 positive?

A: No, PCR testing is required for a diagnosis.

TVDSB COVID-19 Alert Information:

Confirmed COVID-19 Cases
2021-2022 Summary Breakdown of TVDSB School

Location	Active	Closed	Grand Total
Algonquin Public School	1	7	8
Annandale Public School		1	1
Ashley Oaks Public School		4	4
B. Davison Secondary School	1	1	2
Blenheim District Public School		1	1
Bonaventure Meadows Public School		1	1
Byron Somerset Public School		2	2
Byron Southwood Public School		1	1
C.C. Carrothers Public School		3	3
Caradoc Public School		1	1
Cedar Hollow Public School		1	1
Central Elgin Collegiate Institute		1	1
Clara Brenton Public School		3	3
Clarke Road Secondary School		2	2
College Avenue Secondary School	1	2	3
Davenport Public School		2	2
Delaware Central Public School		1	1
Eagle Heights Public School		3	3
East Elgin Secondary School	1	2	3
East Oxford Central Public School	1	1	2
Eastdale Public School		2	2
Ekcoe Central Public School		2	2
Elgin Court Public School		3	3

Emily Carr Public School		2	2
Evelyn Harrison Public School		2	2
Glen Cairn Public School		1	1
Glencoe District High School		1	1
Glendale High School		9	9
Harrisfield Public School		3	3
Hillcrest Public School (Central)		1	1
Huron Park Secondary School		5	5
Innerkip Central Public School		1	1
J.S. Buchanan French Immersion Public School		1	1
Jack Chambers Public School		1	1
John P. Robarts Public School	1	3	4
John Wise Public School		2	2
Kensal Park Imm. French Public School		8	8
Kettle Creek Public School		1	1
Lambeth Public School		2	2
Laurie Hawkins Public School		2	2
Lester B. Pearson School for Arts		1	1
London Central Secondary School		1	1
Lord Dorchester Secondary School		1	1
Lord Elgin Public School		20	20
Lord Nelson Public School	2		2
Mary Wright Public School		6	6
Masonville Public School		1	1
McGregor Public School		3	3
Medway High School	1		1
Mountsfield Public School		2	2
Northdale Public School (East)		2	2
Oakridge Secondary School	1	2	3
Oliver Stephens Public School		1	1
Oxbow Public School		1	1
Parkside Collegiate Institute		2	2
*Pierre Elliott Trudeau FI Public School		4	4
*Port Burwell Public School	2	6	8
Pr. Anne F.I P.S	1		1
Rick Hansen	1	1	2
Rick Hansen Public School		2	2
Riverside Public School	1	1	2
Roch Carrier French Immersion Public School		1	1
Ryerson Public School		2	2
Saunders Secondary School		3	3
Sir Frederick Banting Secondary School	1	3	4
Sir Wilfrid Laurier Secondary School	1		1
Southside Public School	1	1	2
Springbank Public School		6	6
Stoney Creek Public School		2	2

Straffordville Public School	1	2	3
Summers' Corners Public School	2	1	3
Thamesford Public School		1	1
Valleyview Public School		1	1
W. Sherwood Fox Public School		1	1
West Elgin Secondary School		2	2
*Westfield Public School	1	7	8
Westminster Secondary School		2	2
Wilberforce Public School		15	15
Wilfrid Jury Public School		5	5
Winchester Street Public School		5	5
Woodland Heights P.S	1		1
Woodstock C.I.		1	1
Woodstock Collegiate Institute		1	1
Grand Total	23	211	234

*Note: Outbreak status declared by the Health Unit.

Resources:

- COVID-19 Protocols
- Health, Safety, Operational Guidance for Schools **Version 4 (Updated: November 18, 2021)**
- Southwest Public Health Unit Website
- Middlesex-London Public Health Unit Website
- Ontario School and Child Care Screening Tool **(Updated: October 29, 2021)**

Who to contact?

→ For a **confirmed case of a student/staff member only** in your school (As notified by parent/ staff): School Administration/ Manager/ Supervisors are to contact Linda Nicholls and their respective Superintendent.

→ Hotlines for PHU (Southwest is 519-631-9900 or 1-800-922-0096) (Middlesex-London is 519-663-5317 ext. 9010)

→ PPE Questions are to be directed to School Administrator/ Manager/ Supervisor who would then contact their respective Safety Specialist for your school.

→ If you require additional supply of goggles, please contact your Administrator and requests can be made to the warehouse through the HelpHub. COVID PPE Order Form (Only Administrators have access to place a supplemental COVID PPE Order.)

→ Homewood Health (EFAP): **1-800-663-1142** for speech or hearing impaired: **1-888-384-1152**