

	St. Michael's College School	Pandemic Response
Policy: Student COVID-19 Vaccination		G1.09.06

PURPOSE

At **St. Michael's College School** (the “**School**”) we are committed to providing and maintaining a safe school environment for all. Consistent with this commitment, the School has established this Student COVID-19 Vaccination Policy (the “**Policy**”). **All students will be required to provide proof of vaccination status prior to the commencement of school. The Policy strongly encourages all students at the School that are eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine, to be vaccinated as soon as it becomes available to them.**

The School has prepared this Policy considering reliable scientific evidence, government guidance and protocols and relevant human rights legislation.

The COVID-19 pandemic has been an evolving public health issue in Canada. The School is monitoring guidance from all applicable public health authorities and reserves the right to revise this Policy as determined to be necessary or appropriate. It is recommended that students and their parents/guardians consult with their healthcare provider regarding whether to obtain a COVID-19 vaccination.

BACKGROUND

The objective underlying this Policy is to provide a healthy and safe school environment for students, teachers and staff, and safeguard the broader communities in which they live.

The COVID-19 Science Advisory Table reports that as of August 29, 2021, 99.4 percent of the new cases in the province are the Delta variant. It stated that the Delta variant is more transmissible and may be more dangerous than other variants of COVID-19, including the Alpha variant. The Delta variant is the dominant form of the virus in Ontario. Medical experts warn that as the Delta variant increases significantly in Ontario, unvaccinated populations remain most vulnerable.

Safe and reliable vaccines are an important tool to help stop the spread of COVID-19, build immunity in Ontario and protect our communities. As a school, we have a heightened responsibility to ensure we are doing everything we can to protect our students, staff, and their families.

As many situations at the School involve close contact with other students and staff members, the School strongly recommends that all students (“**Eligible Students**”) be vaccinated. In order to best protect all students, including those who are not able to vaccinated the school requires disclosure of vaccination status.

TIMING

On May 5, 2021, it was announced that individuals in Ontario between 12 and 17 years of age will be eligible to book an appointment through the provincial booking system beginning the week of May 31, 2021, to receive their first dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine. The School encourages all Eligible Students to receive both doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine as soon as it becomes available to them.

PROOF OF VACCINE

Prior to the commencement date of school, all Eligible Students must produce status and proof of vaccination. Proof can be in the form of a copy of the proof of vaccination given at the time of receiving vaccination, or a letter from a medical practitioner, confirming the student has been vaccinated. The School will recognize proof of vaccination from a student's home country, or another country where the student received their vaccination.

The School will only collect, use and disclose information regarding a student's vaccination status in accordance with its Privacy Policy and all applicable privacy laws. Proof of vaccination will be kept in a confidential file, stored in a secure location.

The School recognizes that certain students may be unable to be vaccinated due to a protected ground under the Ontario *Human Rights Code*, such as medical condition or religion/creed.

For those students who are not able to provide proof of vaccination, for a variety of reasons, other measures will be required to ensure the health and well being of all. These will include but not be limited to:

- Regularly scheduled rapid antigen testing.
- Ten day isolation period and COVID test prior to return to school if isolated for being identified as a high risk contact of a suspected or confirmed COVID 19 case. As per direction of the Ministry of Health, fully vaccinated students, who are exposed but asymptomatic, will be able to attend school.
- Some activities and partnerships in cross cohorted settings may be restricted due to increased contacts and/or third party COVID restrictions.

REOPENING PLANS FOR SEPTEMBER 2021

The School has developed its reopening plan for September 2021. The School's reopening plan is intended to support a safe reopening of the School for the 2021/2022 school year and is developed under the following principles:

- Providing a safe and healthy school environment for students, teachers and staff, as safeguarding the broader communities in which they live;

- Providing a consistently high-quality education for all students;
- Addressing potential gaps in student learning, mental health and well-being arising from the closure of in-person learning in 2020/2021;
- Maintaining close communications with and respecting opinions and authority of parents and reducing barriers to returning to work;
- Working diligently to open the School for conventional in-person delivery of teaching and instruction, five days a week;
- Adopting timetabling methods that emphasize cohorting of students as much as possible, to limit the number of direct and indirect student-to-student contacts; and
- Ensuring specialised teachers, such as French teachers, will be able to go into classrooms to provide the full breadth of programming for students.

The School's reopening plan will be informed by Ministry of Education guidance and/or direction regarding health and safety protocols and procedures for the resumption of in-person learning.

ANTIGEN TESTING PROGRAM

To promote the safest possible environment for its students, the School is participating in the province's AT HOME Antigen Testing Program. The School's testing program is supported by Creative Destruction Lab ("CDL") located at the Rotman School of Management at the University of Toronto and is part of a consortium of other independent schools and organizations. There is no cost to the School or our families for these tests at this time.

The antigen test is a non-invasive, frontal nasal swab that is administered at home by students or parents, takes approximately five minutes plus some wait time for the result, and will be required at least twice a week.

The program will be introduced in stages. Initially, the School will require any Eligible Student who does not provide proof of being fully vaccinated to participate in this program. A Parental Consent form for participating in the Antigen Testing Program will be provided.

Failure to provide proof of vaccination of Eligible Students or to participate in the Antigen Testing Program will result in the student being provided remote on-line access to the classroom. These students will not be permitted on campus or any in-person student activities.