

November 25, 2021

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

From: Nancy Naylor
Deputy Minister

Subject: **Communication Resources to Support Vaccinations for Children 5-11**

Thank you for your ongoing partnership and continued efforts to date in supporting vaccination efforts for children and youth.

On November 19, 2021, Health Canada approved the paediatric Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine for children aged 5 to 11. The Ontario government, in consultation with the Chief Medical Officer of Health and other health experts, will begin to offer the paediatric Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine to children aged 5 to 11 starting November 23rd. Ontario is expected to receive more than 1,000,000 doses of paediatric Pfizer COVID-19 vaccines in the first shipment from the federal government. This is enough to provide a first dose to all children in the 5 to 11 cohort in Ontario. The 5 to 11 vaccination roll out is the last major initiative to protect children, keep children in school, and get Ontario back on track to normalcy.

Vaccines will be available through familiar channels such as select doctors' offices, hospitals, pharmacies and school-based clinics. School-based clinics will be hosted by Public Health Units (PHUs) with the support of publicly funded school boards, but will be available to all school-aged children in the region the clinic supports.

To support high vaccine uptake, and help alleviate vaccine hesitancy and create an experience that is welcoming for children and their families, the government is asking all school boards to:

- Work with local PHUs to have plans in place to host vaccination clinics in or near schools beginning this calendar year, and to prioritize the use of school space for this purpose;
- Address local and regional needs by ensuring strong collaboration with parents, students, parent representatives, parent involvement committee chairs and school councils; and
- Frequently communicate with parents and families and share facts from local PHUs and pointing them towards credible information.

To support vaccination efforts, the Ministry of Education, in partnership with the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health and Ministry of Health, hosted an information

session on November 19 regarding COVID-19 vaccination readiness planning for children aged 5 to 11 years old.

The ministry is now sharing a number of materials to help students and families make an informed decision. We encourage you to use the following resources for communication with your school communities:

1. Letter from the Chief Medical Officer of Health (OCMOH) that can be provided to your school communities. Attached in English and French.

2. [Webpage](#) containing materials and information for children and youth vaccination: [COVID-19 vaccines for children and youth | COVID-19 \(coronavirus\) in Ontario](#)

Local PHUs may also provide communication materials that support your local school communities.

The government encourages school boards to bring forward resources from your schools, communities and partners to support success during this roll-out. As part of your continued work with your local public health units and partners, we ask that you consider how you can create a vaccination experience that is welcoming for students, supports their well-being, and addresses the unique needs of students and their families.

As a reminder, the ministry is providing temporary COVID-19 funding supports, with more than \$1.6 billion in resources available to school boards throughout the year. Information on COVID-19 funding supports for the 2021-22 school year, including funding amounts by school board can be found in memorandum [2021:B07](#) *Planning for the 2021-22 School Year*. In addition, in recognition of the additional work school boards are undertaking to support the successful and safe roll out of the instructions issued by the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health, school boards may use up to five per cent of the staffing allocation from the COVID-19 funding to support COVID-19 related implementation costs.

We know that work is underway with your local public health units to plan for the vaccine roll-out. We encourage you to reach out and share successful practices amongst boards to build on the progress to date. Should you have any questions, please contact Julia Danos, Executive Lead, Reopening Secretariat at julia.danos@ontario.ca.

Thank you again for your ongoing partnership and continued efforts to date in supporting vaccination efforts for the education sector.

Sincerely,

Nancy Naylor
Deputy Minister

c: Dr. Kieran Moore, Chief Medical Officer of Health of Ontario
Board COVID-19 Leads
Executive Director, Association des conseils scolaires des écoles publiques de l'Ontario (ACÉPO)
Executive Director, Association franco-ontarienne des conseils scolaires catholiques (AFOCSC)
Executive Director, Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association (OCSTA)
Executive Director, Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA)
Executive Director, Council of Ontario Directors of Education (CODE)
Executive Director and Secretary-Treasurer, Association des enseignantes et des enseignants franco-ontariens (AEFO)
General Secretary, Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association (OECTA)
General Secretary, Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario (ETFO)
General Secretary, Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation (OSSTF)
Chair, Ontario Council of Educational Workers (OCEW)
Chair, Education Workers' Alliance of Ontario (EWAO)
Co-ordinator, Canadian Union of Public Employees – Ontario (CUPE-ON)
Executive Director, Association des directions et directions adjointes des écoles franco-ontariennes (ADFO)
Executive Director, Catholic Principals' Council of Ontario (CPCO)
Executive Director, Ontario Principals' Council (OPC)