



November 28, 2021

Good Afternoon Monarch Park Students and Families:

Happy SNOWY Sunday!

This past week, we held our Grade 8 orientation night. We were so happy to share our school with our incoming families. A thank you to our guidance and student success departments for supporting this evening. We also had our School Council meeting this past Tuesday. We look forward to our next meeting on January 12, @ 7PM – all our welcome.

Wishing you a wonderful week ahead.

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### COMMUNITY SAFETY

Please continue to be cautious when crossing streets and during drop off and pick up from school. We have a busy street with many from our community passing through the front of the school. We ask that we all do our part to ensure that we are mindful of crossings, those cycling, and while dropping off students.

### LOCKERS

Plans are currently underway to begin assigning lockers to students. There are some lockers that do have locks on them. We ask that all these be removed by any students who had not removed them. Requests had gone out last year for any outstanding locks to be removed. Any locks still found on lockers will be removed by staff ahead of assigning new lockers.

### LUNCH

Winter is upon us and that means more students are eating indoors for their lunch break. We have noticed an increase in waste left behind on the floors in the locker bays and in the cafeteria. Please know that we all must do our part to keep our school clean, and this means taking extra care to pick up waste after lunch and placing it in near-by garbage bins. As well, we must continue to do our part to make sure that we are practicing appropriate social distancing while taking masks off to eat.

### MINISTRY UPDATE

The Ministry of Education shared a number of updates to support the health and safety of students and school communities across Ontario. The TDSB will review these in more detail and more information will be provided as it pertains to our work in the TDSB. You can read the full media release [here](#), but some of the key highlights are:

- Secondary schools are able to return to a regular semester model, starting in February 2022.



- All Ontario public school students will be sent home with [five rapid COVID-19 tests](#) to use over the holidays and throughout the return to in-person learning.
- The Ministry also reminded families to review the established [federal international travel policies](#) – including the [guidelines for unvaccinated, school-aged children](#) – in advance of the December break in an effort to prevent absences in January related to post-travel requirements.

As we receive more information, we will provide info to our school community.

### STUDENT (AGED 12+) VACCINATION REQUIREMENT AND WINTER SPORTS

Sports and other activities are important to students' mental and physical health and overall school experience and TDSB staff have been working over the past several weeks to safely re-introduce some school sports and teams. Many families, students and staff have had questions regarding the re-introduction of sports and student vaccination.

The TDSB has made a decision to require all students aged 12+ to be fully vaccinated to participate in winter sports (e.g. basketball, ice hockey, swimming, etc.) that involve competition between schools, mixing of students and travel to other TDSB schools and/or external venues. For students participating in sports that occur only within their school and only with students from their school, vaccination is recommended but not required at this time.

This decision is consistent with recommendations from Toronto Public Health and has been made with the health and safety of students and staff in mind, as getting vaccinated helps ensure strong protection against COVID-19. The TDSB decision also follows other school boards that require student vaccination to participate in sports.

Additionally, many sports competitions and finals take place at facilities in Toronto where a vaccine mandate is already in place. In these cases, all students are required to show proof of vaccination to enter the building and would not be able to access the facility to participate if unvaccinated.

Students will be required to upload proof of vaccination to the Service Now App (see instructions below) to participate on any inter-school team. In rare cases where a student is unable to be vaccinated, we will work with Toronto Public Health and staff to develop a process to support these students so they can safely participate where possible.

With approval of the COVID-19 vaccine for 5-11 year olds now approved, staff will continue to follow the guidance and recommendations provided by Toronto Public Health and establish any additional vaccination requirements for this age group as necessary.

Further information and details will be provided to families and students when available. Thank you for your continued understanding and partnership.



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Instructions: How to Attest to Being Vaccinated

How to Attest to Being Vaccinated via App on your Smartphone

- Log into the TDSB Health Screening App
- Click on the "My Vaccination Status" menu item, followed by "Update Vaccination Status"
- Carefully read each question and answer appropriately
- Upload proof of vaccination\* (vaccine dose administration receipts or equivalent documents)
- Click on "Add Attachment" to upload proof of vaccination

How to Attest to Being Vaccinated via Health Screening Web Portal

- Access "Safe Return to School and Work" Portal via <https://tdsb.service-now.com/tswp>
- Click on the "My Vaccination Status" button, followed by "Update Vaccination Status"
- Carefully read each question and answer appropriately
- Upload proof of vaccination\* (vaccine dose administration receipts or equivalent documents)
- Click on "Add Attachment" to upload proof of vaccination

## TAMIL HERITAGE MONTH

Tamil Heritage Month is proudly recognized in January nationally since October 2016, provincially since March 2004 and by the TDSB since 2016. This coincides with one of the most important festivals celebrated by Tamils in South Asia and all over the world. Traditionally, during this month, Tamils, irrespective of their religion, celebrate Thai Pongal, a harvest festival that offers prayers of thanks to the sun and nature for giving bountiful crops. The theme for this year is: Our Histories. Our Legacies. Our Homelands. (எமது வரலாறுகள். எமது மரபுகள். எமது தாயகங்கள்).

All TDSB students are invited to participate in the Tamil Heritage Month Poster Challenge.

Deadline: Friday, December 10, 2021 by 3:00 pm. It must be sent to

[tdsbTamilHeritageMonth@gmail.com](mailto:tdsbTamilHeritageMonth@gmail.com) in a .pdf or .jpeg format with the student name, grade, email and contact phone #.

Full details with the contest guidelines are available in the [attached document](#).

## SWITCH BETWEEN IN-PERSON OR VIRTUAL LEARNING

As you know, all TDSB students selected either in-person or virtual learning for the 2021-22 school year. At the time of selection, we communicated that there would be one opportunity to switch between in-person and virtual learning in February 2022.

In order to plan ahead for students to switch between in-person and virtual learning for Semester 2 in February 2022, parents/caregivers and students requesting a change must complete a Switch Form between November 29 and December 6, 2021. Students who do not wish to make a change do not need to complete a form.



If you are considering a switch, please speak with your child before submitting a Switch Form. We expect that parents/guardians with shared decision-making responsibilities will come to an agreement before completing the form.

We recognize that we are asking for this decision well in advance of February and thank you for your understanding, as this process takes time to complete. While we cannot guarantee that all switch requests will be met, it is our goal to accommodate as many as possible based on available programs and space (e.g. French Immersion, Extended French, Specialized Programs, Alternative Schools, other limited circumstances).

Students who switch learning models will begin attending Semester 2 classes on February 3, 2022.

For more information, please visit [www.tdsb.on.ca/switchform](http://www.tdsb.on.ca/switchform)

### TDSB CONNECTS

Please be advised that the Family Edition of today's TDSB Connects has been posted on the TDSB Webpage – [News – Newsletters](#).

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

### TPH AND COVID-19 PROTOCOLS

Ensuring the health and safety of our students and staff is a priority and everyone plays a role. Toronto Public Health has made updates its [COVID-19 screening for students/children in childcares and JK to Grade 12 schools](#). Please use this updated version when conducting your daily screening before coming to school.

Here is the revised [TDSB Health Pass](#) paper version and these updates are reflected in the TDSB Health Screening App.

### FROM MICHAEL GARRON HOSPITAL

- 1) Vaccine FAQ handout and additional resources **(NEW)**
  - Kids Vaccine Town Hall with Joe Cressy and Dr. Janine McCready Date: Monday, November 29, 2021  
Time: 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM  
Please register in advance: [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_7QpwPsX2Ra6ptY\\_mHx1TuA](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_7QpwPsX2Ra6ptY_mHx1TuA) **(NEW)**
  - Video of [MGH's Community Q&A on the COVID-19 Vaccine for Children Aged 5-11](#) (Michael Garron Hospital)
  - [General FAQ flyer about the COVID-19 vaccine](#). The FAQ is also available [online](#). (ETHP)
  - [Information about the COVID-19 vaccine and fertility](#) from MGH and ETHP experts. (ETHP and Michael Garron Hospital)



- [Fact Sheet for COVID-19 Vaccines for Children and Youth](#) (Ministry of Health)
- [FAQ About the COVID-19 mRNA Vaccines for Children](#) (University of Waterloo)
- [COVID-19: Information About Children and Vaccines](#) (Toronto Public Health)
- [FAQ About the Paediatric Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccine](#) (Ministry of Health)
- [How to Prepare Your Child for Their COVID-19 Vaccine](#) (East Toronto Health Partners)
- [Tips for Easing Children's Fears About Getting the COVID-19 Vaccine](#) (Toronto Public Health)
- [Reduce the Pain of Vaccination in Kids and Teens: A Guide for Parents](#) (Immunize Canada)
- [Flyer for Promoting COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic for Children Aged 5-11 at Thorncliffe Park Community Hub](#) (East Toronto Health Partners)
- [Comfort Positions for Vaccinating Children](#) (East Toronto Health Partners)
- [COVID-19 Vaccine Consult Service](#) (SickKids)
- [How to Call the Province to Book a Vaccine Appointment – Available in Multiple Languages](#) (Ministry of Health)
- Additional multilingual resources from [Women's College Hospital](#) and [City of Toronto](#).

2) Flu vaccines (**Update**)

- Anyone five years of age and older can get their flu vaccine at Eglinton Square Shopping Centre. Please see the dates and times for upcoming weeks:
  - November 24-30: Open every day except Sunday from 10:15 a.m. to 6 p.m. Registration ends at 5:45 p.m. – please arrive before this time to ensure you receive a vaccine.
  - December 1-24, 26-31 (Closed on December 25): Open Monday to Saturday from 10:15 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday from 11:15 a.m. to 6 p.m. Registration ends at 5:45 p.m. – please arrive before this time to ensure you receive a vaccine.
- Walk-ins welcome, no appointments needed. Health card not needed. Healthcare staff are available to answer your questions about the flu vaccine and COVID-19 vaccine.
- The flu vaccine is the best way to protect yourself and your loved ones from the flu and its potentially serious complications.
- [Learn more about the flu vaccine](#) and [see a list of locations in East Toronto offering the flu vaccine](#).

3) First, second and third (booster) doses: Vaccines at Shoppers World Danforth, Gerrard Square, Eglinton Square (**update**)

- Individuals aged 12 and up who need their first dose, second doses or booster dose can visit these clinics by walk-in and appointment. [See all locations and hours](#).
- Appointments can be booked in advance at [tehn.ca/VaccineAppointment](https://tehn.ca/VaccineAppointment). You can also use the [provincial booking system online](#) or at 1-833-943-3900.
- The following populations are now eligible for a booster dose of the COVID-19 vaccine if 168 days has passed since their last dose:
  - Individuals aged 70 and over
  - Healthcare workers and designated caregivers in congregate settings
  - Individuals who received two doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine or one dose of the Janssen vaccine
  - First Nations, Inuit and Métis adults and their non-Indigenous household members



4) Take-home COVID-19 PCR testing kits

Fact sheet with commonly asked questions found here: <https://tehn.ca/about-us/common-questions-about-mghs-take-home-covid-19-test-kits>

Translated versions of instructions can be found here:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/o6n98opwkwclki4/AADesQGWX2OKcyDgHtQf76M1a?dl=0>

We now have translations in: French, Amharic, Arabic, Bengali, Pashto, Slovak, Spanish, Tagalog, Tigrinya and Urdu.

### UPCOMING DATES

Full Disclosure – December 15

School Council Meeting – January 12