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To: All Directors of Education, Principals, School Administrators, and Education Providers, including all persons who operate or administer programs and activities at a school, private school and/or a place where in-person teaching and instruction of any type is hosted or offered and/or own, occupy, are in charge of, operate and/or administer a school, private school and/or a place where in-person teaching and instruction of any type is hosted or offered.

We are approaching the end of the 2020-21 school year and wanted to thank you for your contributions to keeping schools and other educational settings as safe as possible by implementing and adhering to COVID-19 protocols and public health measures. We also thank those who complied with our s. 22 Class Order, to Education Providers to Limit In-Person Attendances of School-Aged Children, issued May 6, 2021 (the "Order"). We believe the Order was an important and necessary measure at a critical point in the pandemic. Many members of the school community and community at large have expressed this sentiment to us as well.

As rates of COVID-19 in our City have been on a downward trend over the past several weeks, Toronto Public Health (TPH) will be revoking the Order, effective Monday June 7 2021 at 12:01 a.m.

It is important, however, to note that COVID-19 continues to be a threat to our community, especially with the emergence of the Delta (B.1.617) variant. Practicing public health measures including wearing a mask, keeping a physical distance from others, staying home when sick, frequent hand-washing, and other prevention measures are still necessary and will remain so until vaccinations rates are higher and COVID-19 infection rates are lower.

As a reminder, schools and private schools within the meaning of the *Education Act* ("Schools") remain closed to in-person teaching or instruction, subject to certain limited exceptions, under the *Reopening Ontario (A Flexible Response to COVID-19) Act, 2020* (the "ROA"). Further, businesses not permitted to operate under the ROA are required to remain closed or operate remotely in compliance with the provincial regulation.

While there may be some limited reasons why school-aged children may be permitted to attend School premises under the ROA, for example to accommodate special education needs, TPH expects all School operators to continue to do their part in managing the spread of COVID-19, and limit unnecessary attendances of school-aged children on School premises. If it is necessary for a school-aged child to attend a School premise, TPH expects that such attendance will be in compliance with the Ontario Return to School Direction issued by the Ministry of Education and approved by the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health (the "ORS"), and/or the ROA, as applicable.

Once day camps are permitted by the Province, if the attendance by school-aged children on School premises is for the purpose of a day camp, then TPH will expect compliance with the Province's Day Camp Safety Guidelines. School operators and premises are also expected to comply with specific guidance or instructions provided by TPH. For example, guidance for retrieval of personal belongings can be found [here](#).

Note in particular that TPH's expectations of compliance with the ORSD (and the Day Camp Safety Guidelines if and when applicable), includes the expectation that any school-aged child attending a School's premises:

- Be required to wear a mask when indoors, when outdoors and physical distancing cannot be maintained, and on school vehicles.
- Be required to maintain a physical distance of 2 metres from every other person whenever possible.
- Be screened for COVID-19 symptoms as required under the ORSD.

When the Province enters into the new 3-Step reopening framework as summarized in the Province's [Roadmap to Reopen](#) materials, all Schools will be expected to comply with the relevant provisions. The anticipated new provincial regulations have yet to be released. Note in particular that we are awaiting guidance from the Ministry of Education on outdoor graduations, as announced this week by the Province. However, please be reminded that virtual ceremonies continue to be the lowest risk approach to celebrating these important milestones.

Currently about 50% of 12 to 17 year olds have already received one dose of vaccine. We encourage all youth and their family members to book a vaccination appointment as soon as possible at [Book a Vaccine](#). With your continued support and promotion, we are confident we can increase vaccinations in youth and have them receive both doses before the start of school in September.

Please continue to visit our website at: www.toronto.ca/COVID19 to stay up-to-date. If you have questions about this letter please email us at TPHSchoolLiaison@toronto.ca.

Thank you for your continued and on-going support to protect our community.

Sincerely,



Nicole Welch RN. BSc. MSc.
Toronto Public Health Director
Chief Nursing Officer
COVID-19 Liaison