



## Statement – Mandatory Vaccinations for Schools

August 13, 2021

Today, the Ontario Public School Boards' Association sent a letter to Premier Ford calling for a policy and strategy to facilitate the vaccination for all eligible school staff, students and school visitors. We support this request, recognizing that thoughtful decisions will need to be made to support its implementation, respecting human rights and collective agreements. We look forward to participating in the development of the policy.

The Ontario Principals' Council understands the critical importance of being able to welcome students back to school this September, and we are committed to doing our best to keep schools safely open throughout the year. This is vital for the mental health and well-being of students. We recognize the data and advice from the medical and scientific communities that immunization is the most effective preventive intervention, and widespread uptake will dramatically reduce infection rates.

While there are many steps that will be taken to make schools as safe as possible for students and staff in the coming school year, immunization for those who are eligible is a critical one that has been shown to drastically reduce the number of COVID-19 cases and associated risks.

Vaccines are available to Ontario residents. We will support efforts to assist with the vaccination roll-out in any way we can for all eligible school staff, students and visitors, and members of society more generally. We understand the need for particular attention and support for those who have had inequitable access to vaccines to date.

We look forward to working with the Minister and all education partners in support of such a policy, to ensure schools are as safe as possible.