

From: **TPH School Liaison** <[TPHSchoolLiaison@toronto.ca](mailto:TPHSchoolLiaison@toronto.ca)>

Date: Fri, Apr 16, 2021 at 6:27 PM

Subject: RE: TDSB Special Education, Special Education congregated sites & Intensive Support Programs

Hello,

Thank you for reaching out to Toronto Public Health (TPH) regarding providing in-person school for students with special needs.

The [Ministry of Education](#) is the lead for decisions regarding province-wide school closures. TPH has provided [COVID-19 Guidance for Schools JK-12](#) to help school boards and schools incorporate public health measures into their return to school plans. We understand your concern in regards to students with special needs. Unfortunately, some students with special education needs cannot be accommodated through remote learning, therefore, the Ministry of Education has mandated that an in-school option be provided for the most vulnerable students during the closure period. Students with special education needs and exceptionalities deserve to have consistency and full support through this period. Thank you for providing this essential service to those students in your care.

In regards to the vaccine program, all three levels of government have specific roles and responsibilities in relation to the COVID-19 vaccination strategy and implementation. The Government of Canada is responsible for obtaining the supply of COVID-19 vaccines; the Province has responsibility for distributing the vaccines and identifying priority groups established under the [Province's Ethical Framework](#) and [three-phase distribution plan](#); and Toronto is responsible for supporting the administration of the vaccine in accordance with provincial prioritization and scheduling frameworks as vaccines are provided by the Province. The situation regarding vaccine supply continues to evolve.

The province of Ontario [announced](#) with students moving to remote learning, vaccine prioritization of education workers who provide direct support to students with special education needs across the province, and all education workers in select hot spot areas, starting with Peel and Toronto, will continue (this includes those who live or work in a Toronto Hotspot). Education workers across the province and education workers in Peel and Toronto hot spots will be eligible to register for vaccination by calling the provincial vaccine booking line at 1-888 999 6488. You will find educators listed under our COVID-19 Vaccine webpage - Who is [eligible tab](#) on page 2.

Elementary and secondary education workers are eligible who:

- Work in a COVID-19 hotspot in Toronto (see [COVID Hotspot postal codes](#)). Education workers in this group will require a letter from their school or school board;
- Support students with special education needs. Education workers in this group will require a letter from their school or school board; or
- Live in a Toronto hot spot (see [COVID Hotspot postal codes](#)). Education workers in this group will have to provide proof of residency at an address in the hot spot and proof of education employment (e.g. pay stub).

More information on the COVID-19 Vaccine can be found on our COVID-19 website.

<https://www.toronto.ca/home/covid-19/covid-19-protect-yourself-others/covid-19-vaccines/>

We appreciate all the work you have done to support our students in keeping them safe. Please visit the [Toronto COVID-19](#) website to learn about the current health situation, affected City services and supports available. For additional information about COVID-19 and Toronto schools please visit: [www.toronto.ca/COVID19SchoolInfo](http://www.toronto.ca/COVID19SchoolInfo)

Kind Regards,

Julie  
COVID-19 School Liaison Team  
Toronto Public Health

*This public health guidance does not constitute legal advice, you are encouraged to seek independent legal advice if you have specific legal questions as to the application of any City bylaw.*

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**EMAIL THAT WAS SENT TO TORONTO PUBLIC HEALTH FROM ON BEHALF OF TDSB EDUCATION WORKERS AND TEACHERS**

**Sent:** April 14, 2021 1:46 PM

**To:** Eileen de Villa <[Eileen.deVilla@toronto.ca](mailto:Eileen.deVilla@toronto.ca)>

**Cc:** Falconer, Karen <[karen.falconer@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:karen.falconer@tdsb.on.ca)>; Gold, Andrew <[andrew.gold@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:andrew.gold@tdsb.on.ca)>; Snider, Craig <[craig.snider@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:craig.snider@tdsb.on.ca)>; Jennifer Brown <[jbrown@ett.on.ca](mailto:jbrown@ett.on.ca)>; Bartram, Linda (D-12) <[linda.bartram@d12.osstf.ca](mailto:linda.bartram@d12.osstf.ca)>; Fulford, Robert <[Robert.Fulford@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:Robert.Fulford@tdsb.on.ca)>; Nigro, Ralph <[Ralph.Nigro@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:Ralph.Nigro@tdsb.on.ca)>; Perry, Kimberly (D12) <[Kimberly.Perry@d12.osstf.ca](mailto:Kimberly.Perry@d12.osstf.ca)>; John Weatherup, CUPE 4400 <[john.weatherup@cupe4400.org](mailto:john.weatherup@cupe4400.org)>

**Subject:** TDSB Special Education, Special Education congregated sites & Intensive Support Programs

To: Dr. Eileen de Villa

Re: Special Education, Special Education congregated schools, and Intensive Support Programs in-person learning

Dear Dr. de Villa

On behalf of the TDSB Education Workers and Teachers currently required to return to work next week while it is deemed unsafe for every other student and education worker to do so, we are imploring you to use your powers as Toronto's Medical Officer of Health to issue an order so that these students and their educators may remain at home until those educators have had their first vaccination and the 14 day period for the vaccine to take effect has passed.

We do not need to tell you that the numbers warrant this. You see them before we do. We do not need to tell you that these students are the most medically fragile in our system. You already know this.

No one wants these students languishing at home, but even more, no one wants these students or their educators to get sick.

We urge you to order **all** schools and programs closed, going virtual, until vaccinated.

Cc Karen Falconer

Sincerely

Jennifer Brown, President Elementary Teachers of Toronto  
Linda Bartram, President OSSTF Toronto Occasional Teachers  
Rob Fulford, President Elementary Teachers Federation Toronto Occasional Teachers  
Ralph Nigro, Vice-Chair, Toronto Administrator's Association  
Kimberly Perry, President OSSTF Toronto Professional Student Support Personnel  
John Weatherup, President, CUPE 4400  
Leslie Wolfe, President, OSSTF Toronto Teachers