

From: **Bird, Ryan** Date: Thu., Dec. 30, 2021, 8:36 p.m.  
Subject: Important Return to School Update  
To:  
Cc: Russell-Rawlins, Colleen Salmon, Audley Snider, Craig, Curtis, Linda , Gold, Andrew

Good Evening Union, Federation and Association Partners,

Please find below the brief updates that are being shared with all staff and families momentarily with regard to today's provincial announcement.

Thank you and have a good evening.

Ryan

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## **STAFF**

Dear Staff,

Today, the Government of Ontario [announced plans](#) for the return of school following the Winter Break and we wanted to provide a brief update. Among the items announced is a change to the first day of school for students (in-person and virtual), which will now be **Wednesday, January 5**. This will allow time for school boards, including the Toronto District School Board, to prepare for the public health measures announced today including:

- Updating the COVID-19 school and child care screener ahead of the return to school.
- Providing non-fit-tested N95 masks for staff in schools as an optional alternative to medical/surgical masks, and additional supply of high-quality three-ply cloth masks that are strongly encouraged and free for students.
- Continuing PCR testing eligibility for symptomatic elementary and secondary students, education staff who have received a PCR self-collection kit through their school.
- Pausing high contact indoor sports and some extra-curricular activities.
- Updating COVID-19 reporting requirements for school boards.

Please note that the first day back for all staff following the Winter Break will continue to be Monday, January 3. School-based staff may work remotely and are expected to be available throughout the day on Monday and Tuesday to participate in meetings and other planning in preparation for opening schools on Wednesday.

We know that staff will have additional questions, however the TDSB is continuing to review today's announcement and will provide more details as soon as possible.

Thank you for your understanding.

Colleen Russell-Rawlins  
Director of Education

## **FAMILIES**

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Today, the Government of Ontario [announced plans](#) for the return of school following the Winter Break. Among the items announced is a change to the first day of school for students (in-person and virtual), which will now be **Wednesday, January 5**. This will allow time for school boards, including the Toronto District School Board, to prepare for the public health measures announced today including:

- Updating the COVID-19 school and child care screener ahead of the return to school.
- Providing high-quality three-ply cloth masks to students free of charge.
- Pausing high contact indoor sports and some extra-curricular activities.
- Updating COVID-19 reporting requirements for school boards.

Please note that child care centres can continue to operate, but parents should connect directly with the operator to confirm.

We know that families will have additional questions, however the TDSB is continuing to review today's announcement and will provide more details as soon as possible.

Thank you for your understanding.

Colleen Russell-Rawlins  
Director of Education