



September 8, 2021

The Honourable Stephen Lecce
Ministry of Education
5th Floor, 438 University Ave.
Toronto, ON M5G 2K8

The Honourable Christine Elliot
Ministry of Health
8th Floor, 438 University Ave.
Toronto, ON M5G 2K8

Dear Minister Lecce and Minister Elliot:

The Trustees of the Halton District School Board unanimously adopted the following motion at the most recent regular meeting of the Board of Trustees on September 1, 2021:

“Whereas COVID-19 vaccines have been approved by Health Canada to be safe and effective for students born in 2009 or earlier;

And whereas the purpose of the [Immunization of School Pupils Act](#) is “to increase the protection of the health of children against the diseases that are designated diseases”.

And whereas the Immunization of School Pupils Act mandates that students be immunized for “designated diseases”: diphtheria, measles, mumps, poliomyelitis, rubella, and tetanus, unless a specific exemption is sought through the act;

Be it resolved that the Chair write a letter to the Minister of Education and Minister of Health to ask that the Immunization of School Pupils Act be amended to include COVID-19 as a “designated disease”.

Currently, there is no mandate for eligible students to be vaccinated against COVID-19. The addition of COVID-19 as a “designated disease” within the Immunization of School Pupils Act will serve important purposes:

- First, it may inspire an increased uptake of the vaccine which will provide protection for those who are too young or medically unable to be vaccinated in school communities. This will result in a safer learning environment for students, staff and their families.
- Second, the Act provides a mechanism for exemptions that includes parental education on vaccination. This element is missing right now in consideration of COVID-19 vaccination for students.

We are adding our voices to the Ontario Public School Board Association, People for Education, and a number of boards who have made this same request.

On behalf of the Trustees of the Halton District School Board, I would like to thank you in advance for your consideration of this request to further improve the safety of the learning environments in Halton and across Ontario.

Sincerely,



Andréa Grebenc
Chair of the Board of Trustees
Halton District School Board

Cc: Hon. Ted Arnott, MPP
Stephen Crawford, MPP
Hon. Parm Gill, MPP
Hon. Jane McKenna, MPP
Effie Triantafilopoulos, MPP
Gary Carr, Halton Regional Chair
Dr. Hamidah Meghani, Halton Region Medical Officer of Health
Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA) President and Member Board Chairs
Council of Ontario Directors of Education (CODE)