



Matthews Hall

Established 1918

STUDENT COVID-19 VACCINATION POLICY

PURPOSE

At Matthews Hall (the “**School**”) we are committed to providing and maintaining a safe school environment for all. Consistent with this commitment, the School has established this Student COVID-19 Vaccination Policy (the “**Policy**”). **The Policy strongly encourages all students at the School that are eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine, to be vaccinated as soon as it becomes available to them.**

The School has prepared this Policy considering reliable scientific evidence, government guidance and protocols and relevant human rights legislation.

The COVID-19 pandemic has been an evolving public health issue in Canada. The School is monitoring guidance from all applicable public health authorities and reserves the right to revise this Policy as determined to be necessary or appropriate. It is recommended that students and their parents/guardians consult with their healthcare provider regarding whether to obtain a COVID-19 vaccination.

BACKGROUND

The objective underlying this Policy is to provide a healthy and safe school environment for students, teachers and staff, and safeguard the broader communities in which they live.

The Government of Canada has currently approved the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine for individuals ages 12 and older. In a report dated May 3, 2021, the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) stated that in clinical trials, all approved COVID-19 vaccines are efficacious in the short term against symptomatic, confirmed COVID-19 disease. Studies are ongoing on whether the vaccine is effective in reducing the transmission of COVID-19 to others.

Safe and reliable vaccines are an important tool to help stop the spread of COVID-19, build immunity in Ontario and protect our communities. As a school, we have a heightened responsibility to ensure we are doing everything we can to protect our students, staff, and their families.

As many situations at the School involve close contact with other students and staff members, the School strongly recommends that all students 12 years of age and older (“Eligible Students”) be vaccinated.

TIMING

On May 5, 2021, it was announced that individuals in Ontario between 12 and 17 years of age will be eligible to book an appointment through the provincial booking system beginning the week of May 31, 2021, to receive their first dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine. The School encourages all Eligible Students to receive both doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine as soon as it becomes available to them.

PROOF OF VACCINE

At this time, vaccination for COVID-19 is not mandatory at the School; however, parents/guardians of Eligible Students are encouraged to voluntarily disclose proof of vaccination to the School's Assistant Head of both the first and second dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine or other COVID-19 vaccine.

Proof of vaccination can be in the form of a copy of the proof of vaccination given at the time of receiving vaccination, or a letter from a medical practitioner, confirming the student has been vaccinated.

With respect to international students, the School will recognize proof of vaccination from a student's home country, or another country where the student received their vaccination.

The School will only collect, use and disclose information regarding all individual student's vaccination status in accordance with its Privacy Policy and all applicable privacy laws. Proof of vaccination will be kept in a confidential file, stored in a secure location.

The School recognizes that certain students may be unable to be vaccinated due to a protected ground under the Ontario *Human Rights Code*, such as medical condition or religion/creed.

REOPENING PLANS FOR SEPTEMBER 2021

The School has developed its reopening plan for September 2021. The School's reopening plan is intended to support a safe reopening of the School for the 2021/2022 school year for all members of our community.

The School's reopening plan is informed by Ministry of Education guidance and/or direction regarding health and safety protocols and procedures for the resumption of in-person learning.