

 <b>St. Michael's College School</b>	<b>Pandemic Response</b>
<b>Policy: Student COVID-19 Vaccination for Academic Year 2022/2023</b>	<b>G1.11.21</b>

## PURPOSE

At **St. Michael's College School** (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 requires that, in accordance with the terms set forth below, all students (as defined in “**Scope**” below), be vaccinated for COVID-19 or obtain an approved medical exemption.

The School has established this Policy, considering reliable scientific evidence, government guidance and protocols, its Ontario *Occupational Health and Safety Act* (“**OHSA**”) requirements, and relevant human rights legislation.

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 COVID-19 pandemic is 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.

## BACKGROUND

The COVID-19 Science Advisory Table reports that as of November 18, 2021, 99.1 per cent of the new cases in the province are the Delta variant. It stated that the Delta variant is more transmissible and may be more dangerous than other variants of COVID-19, including the Alpha variant. The Delta variant is the dominant form of the virus in Ontario. Medical experts warn that as the Delta variant increases significantly in Ontario, unvaccinated populations remain most vulnerable.

The Government of Canada has approved the Pfizer-BioNTech Comirnaty COVID-19 vaccine and the Moderna Spikevax COVID-19 vaccine for individuals ages 12 and older. On September 30, 2021, Pfizer reported that the vaccine provided over 90 per cent effectiveness in preventing COVID-19 after two doses among 12 to 17-year-olds.

The Chief Medical Officer of Health has confirmed that vaccines provide the best protection against COVID-19. The Office stated that keeping youth in school to the fullest extent possible is critical to learning, development, and well-being.

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, their families, and the surrounding community. Due to the fact that the unique nature of in-person learning involves close

contact with other students and staff members, the School has determined that the vaccination of all students is mandatory, with certain exemptions, as set out in the Policy.

## **SCOPE**

This Policy applies to all students attending school in-person during the 2022/2023 school year and who are eligible to receive a COVID-19 Vaccination (“**Eligible Students**”).

## **TIMING**

All Eligible Students will be required to be fully vaccinated by September 1, 2022 or when they access the school campus as part of the 2022/2023 academic year, whichever date is earlier.

- **All returning students must be fully vaccinated by September 1, 2022.**
- **All eligible new students must be fully vaccinated by September 1, 2022.**

“Fully vaccinated” includes both doses of the vaccine, where applicable, plus a 14-day waiting period after the second dose to achieve full immunization. It is the responsibility of all Eligible Students as defined by the scope above to ensure there is sufficient time to receive both doses of the vaccine by the deadlines noted above.

## **PROOF OF VACCINE**

Once an Eligible Student has been fully vaccinated, his parent/guardian is required provide proof of vaccination to the School. This must be provided prior to and no later than deadlines noted above. Proof to be accepted can be either a copy of the proof of vaccination given at the time of receiving vaccination, or a copy of the vaccine certificate confirming vaccination. The School will recognize proof of vaccination from a student’s home country, or another country where the student received his vaccination, with those vaccines authorized by Health Canada. Find more information regarding vaccines approved by Health Canada here: <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/covid19-industry/drugs-vaccines-treatments/vaccines.html>

The School will only collect, use, and disclose information regarding a 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 and stored in a secure location.

## **ACCOMODATIONS**

- The School recognizes its duties and responsibilities under the *Ontario Human Rights Code* (the “Code”). If a student is unable to be vaccinated, due to a medical condition as defined by the Code, the School has a duty to accommodate to a point of undue hardship.

However, this duty to accommodate must be balanced against the School’s obligations to protect the health and safety of students and staff. Due to the serious health threat COVID-19 presents to the public, if an Eligible Student will not be vaccinated because of a protected ground under the Code, their parent/guardian must request an exemption.

## **Medical Condition Exemption**

A parent/guardian who is requesting an exemption from this Policy on behalf of their son on the basis of a medical condition must provide the School with a letter supplied by either:

- a physician who is registered with the Ontario College of Physicians and Surgeons or
- a Registered Nurse Practitioner who is deemed entitled to practice with no restrictions by the College of Nurses of Ontario

clearly stating the reason why the individual should be exempted from receiving the vaccine, and for the length of time this exemption shall be in place.

- For students registered for the 2021/22 academic year and returning for the 2022/23 academic year, this letter must be provided to the School prior to July 1, 2022.
- For all new/incoming students, this letter must be provided to the school prior to June 1, 2022.

## **Process to Receive an Accommodation**

The accommodation process is a shared responsibility. All parties should co-operatively engage in the process, share information, and consider potential accommodation solutions. Parents/Guardians of students who are requesting an accommodation are required to:

- Make the accommodation needs known to the best of their ability, preferably in writing, in a timely manner;
- Answer reasonable questions or provide information about relevant restrictions or limitations, including information from health care professionals;
- Take part in discussions about possible accommodation solutions;
- Co-operate with any experts whose assistance is required to manage the accommodation process;
- Meet agreed-upon objectives and requirements, once accommodation is provided; and
- Work with school administration on an ongoing basis to manage the accommodation process.

Depending on learning and teaching considerations, possible accommodations may include regular antigen testing and/or assignment to online learning should a student be required to quarantine.

Former Policy: G1.09.06 for Academic 2021/22
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