



ST. MICHAEL'S COLLEGE SCHOOL

Under the direction of the Basilian Fathers

November 19, 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians;

COVID-19 Vaccination Policy Update for September 2022

and

Toronto Public Health (TPH) Vaccination Education session details.

After much discernment, St. Michael's College School (SMCS) will be moving to a mandatory vaccination policy for students as of September 2022. This change is based on a growing body of research supporting the effectiveness and safety of vaccinations in the fight against COVID-19.

Safe and reliable vaccines are an important tool to help stop the spread of COVID-19, reduce the severity of illness, hospitalizations, and death. The school has consistently encouraged all those who are eligible to be vaccinated.

A year ago, as school began, the data and research were not as clear. In the spirit of inclusion, we honoured our commitment to those already registered at SMCS and made accommodations for those who were not able or chose not to be vaccinated.

All current data and our own lived experiences at SMCS indicate that being vaccinated is one of the most significant tools at our disposal to keep students, staff, and our community safe and engaged at school. Our top priorities are the safety and health of the community, and to provide a robust interactive in-person learning experience.

We make this announcement at this time to provide all involved adequate time to take necessary action for their own needs. As with all COVID-19 pandemic response policies, this policy is subject to change based on relevant changes to trends, data, and regulation.

In order to provide the safest, most consistent, and broad-based programme possible, including opportunities with external partners for travel, sport, art, and experiential learning, it is in the best interest of the student experience to be aligned with our partners. This includes other independent schools.

The Province of Ontario may or may not add the COVID-19 vaccine to the required list of vaccinations for school attendance for September 2022. However, the province has implemented a mandatory vaccination policy for major indoor gathering spaces, which would be consistent with the school's Mandatory Vaccination Policy 2022-23.

SMCS has obligations under the Occupational Health and Safety Act to take every precaution reasonable in the circumstances to protect the health and safety of a worker.

You can find our Student COVID-19 Vaccination Policy for 2022/2023 at:

<http://wp.stmichaelscollegeschool.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/SMCS-2022-2023-Student-COVID-19-Vaccination-Policy-G1.11.21.pdf>

We thank everyone for their continued support and understanding as we navigate these

challenging times. We respect the rights and the difficult decisions we all must make to protect those for whom we are responsible.

Toronto Public Health will be offering a Vaccination Education webinar on November 25 at 6 p.m. exclusively for SMCS parents. Details are below.

If you have any questions prior to the presentation, please forward them by November 23 to info@smcsmail.com. TPH will do their best to answer questions following the presentation.

Iaryna Grinik-Fliak, RN, BScN (she/her)
Public Health Nurse
Toronto Public Health
COVID-19 Child and Youth Response Team
City of Toronto

Sincerely,

Mr. James McKinnon
Principal

