

October 4, 2021

Dear parents, guardians and families,

I wanted to inform you about a decision we've made that will impact Edmonton Public Schools. This afternoon, our Division announced that we will require employees to be fully vaccinated unless there is an exemption on the basis of a protected legal ground or the individual participates in regular rapid testing to verify that they are COVID-19 negative. Contractors, on-site partners and volunteers who enter our buildings are also expected to be fully vaccinated or participate in regular rapid testing to verify that they are COVID-19 negative.

In addition to our [Back to School Plan](#), this is another way that our Division is working to keep our students, staff and families safe. I know that collectively, we all want to provide the healthiest possible learning and working environments when we open our doors every day.

This decision is based on the health advice we currently have available to us from health authorities and medical experts. Alberta's Chief Medical Officer of Health Dr. Deena Hinshaw has repeatedly said the most important thing adults can do to protect all of us, in particular children under 12 who are unable to be vaccinated, is to be fully immunized.

This requirement does not apply to students. Children under 12 are still not eligible for vaccination and there is no provincial legislation that requires K-12 students to have specific vaccinations to attend school. Our hope is that by enforcing a vaccination requirement for all Division staff, we can help keep our students, and each other, healthy and safe.

I know families will have many questions about what comes next. Our Division is working hard to finalize the details and logistics involved with implementing this type of policy. We are committed to sharing further information as it becomes available.

Lastly, I want to thank our staff for all they have done, and continue to do, to protect our students and support learning during these challenging times. Throughout this pandemic, we have been steadfast in our commitment to keeping students and our communities safe.

Sincerely,



Darrel Robertson
Superintendent of Schools