



BOARD MEMORANDUM

Date: January 12, 2022
To: Board of Trustees
From: Shawna Walter, Acting Superintendent
Originator(s): Shawna Walter, Acting Superintendent
Subject: COVID-19 Vaccination Status/Hazard Mitigation Update

Purpose:

For information.

Background:

The following motion was made by the Board of Trustees at the October 27, 2021, Public Board meeting:

#084/2021 – Moved by Mrs. Janine Pequin that arising from the unfortunate increasing strain that the COVID-19 pandemic is placing on our education and health care systems, and the recent letter to all School Divisions from the Ministers of Health and Education encouraging mandatory proof of vaccination or negative test policies:

That the Board of Trustees directs Administration to develop, implement (and amend as needed) a COVID-19 Vaccination Status Administrative Procedure (not applicable to students) that, within reasonable timelines, requires vaccination status disclosure, and for those not fully vaccinated, regular proof of a COVID-19 negative test.

A board, as a partner in education, has the responsibility to entrust the day-to-day management of the school division to the staff through the superintendent (Education Act section 33 (j)).

Administrative Procedure 205: Developing Administrative Procedures, the Process section and Procedure sections 2 and 4 state the following:

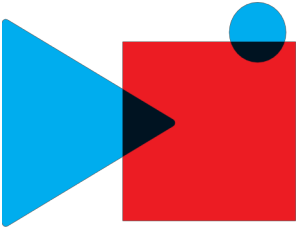
Process

Senior Executive will be responsible for the development of Administrative Procedures relative to their areas of responsibility.

Procedure

2. Draft Administrative Procedures will be forwarded to the Senior Executive for review and provided to the Board as information.
4. Revisions to the draft Administrative Procedure will be completed by the appropriate Senior Executive and forwarded to the Superintendent/CEO for final approval.





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The Board tasked Administration to develop, implement and amend as necessary a COVID-19 Vaccination Status Administrative Procedure. After consultation with lawyers, insurance, employee groups, and stakeholders, the Acting Superintendent has determined that pursuing the development and implementation of an administrative procedure for COVID-19 Vaccination Status/Hazard Mitigation would negatively impact learning for all students by causing undue strain on the operation of schools and the operation of the Division as a whole.

The decision was guided by information and direction by the government, privacy laws, liability implications, and the Division's ability to maintain operations. The Division is committed to the safety and well-being of all students, staff, volunteers, contractors, and visitors. Reducing the spread of COVID-19 is a shared responsibility.

Under the direction of the Government of Alberta and the Chief Medical Officer of Health, the Division has implemented strategies to reduce the transmission of COVID-19 in schools. Measures include illness/self-screening practices, physical distancing, enhanced cleaning protocols, masking (upgraded masks implemented mid-January 2022), contact tracing and rapid testing kits (available to all staff, bus drivers and families mid-January). The [2021-2022 School Year Plan](#), which outlines these strategies, is available on the Division website and is regularly updated.

The Division strongly encourages staff to be fully vaccinated and continues to take steps to protect the safety of all students and staff.

Administration is prepared to respond to questions at the January 12, 2022, Committee of the Whole meeting.

Sincerely,

Shawna Walter, M.Ed
Acting Superintendent

