

November 15, 2021

Dear Parent\Legal Guardian\Student,

On Oct. 5, 2021, Hamilton Public Health Services (HPHS) notified school communities that we would be reviewing and assessing students' COVID-19 vaccination information. This only applied to students eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine (i.e., those born in 2009 or earlier). Using that process, we have estimated the COVID-19 vaccine coverage rate for Hamilton schools. The most current estimates can be found here: www.hamilton.ca/coronavirus/covid-19-vaccine-distribution

COVID-19 immunization for students is not mandatory. However, understanding the student immunization status and coverage within classes and schools will better enable HPHS to support case, contact, and outbreak management. It will also allow HPHS to continue collaboration with our school and school board partners to support increasing COVID-19 vaccine rates as eligibility expands across the province.

Vaccines are safe, effective, and the best way to protect yourself, your child, and your family from COVID-19. Vaccines help stop the spread so we can safely and gradually resume more activities.

Should you have questions on how to access COVID-19 vaccines for yourself, your child, or your family, please contact Hamilton Public Health Services COVID-19 Vaccine Hotline at (905)974-9848 Ext. 7, or visit www.hamilton.ca/getyourvaccine.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to keep our students safe.

Sincerely,



Dr. Ninh Tran, MD MSc CCFP FRCPC

Associate Medical Officer of Health

Public Health Services – Office of the Medical Officer of Health

Healthy and Safe Communities Department

City of Hamilton www.hamilton.ca