



Waterloo Region District School Board

51 Ardelt Avenue
Kitchener, ON N2C 2R5
T: 519-570-0003
F: 519-742-1364
wrdsb.ca

September 21, 2021

The Honourable Stephen Lecce, Minister of Education
Dr. Kieran Moore, Chief Medical Officer of Health
Dr. Hsiu-Li Wang, Commissioner & Medical Officer of Health

Dear Minister Lecce, Dr. Moore and Dr. Wang,

At its August 30, 2021 Special Board Meeting of the Waterloo Region District School Board (WRDSB), the Board of Trustees approved the following motion:

That the Waterloo Region District School Board write a letter to the Ministry of Education and including the Ontario Medical Officer of Health and local Regional Medical Officer of Health requesting that the COVID vaccine be immediately added to the list of immunizations which are mandatory for eligible students for primary/secondary school attendance, allowing for exemptions for medical or religious reasons according to the Ontario Human Rights Code;

The public continues to be advised, by medical professionals and government officials, that vaccinations are our greatest defence against COVID-19 and being fully vaccinated significantly reduces the risk of serious illness.

The Immunization of Pupils Act has been an effective means of promoting vaccination against other communicable diseases since it was adopted in 1990. Adding the COVID-19 vaccinations to the list of mandatory vaccinations for all eligible students will protect the health and safety of all our students, staff and families and will reduce the risk of outbreaks from the COVID-19 virus in schools. We must do everything we can to ensure schools remain open, safe and welcoming learning spaces for all students and staff.

This request is also supported by the Ontario Public School Boards' Association, as seen in a [statement](#) released on August 17, 2021.



Waterloo Region District School Board

51 Ardelt Avenue
Kitchener, ON N2C 2R5
T: 519-570-0003
F: 519-742-1364
wrdsb.ca

We ask for your serious consideration of this request, as it protects the health and safety of all students, staff and their families in the WRDSB and throughout Ontario, and ensures students continue to have the opportunity to learn in-person.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joanne Weston".

Joanne Weston
Chairperson of the Board of Trustees
Waterloo Region District School Board

CC:

MPP Belinda Karahalios, MPP Laura Mae Lindo, MPP Amy Fee, MPP Michael Harris, MPP Catherine Fife,
Ontario Public School Boards' Association, Ontario Public School Boards, Council of Ontario Directors of Education