

March 30, 2021

Dr. Hsiu-Li Wang, Commissioner & Medical Officer of Health
Karen Redman, Regional Chair
Region of Waterloo, Public Health and Emergency Service
1st Floor, 150 Frederick Street
Kitchener, ON, N2G 4J3

Dear Dr. Wang and Chair Redman,

At its meeting on March 29, 2021, the Board of Trustees for the Waterloo Region District School Board (WRDSB) unanimously approved the following motion, related to the prioritization of COVID-19 vaccines:

That the WRDSB Board of Trustees direct the Chairperson to write a letter to our Public Health Officer and Regional Council requesting the immediate prioritization of vaccines for Special Education Workers; and

That consideration be given, pending the availability of vaccine, for the prioritization of the remaining WRDSB school-based staff and WRDSB staff who are required to work in a school setting and/or provide either direct or indirect service to students to receive the vaccination during the April 12-16 break; or a date as soon as possible before June;

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues, the pervasiveness of the COVID-19 Variants of Concern (VOC), with higher transmission rates, and potential to cause more serious illness, is an urgent concern. The VOC coupled with the fact that some of our WRDSB Special Education students with complex medical needs are unable to wear masks and have high-risk health conditions, present a substantial risk for Special Education students and staff.

Given the priority to keep students in the classroom and protect the health and safety of all WRDSB students and staff, the upcoming March break from April 12 to 16 presents an opportunity to vaccinate a large number of frontline education workers.

We ask for your support in considering these requests to ensure the health and safety of our most vulnerable students and frontline education workers are prioritized.

Sincerely,



Joanne Weston
Chairperson of the Board of Trustees



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Waterloo Region District School Board

CC:

Premier of Ontario

Minister of Education

OPSBA

Ontario Public School Boards



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