



October 8, 2021

Dr. Kieran Moore  
Chief Medical Officer of Health of Ontario  
Box 12, Toronto, ON M7A 1N3  
[Kieran.Moore@ontario.ca](mailto:Kieran.Moore@ontario.ca)

RE: Request to add COVID-19 as a “designated disease” to the Immunization of School Pupils Act

Dear Dr. Moore,

The Minister of Education has publicly indicated that, per your advice, he will not make vaccines mandatory for students. The Trustees of the Halton District School Board would like to bring to your attention a [letter we wrote to the Ministers of Education and Health](#) advocating for the addition of COVID-19 as a “designated disease” under the “Immunization of School Pupils Act” (ISPA). We believe that the addition of COVID-19 as a “designated disease” will provide a valuable tool to reduce vaccine hesitancy and ensure the safest possible school environments for students, staff, their families and their communities. This would align with the purpose of the ISPA which is to increase the protection of the health of children. It would also put the onus on the parents/guardians to complete the prescribed program of immunization.

The ISPA could also be used to combat parent/guardian vaccine hesitancy and increase student COVID-19 vaccination rates, which is increasingly important as Health Canada is poised to approve vaccination of 5-11 year old children. As you are aware, an exemption process is available in the ISPA that would provide a mandatory educational component to parents/guardians who are simply hesitant or choose not to vaccinate their children. This mandatory education component is currently absent with regard to COVID-19.

We are aware that other school boards, as well as the [Ontario Public School Boards' Association](#), have also requested the Minister of Education to add COVID-19 to the compulsory vaccination list.

Thank you for your dedication to Public Health in Ontario and thank you in advance for considering our request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andréa Grebenc', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Andréa Grebenc  
Chair of the Board of Trustees  
Halton District School Board

Cc: Hon. Stephen Lecce, Minister of Education

Street Address: J.W. Singleton Education Centre • 2050 Guelph Line, Burlington, Ontario L7P 5A8  
Mailing Address: J.W. Singleton Education Centre • P.O. Box 5005, Stn. LCD 1, Burlington, Ontario L7R 3Z2

**Phone: 905-335-3663 | 1-877-618-3456 Fax: 905-335-9802**

[www.hdsb.ca](http://www.hdsb.ca)

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