

While this involves a certain measure of optimism and crystal-ball gazing, Hahn notes knowing student numbers now is crucial for planning.

“It’s not an easy process because it involves a lot of pieces like budget, like staffing, and we don’t take that lightly because we can’t afford to make any mistakes. And we know how tight our budget is when it comes to supporting our September plan,” said Hahn. “But we also know there are varying parent views on returning to school or remaining in Learn@Home or wearing masks ... We understand that parents are looking out for the best interest of their children.”

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Peterborough, Victoria, Northumberland and Clarington Catholic District School Board director of education Joan Carragher is likewise confident that most — if not all — board staff will have received their second dose by the start of the new school year.

She has been meeting with health units regarding logistics for vaccinating students and working on sharing information with parents.

“A number of options were on the table, but using mass clinics was considered the best,” said communications manager Galen Eagle. “We also haven’t had any real input from parents just yet ... but we may get some feedback once those clinics are set up.”

Greg Kidd, executive officer of corporate affairs with the Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board, expects vaccination levels for staff and students to continue to rise as community vaccination rates increase. The board is working closely with local health units' partners on an ongoing basis to help with vaccine rollout.

“We know they continue to work on their plans, which are based on the distribution system that best works for their area,” said Kidd.

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