

# VACCINES AND VENTILATION HOT TOPICS AT PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

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Ventilation and vaccinations were the two main topics of discussion at the Sept. 1 meeting of the Halton District School Board.

Here are a few highlights.

## VACCINATIONS

Contrary to what many believe, education workers are not under the purview of a mandatory vaccination policy, but a mandatory vaccination disclosure policy, announced by the Ministry of Education Aug. 17.

"The entire rollout of the mandatory vaccination policy by the government has been a bit of a misno-

mer, and I believe has created a lot of confusion among the public," said HDSB Director of Education Curtis Ennis.

"Some private institutions and some government institutions have moved towards mandatory vaccination, but that's not the mandate that we received from the ministry."

The policy covers all board employees, school volunteers and contractors.

As of the first day of school, these individuals must have indicated to the board if they are vaccinated, not vaccinated due to a medical exemption or not vaccinated.

By September 10, school boards had to submit to the



HDSB photo

**CURTIS ENNIS.**

province statistical data in terms of percentages of those who have been vaccinated or are unvaccinated, information that is then also publicly shared by the

board.

Those who are unvaccinated will be required to undergo regular rapid testing for COVID-19 and participate in an educational program to learn the benefits and safety of receiving the vaccine, said Sari Taha, HDSB's Superintendent of Human Resources.

Due to privacy legislation, the vaccination status of a teacher cannot be disclosed to parents, said Taha, who also addressed the issue of a mandatory vaccination policy for staff.

Under those circumstances, the board would have to investigate its "legal obligations and any landmines that we may step into before considering that approach, while at

the same time honouring our obligations under the (Ontario) Human Rights Code and any relevant legislation.

"A mandatory vaccination policy in the sense that you are vaccinated, or you don't have a job with the HDSB is an entirely different proposition that would require a different kind of due diligence," said Taha.

## SPECTATORS AT GAMES

Allowing spectators at school sporting events is a question that the board "is still grappling with because we want to be sure that we are not exposing our students and our staff unnecessarily to any kind of exposure to the virus. We are still not sure exactly

how we will proceed," said Ennis.

## VENTILATION

Last year, and in preparation for this school year, millions in capital funding was spent on ventilation improvements and upgrades said Ian Gaudet, Superintendent of Facility Services.

These include: Making windows that were inoperable, operable; HVAC upgrades to enhance fresh air intake; centrally controlling the ventilation system to provide two hour, pre- and post-occupancy flushing of a building with fresh air; supporting cohorting and distancing through outdoor learning concepts and building walls in open concept schools that did not have barriers between classrooms.

A large new shipment of air purifiers has been delivered to schools to support air purification within classrooms, as well as gymnasiums, libraries and cafeterias.

## Notice of Tax Due Date



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### How to make payments

- Drop box at 1 Halton Hills Drive (if receipt is required please leave full bill with cheque and a receipt will be mailed back)
  - By cheque (do not leave cash)
  - Post-dated cheques for the due date
- By telephone/online banking – check with your bank for more information
- Making payments with a third party payment service. We do not accept credit card payments made in person for property taxes. A convenience fee will apply. The Town accepts payments through [paytm.ca](https://www.paytm.ca) and [plastiq.com](https://www.plastiq.com).

### Late Payments

- A late payment charge of 1.25% will be charged on the first day of each calendar month until taxes are paid

### Questions

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