



April 13, 2022

**The Regional
Municipality
of Durham**

Health Department

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To: School Community

Protecting the health and well-being of our community remains our top priority. Durham Region Health Department (DRHD) is committed to supporting schools in partnership with the local school boards.

Public Health Measures

Due to the Omicron surges (BA.1.1 and BA.2 sub-variants), DRHD strongly recommends that students and staff continue to wear a well-fitted three-layer mask in shared indoor spaces. Masking, coupled with other public health measures such as physical distancing, proper hand hygiene, and staying home when sick, continue to be effective strategies for reducing the spread of COVID-19. Please visit durham.ca/masks for information on current masking requirements and recommendations. Additionally, please visit durham.ca/covidinfohub for information on when to mask if you have tested positive for COVID-19 or if you are a close contact or household member of someone who has tested positive.

Vaccination

Vaccination remains a vital tool in our ability to overcome this virus. While many Durham residents have already received their first, second and third doses of COVID-19 vaccine, I encourage you to continue to emphasize the importance of vaccination with school staff, students, and their families. In addition, DRHD has expanded the eligibility for fourth doses of COVID-19 vaccine for individuals 60 and older, as well as First Nation, Inuit, and Métis individuals and their non-indigenous household members aged 18 and older, as announced by the



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province. In Durham Region, appointments can be booked at <http://durhamvaccinebooking.ca/> or by calling 1-888-444-5113. DRHD will continue to provide regular updates to school boards and childcare centres outlining vaccine availability. As well, further information is available at Durham.ca: [COVID-19 Vaccines - Region of Durham](#).

We will continue to work closely with our school board partners to support in-person learning. Thank you for your ongoing partnership in responding to the current pandemic and your continued efforts to support the health and safety of students and school staff across Durham Region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Kyle', positioned above the printed name.

Robert Kyle, BSc, MD, MHSc, CCFP, FRCPC, FACPM
Commissioner & Medical Officer of Health

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