

DATE: November 30, 2021

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: Trustee Hole

SUBJECT: COVID-19 Vaccination Policy for Trustees

REFERENCE: [Administrative Regulation \(CIA.AR\)](#)
[Trustee handbook - Section 5.2.2 - Notices of Motion](#)
[An open letter in response to vaccine concerns and misinformation](#)
[Vaccine efficacy, effectiveness and protection](#), The World Health Organization
[COVID19: Effectiveness and benefits of vaccination](#), Health Canada

ISSUE

Trustee Hole served notice of motion at the November 9, 2021, public Board meeting.

BACKGROUND

On October 4, 2021, the Division issued an Administrative Regulation (CIA.AR), which requires employees, contractors, on-site partners and volunteers in Division buildings to either be fully vaccinated unless they have an exemption on the basis of a protected legal ground, or participate in regular rapid testing to verify that they are COVID-19 negative. The administrative regulation does not apply to Trustees, as they are elected officials and not Division employees, contractors, on-site partners or volunteers.

RELATED FACTS

- Medical professionals and public health authorities continue to remind Albertans that being fully vaccinated is the best way to protect our families, communities, ourselves and the medical system.
- Scientific evidence clearly supports the efficacy and safety of COVID-19 vaccinations.
- Data from the World Health Organization, Health Canada and Alberta Health Services supports the need for high levels of immunization as a key factor in fighting COVID-19.
- At their Organizational meeting on October 26, 2021, newly elected Trustees decided that they would meet in person at the Centre for Education for public Board meetings.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Board of Trustees adopt a COVID-19 vaccination policy for Trustees based on the Division's Administrative Regulation [CIA.AR](#): COVID-19 Vaccinations, and that this work be delegated to the Policy Review Committee for immediate action.

OPTIONS

Based on the information provided in this report, the following options are considered most appropriate:

1. Approve the recommendation as presented.
2. Provide feedback on desired changes to the recommendation and ask that the revised recommendation be brought to a future meeting.

CONSIDERATIONS and ANALYSIS

The health and well-being of students, families and staff is a top priority for Edmonton Public Schools, and the Board of Trustees. It is important that the Board of Trustees lead by example and model responsible public health protocols, thereby doing their part to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

By making the decision to meet in person for public Board meetings, Trustees are interacting with Division staff who are currently working at the Centre for Education; we have a responsibility to those folks, their families and all of those whom we serve as elected officials.

Once schools are able to welcome visitors and families back into their buildings, Trustees will be keen to make in-person visits in order to build strong relationships with their school communities. This policy will further ensure that Trustees are protecting our students, families and staff.

NEXT STEPS

Upon approval of this recommendation, the Policy Review Committee will prioritize the creation of a vaccination policy for Trustees that aligns with the Division requirements for on-site partners, contractors, visitors, volunteers and staff.

MH:km