



Section <b>COVID-19 IMMUNIZATION DISCLOSURE          POLICY &amp; TESTING REQUIREMENT</b>	Page 1 of 2
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<p><b>Statement</b></p>	<p>In order to ensure a more normal, full-time, safer, in-person learning environment, the Ministry of Education introduced an immunization disclosure policy for all publicly funded school board employees, which includes WESTS staff, bus drivers, taxi drivers and any employees who may be in contact with students contracted to the Consortia. The policy includes rapid antigen testing requirements for individuals who are not immunized or do not disclose immunization against COVID-19.</p>
<p><b>Procedure</b></p>	<p>WESTS strongly recommends that all individuals who may come in contact with students take the steps required, as they become available, to reach and maintain full vaccination, unless it is medically contraindicated.</p> <p>Staff , Bus Drivers, taxi drivers and any employees who may be in contact with student contracted with the consortia, who are eligible to receive the vaccine must agree to one of the steps 1,2 or 3 set out below no later than September 7, 2021 or upon hire for new employees.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Provide proof of full vaccination against COVID-19; or</li> <li>2. Provide a formal/official documented medical reason for not being vaccinated against COVID-19; or</li> <li>3. Participate in an educational program approved by the Ministry of Education.</li> </ol> <p>Compliance with the Immunization Disclosure Policy will be led by the General Manager for the WESTS Staff and by a manager, designated by each Transportation Operator for bus and taxi drivers. Operator records will be subject to random review by the General Manager for compliance purposes.</p> <p>Staff, bus and taxi drivers or employees who may be in contact with students must sign a COVID-19 Vaccination Acknowledgement (Appendix A).</p>



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	<p>Staff, bus and taxi drivers, employees who may be in contact with students, who do not provide proof of full vaccination will be deemed to be not immunized and will be required to complete Rapid Antigen Testing and Verification as outlined by the Ministry of Education.</p> <p>The administration of the regular Rapid Antigen Testing will be done twice per week with at least 3 days between tests and conducted Sunday to Friday. Testing should not take place more than 48 hours before attending work.</p> <p>A positive result on a Rapid Antigen Test is considered preliminary (presumptive) positive and requires confirmation with a PCR test. Such test should be done within 48 hours at a designated testing centre. They should isolate immediately until the result of their confirmatory test is known.</p>
<b>Reporting Requirements</b>	<p>WESTS and the Bus Operators will be required to track and report on the implementation of the policy, provide aggregated and depersonalized statistical information to the ministry and publicly disclose immunization status, by board, on a regular basis. Reporting requirements will be as defined by the Ministry of Education.</p>
<b>Communication</b>	<p>This policy will be communicated to all employees of WESTS, bus and taxi drivers or employees who may be in contact with students, employed by the contracted Bus Operators and Taxi operators at the time of its approval and for new employees at the time of hire.</p> <p>The COVID-19 pandemic and related vaccination program continues to evolve. WESTS reserves the right to change this policy at any time to meet the requirements and guidance as set out by the Ministry of Education. Changes to this policy will be communicated to all employees of WESTS and the contracted Bus and Taxi Operators upon approval of the policy changes.</p>



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