



Tilbury Area Public School

December 2021

Tilbury Area Public School
Telephone: 519-682-2260
Mr. K. Rakuc, Principal
Mrs. D. Blair, Secretary

Tilbury Area Public School Website
<http://tilbury.lkdsb.net/>
Lambton Kent District School Board
<http://www.lkdsb.net/>

Principal's Message

With the unseasonably warm weather, it's hard to believe that it's December. At the school, our students are enjoying welcoming the festive season.

Moving forward, we look forward to time with our families during the Winter Break and to welcoming students back on Monday, January 3rd.

I would also like to take the opportunity to thank the William J. Miller Trust for their generous donation to our school. The strength of our community helps our Falcons soar.

Over the course of these last two years, we have learned that we should expect the unexpected, and that things can change very quickly. We have navigated changes and challenges together and I am confident that we will continue to do so. Given the evolving nature of the current situation, please check the LKDSB website regularly and continue to follow public health guidance.

Please take the time to review this newsletter as there are important updates and information throughout. If you have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Thank you for your continued support. Happy Holidays and all the best in the coming year.

Preparing for the Winter Break and a Safer Return to School on

January 3rd

Thank you for continuing to follow the public health and safety measures that have kept schools open and safer for students and staff. It is our collective effort that continues to ensure students can learn in the classroom. Please continue to monitor and follow any guidance set out by our Public Health partners.

In light of the evolving situation, it is more important than ever that we continue to follow health advice over the Winter Break to do our part.

At this time, on-going [public health measures](#) are crucial to help prevent and limit the spread of COVID-19.

During the winter break, students in Grades 1-8 can continue to engage in their own learning through supplemental, curriculum-linked activities available at [TVO Learn](#) and TFO [IDÉLLO, apprendre à la maison](#). These rich, engaging opportunities allow students to keep up with their learning and interests. [Mathify](#) (English) and [Eureka!](#) (French) are also available to provide supplemental activities for elementary and secondary students. [Mathify](#) covers math in English for Grades 6 to 10 and [Eureka!](#) supports all subjects for French-language students in Grades 1 to 12.

By following public health advice, we can all enjoy a safe winter break and continue to support in-person learning in our school.

Rapid Antigen Screening

In an effort to promote a safer return to the classroom after the winter break, on behalf of the Government of Ontario, the Lambton Kent District School Board is providing voluntary take-home rapid antigen screening kits to every student participating in in-person learning.

The rapid antigen screening kits are intended for use by any child that attends a publicly funded school, regardless of their vaccination status. This testing option will **not** be available to students who have been learning remotely since September 2021.

Please note, your child's participation in this rapid antigen screening is **voluntary**. **If you have not let the school know that you do not want a kit, one will be sent home with your child on Thursday, December 16th along with instructions.** Students are not required to participate in order to return to the classroom after the winter break. All students are reminded to complete and follow the directions of the Ontario COVID-19 school and child care screening prior to attending school.

It also is important to remember that we all need to continue with key public health strategies that have been effective in keeping this pandemic under control, including staying home when sick, getting tested if you have symptoms, washing your hands frequently, and wearing a face covering as required.

Daily Screening Protocols

Prior to attending school, all students, staff and visitors must complete the daily [COVID-19 School Screening assessment tool](#). It is very important that this is completed everyday, for each student in your family, and that the directions of the screening tool are followed.

While the need to complete the screening each day continues to be in place, the Ministry of Education has also directed all elementary students to confirm they have completed the Ontario COVID-19 School and Child Care Screening for the first two weeks following the winter break (January 3rd to 14th) prior to coming to school each day on these dates.

The process outlined below will be used in the 2021 – 2022 school year whenever the Ministry of Education directs schools to implement the daily on-site confirmation of self-screening.

The Ontario COVID-19 School and Child Care Screening is available using the link below and must be completed each day for each child prior to coming to school, even after the confirmation dates indicated above: <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/school-screening/>

There are two different procedures in place during the dates indicated (January 3rd to 14th):

1) Kindergarten to Grade 3 Students and Self-Contained Special Education Classrooms

Parents/Guardians of Kindergarten - Grade 3 students and self-contained special education classrooms will confirm the completion of the COVID-19 screener in one of the following ways:

- responding to a school messenger email for each of their K-3 students that will be sent to families each morning
- completing and sending the form that is sent home with students for each day during the dates indicated above
- contacting and confirming directly with your child's teacher using the typical means of communication for the class or contacting the school office staff (please let us know if you are unable to access the online screening tool)

2) Grade 4 to Grade 8 Students

During morning attendance from Monday, January 3rd to Friday, January 14th, 2022 the teacher will confirm with the student that they have completed the Ontario COVID-19 School and Child Care Screening that day.

If a student has not completed the screener, they are to complete the screener at that time.

Regular safety protocols will remain in place for students who exhibit symptoms once at school.

If your child is going to be absent for any reason, including illness, please continue to contact the school office directly.

The LKDSB continues to follow directions from the Ministry of Education, local and provincial public health officials. Additional information and resources are available on the LKDSB's [Parent/Guardian Resources website](#). Information is also available on [Chatham-Kent Public Health](#).

Please visit the LKDSB website (www.lkdsb.net) regularly for up-to-date information.

Parent Council

Are you interested in joining the school's Parent Council? Our next TAPS Parent Council Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 12th, 2022 at 6:30pm. At this time, this meeting will be held virtually. Please email the principal at krzysztof.rakuc@lkdsb.net if you are interested for further details. Everyone is welcome to attend!

Playground Closed for the Winter season

Please be aware that during the winter season, the playground equipment is closed during school time and after hours. The following winter conditions can make equipment unsafe for use:

Freezing temperatures - At temperatures below 0 C, very few types of protective ground surfacing remain resilient enough to offer any degree of protection to a falling child - regardless of depth. If the ground cover is frozen, the play equipment is NOT safe for use.

Snow build-up - Snow can cause two problems on a play structure - firstly, it can make play surfaces very slippery; secondly, it can create suffocation hazards if the openings at the end of tube slides or similar structures become closed in by drifting snow.

Ice or freezing rain - As noted above, ice or freezing rain can make play surfaces, hand grips and stairways very slippery, increasing the risk of slip and fall injuries.

Clothing - Winter clothing is much different than normal clothing. Synthetic materials, such as nylon, reduce sliding resistance, particularly on plastic slide beds. This can increase the travel speed on this equipment to a dangerous level, and if combined with frozen ground cover, as described above, can increase the chance of injury. Winter clothing is also very bulky and is more likely to have drawstrings or hooks and clips which can become entangled in components of the equipment.

The following information is distributed on behalf of Dr. Kieran Moore, Chief Medical Officer of Health for Ontario, Chatham-Kent and Lambton Public Health, and the Ministry of Education. Should you have any specific questions about this information, please follow-up directly with Public Health or your health care provider. *Please note that this information is subject to change. Always check Provincial and Federal websites for up-to-date information.

Traveling Outside of Canada

As per the federal travel guidelines and the directions of the [Ontario COVID-19 school and child care screening](#), unvaccinated children under the age of 12 who travel outside of Canada with a fully vaccinated companion are exempt from federal quarantine; however, **they are not permitted to attend school or child care for 14 days following their return.**

[Click here](#) for more information regarding travel outside of Canada.

COVID-19 Vaccines for Five to 11-Year-Olds

Health Canada has approved the paediatric Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine for children aged 5 to 11. To book an appointment online, children must be turning five years old by the end of 2021 (born in 2016).

Additional information from the Government of Ontario is available on the [COVID-19 vaccines for children and youth](#).

For more information about the vaccine and details regarding how to book an appointment, visit the [Chatham-Kent Public Health](#) and [Lambton Public Health](#) websites.

Thank you for your ongoing support of the safe operation of schools. Any health-related questions can be directed to your local Public Health unit or your health care provider.

The information below is distributed on behalf of Chatham-Kent Public Health. Should you have any specific questions about this information, please follow-up directly with Chatham-Kent Public Health.

December 2, 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians:

RE: Vaccination of Youth Ages Five-11 Against COVID-19

CK Public Health has started providing youth aged five to 11 with the Health Canada approved pediatric Pfizer vaccine. This marks a very important milestone in Chatham-Kent's vaccination story and is a critical step forward in combating COVID-19 on a local level.

As more data has become available, it is clearer than ever before that vaccines are both effective at preventing the spread of COVID-19 as well as reducing the severity of the disease. The absolute best protection you can provide your children against COVID-19 and its variants comes in the form of vaccination.

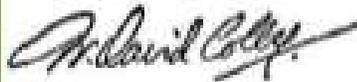
We have witnessed amongst our 12+ population that vaccines are vital to keeping schools open and keeping the in-person learning opportunities and recreational activities that children need to thrive, uninterrupted. In addition, it has assisted in protecting other family members such as younger, vaccine-ineligible siblings and relatives, as well as those with weaker or compromised immune systems.

While 80% of Chatham-Kent's 12+ population is fully vaccinated, our youth aged five-11 have not had the opportunity to contribute to that percentage until now. This has resulted in nearly 60% of our active, local outbreaks being in schools, amongst school-aged children.

This vaccine is provided to children aged five to 11 and is a lower dosage than what teens and adults receive. It is both safe and effective at protecting this age group from COVID-19. While it is true that children who do get infected with COVID-19 typically experience mild symptoms, some get very sick, require hospitalization, and experience serious and long-lasting symptoms. Vaccines will help protect kids from COVID-19, reducing disruptions to learning while allowing them to play, learn, and develop as closely to normal as possible.

It is natural to have questions about the vaccine, and at CK Public Health we encourage those conversations to take place. To find out more about the pediatric Pfizer vaccine and our local clinic experience, please visit www.CKPublicHealth.com/SuperKidsVaccine. Those ready to book their appointment, can visit www.GetYourShotCK.ca or call [519.351.1010](tel:519.351.1010).

Sincerely,



W. David Colby, MSc., MD, FRCP (C)
Medical Officer of Health
CK Public Health

COVID-19

VACCINE

CLINICS



**5 to 11
year olds!**

Mondays

3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

December 6

Blenheim District High School

December 13

Wallaceburg District Secondary School

December 20

Tilbury District High School

Tuesdays, Thursdays & Saturdays

December 1 to 23

Bradley Centre Vaccination Clinic

9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Wednesdays & Fridays

December 1 to 23

Bradley Centre Vaccination Clinic

1:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Bonus Tuesday Clinic!

December 28

Bradley Centre Vaccination Clinic

9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

**Book your appointment at
GetYourShotCk.ca!**

All clinics by
appointment
only.



[CKPHU.com/SuperKidsVaccine](https://www.ckphu.com/SuperKidsVaccine)

