



Mark Fisher, Director of Education and Secretary

2021 October 1

The Honourable Stephen Lecce
Minister of Education
438 University Avenue, 5th Floor
Toronto, Ontario M7A 2A5

Dear Minister Lecce:

This is a letter is to inform you of a motion approved by Trustees of the Thames Valley District School Board (TVDSB) at its 2021 September 28th, regular meeting of the board. The motion relates to the provision of funds for COVID-19 rapid antigen testing for student athletes:

"That the Board request the government provide the funds for testing student athletes who have a first dose of the vaccine and wish to participate in extracurricular sports."

It has been communicated to families that TVDSB secondary students who wish to participate in extracurricular sports must have received their first vaccination dose by 2021 September 17th, and be fully vaccinated no later than 2021 November 1st.

Students who have received one dose must undergo COVID-19 rapid testing twice a week, with results confirmed visually with school staff. Once a second dose is received, students can participate fully without the need for rapid testing.

Thames Valley recognizes the importance of extracurricular activities for the mental and physical well-being of students. Providing these opportunities while putting in place procedures to ensure the health and safety of students and staff is important. Confirming all participants are fully vaccinated or working towards full vaccination is a critical layer of protection.

We recognize that not all families can equally access COVID-19 rapid antigen tests – cost, and ability to purchase these tests may present a barrier to some students. By providing rapid antigen testing free of charge to all student athletes will ensure equity across our Board.

Thames Valley District School Board - Office of the Chairperson

1250 Dundas Street, London, Ontario, N5W 5P2 Tel: 519-452-2000 Fax: 519-452-2396 website: www.tvdsb.ca

We build each student's tomorrow, every day.

As such, the Board requests that the province fund the costs of the COVID-19 rapid antigen tests, as well as reimburse those students who have purchased rapid antigen tests since this protocol came into effect on 2021 September 17th. Full funding will help school boards and their public health partners protect the health and safety of students, staff and the community and help keep our schools open.

We appreciate the extraordinary costs brought on by the pandemic and we do not want funding to be an obstacle to equal access to student participation in extracurricular sports.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "L. Pizzolato".

Lori-Ann Pizzolato, Chair
Thames Valley District School Board

cc Trustees
M. Fisher, Director of Education