

October 19th, 2021

The London District Catholic School Board is making every effort to ensure that we can keep our schools safe and open for in-person learning. We are also taking every step to keep our students, their families, and all our stakeholders as healthy and well as possible. We recognize the value that social connections and relationships play beyond the classroom in the lives of our students and how they help to promote positive student mental well-being. As a result of these views, a return to all remaining extracurricular activities that were on hold are now able to resume. These activities are an extension of the school day and **voluntary** in nature.

Athletics

At this time, we are introducing a cautious return to elementary athletics focusing on intra-school opportunities for students K-6 and a return to inter-school competition for students in grade 7 and 8. In keeping in line with our safe return to extra-curriculars, all participants (those eligible), including volunteers (all participants), must be fully vaccinated to participate in inter-school athletics. This decision is in alignment with guidance from the Middlesex London and Southwestern Health Units. However, we acknowledge that partially vaccinated students should also have opportunities to participate while completing their vaccination requirements. To support this process, students have until Nov. 30th, 2021, to be fully vaccinated (if eligible) to participate in elementary inter-school athletics. Fully vaccinated students can participate with visual verification of their vaccination documentation to a staff member.

The process for students who wish to participate in elementary interschool athletics and who are not yet fully vaccinated is as follows:

- Students must have one dose of a vaccine and wait 14 days prior to participation.
- Students must complete and pass the daily COVID-19 School Screening Tool <https://covid19.ontario.ca/school-screening/>
- Students must take a rapid test for COVID-19 twice a week with three days in between each test to be eligible to continue participating.
- The rapid test schedule should be Sunday and Wednesday so that visual verification may occur on Monday and Thursday prior to participation.
- Visual verification must be confirmed by school staff.
- Families are responsible for obtaining rapid tests.
- Once the second dose is received, the student must show visual confirmation to school.

The process outlined above will only be available until November 30th, 2021.

The return to elementary inter-school athletics will begin with the resumption of **volleyball**.

In person practices can begin for students who are fully vaccinated and students that are 14 days past their first dose with rapid testing. Coaches are asked to verify vaccine information (visual verification of second dose vaccination receipt, no information is to be collected or copies) prior to the start of any practices. Coaches must keep daily attendance records of practices and forward those records to school administration daily for contact tracing purposes. Community Coaches and/or Volunteers can begin working with teams after showing visual proof of full vaccination and the completion of a Vulnerable Sector Screening, in addition to any other sport specific requirements.

Students who are ineligible to be vaccinated (K-6) will be able to participate in intra-school (or school-based) activities, which may include clubs, intramural sports, etc. Where these opportunities may be available to students, the school staff will communicate directly with parents and guardians to seek permission for involvement. These extension activities are only to occur at the school and will not include inter-school events.

All Remaining Extra-Curriculars

Please note that all remaining school-based clubs and activities may occur at all schools for students in grades K-12 under the following guidelines.

- Contact tracing procedures need to be in place.
- Parental/ guardian approval of student participation based on informed consent of mixed cohorts from various grades.
- Masking and physical distancing must be in place indoors.
- No vaccination status is required.



Dan Peters
Superintendent of Education
London District Catholic School Board
5200 Wellington Road South
London, Ontario
Phone: (519) 663-2088
dpeters@ldcsb.ca