



**Premier of Ontario**  
**Le premier ministre**  
**de l'Ontario**

**Legislative Building**  
**Queen's Park**  
**Toronto, Ontario**  
**M7A 1A1**  
**Édifice de l'Assemblée législative**  
**Queen's Park**  
**Toronto (Ontario)**  
**M7A 1A1**

August 11, 2021

Mr. Stephen Blais, MPP  
Orléans  
204-4473 Innes Road  
Orléans, Ontario  
K4A 1A7

Dear Mr. Blais:

Thank you for your input concerning our response to the pandemic.

When it comes to your request that we mandate all healthcare and education workers be vaccinated," you'll be happy to know that our province ranks as one of the top jurisdictions in the world for those getting their first shot. Many other places, including communities where they've said healthcare workers must get vaccinated, have significantly lower first and second dose vaccination rates than what we're seeing in Ontario. We continue to work with our healthcare and education partners to explore options that encourage people to make it a two-dose summer.

Our government will not be issuing a vaccine passport. We have made it clear that any such policy must be led by the federal government. The provinces and territories cannot operate 13 separate systems to manage and track individuals. The federal government can ensure a coordinated network that's applied equally across the country.

As students start returning to classrooms, their health and safety is our number one priority. We have taken a balanced approach to maximize safeguards and ensure that schools remain open to in-person learning for the entire school year. Our government is providing over \$2 billion in additional resources to protect students and staff and prepare them for the future:

- \$1.6 billion in COVID-19 resources.
- \$85 million to support learning recovery in math and reading.
- An extra \$560 million for the Grants for Student Needs program.

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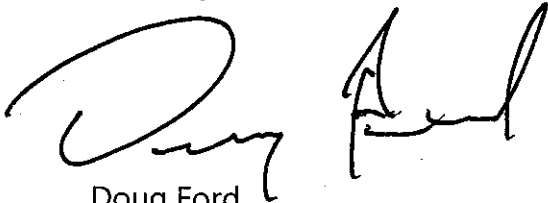
To further support students and ensure they go to school and stay in school, our government is also introducing a multi-faceted approach of masking, hand hygiene, physical distancing, cohorting, quadmesters, case-contact management and daily symptom screening and testing.

Working with the Chief Medical Officer of Health, we will review the public health data and reassess the measures we've implemented on an ongoing basis. Plus, we are collaborating with school boards to ensure a quick switch to online learning should we see any worrisome trends involving transmission of the deadly virus in a community.

Thanks again for your note. You can rest assured that we continue to educate Ontarians on the importance of protecting themselves against COVID-19.

All the best to you and your family.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Doug Ford". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "D" and "F".

Doug Ford  
Premier