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REGION OF PEEL

OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL CLERK

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Ontario is in the midst of the third wave of resurgence of the COVID-19 pandemic. Local and provincial governments and public health authorities continue to make the greatest efforts to contain the pandemic employing every tool at their disposal, including non-pharmacological interventions such as school closures.

The single most important intervention to manage the pandemic is to achieve herd immunity using all the Canadian licensed COVID-19 vaccines as fast as possible.

To this end, as we near the end of Phase 1 and enter Phase 2 of the Ontario vaccine deployment strategy, I believe that Peel Region's Education sector, including teachers and school staff, regardless of age or address, should be immediately included with the current priority groups to receive COVID-19 vaccination.

The SARS-CoV-2 virus does not respect Spring breaks; the virus does not follow the academic schedule restarting in September. Now that the schools in Peel Region and Ontario have been closed and April break is upon us, we should avail ourselves of this pause to co-prioritize the entire Peel Education sector in order to get staff protected and students safely back into the classroom.

Notwithstanding lack of vaccine supply, there are sound international real-world data on the merits of mass COVID-19 vaccination and expediting vaccine deployment in the Education sector only furthers those goals.



Respectfully,  
Sergio Borgia, MD, FRCP(C)

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