

December 15, 2021

## **RE: PLANNING FOR ALL SCENARIOS**

Dear parents/guardians:

Based on the information that we have at this time, in-person learning will resume on Monday, January 3, 2022, as scheduled.

Given that the situation with COVID-19 and the new variant of concern is very fluid, however, we want to ensure that we are prepared for any possible changes.

We ask that students please bring home any personal belongings and learning materials so they are ready for remote learning, if needed. This will also ensure that students who are required to self-isolate following the break are prepared to participate in classes from home.

With enhanced Public Health measures, voluntary rapid antigen testing for students, vaccinations for children ages 5 to 11, and the availability of boosters for adults, we remain hopeful that case counts in our community will decrease.

If case counts increase over the holidays, the Ministry of Education and/or Public Health Sudbury & Districts could impose a delay to in-person learning. **It's important to note that no decision has been made at this time.**

Should a return to in-person learning be delayed, staff in schools will reach out to families on January 3 and 4, 2022 to arrange for the safe distribution of technology.

Students who do not have immediate access to technology will complete work on their own until they are able to connect. If remote learning is mandated for all students, please be assured we will make the transition as smooth as possible.

As we get set to start the holidays and enjoy a well-deserved break, I would like to thank our dedicated administrators, educators, support staff, students and parents/guardians for going the extra mile to limit the spread of COVID-19.

Remember to follow the critical ongoing COVID-19 prevention measures:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water or alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Sneeze and cough into your sleeve.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth.
- Stay home and [isolate](#) if symptoms appear.
- Practise two-metre physical distancing.
- **Wear a mask** at all times in indoor public spaces.

Also remember to screen for COVID-19 daily. Continue to use the **COVID-19 Screening Tool for Children in School and Child Care** <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/school-screening/> to monitor for symptoms and follow the direction provided. **Stay home and seek testing at the first sign of a COVID-19 symptom, even a mild one.**

The Ministry of Education has provided rapid antigen screening kits to in-person learners to use during the winter break. The goal is to detect any potential cases of COVID-19 in asymptomatic students, regardless of vaccination status, before they return to in-person learning when classes resume.

Your child's participation in rapid antigen screening is voluntary. Students are not required to complete the testing to return to the classroom. They are also not required to submit results.

For those who do wish to participate, **it is recommended students conduct the rapid antigen tests every Monday and Thursday beginning December 23, until all tests have been used. The test on Monday, January 3, 2021 should be done PRIOR to coming to school.**

Rapid antigen screening kits are only to be used when a child does not have any symptoms of COVID-19 and has not had any exposure to a confirmed case of COVID-19.

Anyone with symptoms or identified as a close contact of a case should still get PCR testing. Rapid antigen screening tests should not be used as a substitute for PCR tests for people with symptoms or for people who are close contacts of cases.

Thank you for your ongoing patience, support and kindness.  
Thank you for working together to keep everyone safe.

When we limit the spread of COVID-19, we protect in-person learning. When we protect in-person learning, we give students an opportunity to experience school life as it was meant to be.

Best wishes for a safe and happy holiday.

Sincerely,



Bruce Bourget  
Director of Education