

Ottawa, December 17, 2020

## **IMPORTANT UPDATE | HOLIDAY GUIDELINES**

Dear parents and guardians,

Here we are at the end of 2020, a year that we will never forget. I would like to thank you for your continued efforts over the past few months to apply and comply with the public health and safety measures which have made it possible to keep our students and staff safe.

The holiday season this year will be different and it is in this context that I invite you to respect all the [public health measures](#) in place in your community, while keeping in mind that these measures may change depending on the most recent information from public health authorities.

I also encourage you to visit the Government of Ontario's [Holiday web page](#) for tips on how to safely celebrate the holidays as well as suggestions for safe activities for children, adults and families.

If we follow all of the [public health advice](#), we can safely enjoy the holiday season. This is the best way to protect ourselves from the virus and to make the return to school in January as safe as possible.

### **Instructions for returning in January**

I invite you to consult this [list of health and safety measures](#) in place in our schools after school returns in January.

All health and safety instructions, such as physical distancing, hand washing, mask wearing and cohort reunification, will remain in effect upon return in January. You should also continue to do the symptom self-assessment every morning before you leave for school, available on the [CEPEO website](#). Children who are sick should not go to school.

We remind you to consult the latest updates to our [fact sheet](#) on the protocol for managing cases of COVID-19 in our schools and to regularly consult the public health resources, also available on the [CEPEO website](#).

### **Plan for temporary school closures**

The pandemic situation continues to evolve. Although this is not the desired scenario, the *Conseil des écoles publiques de l'Est de l'Ontario* (CEPEO) is prepared for any eventuality, including the possibility that one or all of our schools go into virtual mode at the request of the government and public health authorities

Where appropriate, your child will be supported by their titular teacher, who will provide structured online learning, which will meet all the requirements of the Ontario curriculum. You and your child will then receive all the support they need to make this transition smooth and in the best possible way. Students enrolled in the Schools Virtual Learning Program (PAVÉ) will continue with their classes as usual.

If such a decision is made, you will be notified by email. We ask that you continue to monitor your emails and social media prior to the return to class scheduled for January 4, 2021.

### **Mental health and well-being**

We would like to invite you to check out these [tips and ideas](#) to help you ensure the well-being of your family and to manage the holiday season during the pandemic.

The [Wellness Center Canada website](#) and the [CEPEO website](#) also offer a variety of wellness resources for students and their families.

I wish you and your loved ones a great holiday season with your family.

Sylvie C. R. Tremblay  
Director of Education