

Ottawa, January 14, 2021

IMPORTANT UPDATE | DECISION DATE FOR RETURN TO IN-PERSON LEARNING

Dear parents and guardians,

I hope you and your loved ones are doing well. As you may know, the Government of Ontario has declared a second provincial emergency, effective at midnight today. We invite you to consult the government press release for details ([follow the link](#)).

Decision on return to in-person learning

The return to in-person learning for schools is conditional on government instructions. The province's chief medical officer of health will provide the Ministry of Education with a list of public health units that can allow their schools to resume face-to-face teaching on January 25.

Thus, the decision on the return to the classroom will be announced by January 20 for all schools of the *Conseil des écoles publiques de l'Est de l'Ontario* (CEPEO). You will of course be notified as soon as possible. Our teams are ready for any eventuality and will continue to support your child, whether virtually or in person.

Distinct classes

Should virtual instruction continue, schools will remain open for students and staff in separate or hybrid classes for students with special needs as well as for *École Le Transit* programs.

Well-being and mental health

We would like to once again acknowledge your remarkable commitment to your children's learning over the past week. For several months now, and now more than ever, you have faced important challenges to your work-family balance. Rest assured that we will continue to support you and to be understanding of the situation.

We remind you that CEPEO has put several [health and well-being resources online](#), which are aimed at both students and their families. We encourage you to consult them.

Self evaluation

Public health units remind us that even during the lockdown period, it is important to continue to monitor your children for symptoms of COVID-19 by completing the [self-assessment available on our website](#). If your child is showing symptoms of COVID-19 or has been in contact with someone infected with the virus, they are advised to get tested. To find out where you can get tested, visit the information page for [local health units](#).

I thank you again for your exceptional cooperation during these exceptional times and wish you a pleasant weekend with your family.

Sylvie C. R. Tremblay
Director of Education