



Peter Dubinsky

Superintendent of Schools and Secretary-Treasurer

January 7, 2022

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

I want to thank you for your patience and understanding during the delayed start to school this past week. We are excited to welcome students back on Monday, January 10 and return to in-person learning. School and district staff have been busy preparing for Monday's return, implementing the updated health guidelines, and ensuring a smooth and safe transition back to school. Staff have also been preparing contingency plans in the event that schools have to move into three different types of possible closures, to ensure continuity of learning.

Health Closure:

- This closure would be based on consultation with Interior Health and in conjunction with school attendance data.
- Parents/caregivers would be notified if there is a "Potential Activity Signal" that has been met (high case of student absenteeism), and Interior Health would then investigate and work with the school district to determine next steps.
- Parents/caregivers would be notified if a health closure is issued, and schools and or classrooms will move to remote learning.
- Schools are fully prepared to shift to remote learning in this type of closure, and information around learning programs will be sent to parents/caregivers and students from their school and/or teacher/s.
- Duration of a health closure will be determined, and regular updates will be provided to parents/caregivers.
- Essential Service Worker care **may not** be available for students in grades K – 7 during a health closure, and the school will provide information on this.

Functional Closure:

- This closure is based on a school not having enough available staff to safely operate.
- Each school has a thorough plan to determine if a functional closure is needed and this would be a last resort measure.
- Parents/caregivers would be notified as soon as possible, and the school will move to remote learning.
- Schools are fully prepared to shift to remote learning and information around learning programs will be sent to parents/caregivers and students from their school and/or teacher/s.
- Duration of the functional closure will be determined, and regular updates will be provided.
- Essential Service Worker care **should** be available for students in grades K – 7 during a functional closure, and the school will provide information on this.

Transportation Closure:

- This type of closure is only for bus service if there are not enough bus drivers to transport students to and from school.
- Schools would continue to be open for in-person instruction but students who could not attend school due to a lack of bus transportation would shift to remote learning until transportation service could be restored.

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- Duration of a transportation closure would be determined by the district and regular updates would be provided to parents/caregivers.

We have been alerted that contact tracing and school notification from Interior Health will no longer take place due to the changing dynamic of the pandemic. Schools will now be reporting increased absenteeism at the classroom and school level to Interior Health, and they will work with us to determine appropriate responses if needed. As a result of this change, it is critical to communicate with your school if your child is ill and follow all health guidelines.

While it is difficult to predict what the coming weeks and months will bring, I am confident that our schools will be able to meet the needs of all our learners. We have all done a great deal of work to prepare for all possible situations but are also aware that we might have to adapt and shift our plans as we go. Communication is key and we will ensure that you are updated and provided with information as soon as it becomes available. Our focus is keeping schools open for in-person instruction and ask everyone to help do their part to ensure this. I am very grateful for your continued support of our staff and students as well as your understanding of the challenges we are all facing during this time.

Please visit your school or [district website](#) for updated information, and feel free to reach out to your school if you have any questions. We remain committed to providing a safe and caring learning environment for all staff and students.

Sincerely,

Peter

Peter Dubinsky
Superintendent/Secretary Treasurer