

Regional Executive Director of Education

November 25, 2020

Families,

On Tuesday, November 24, Premier Stephen McNeil and Dr. Robert Strang, Chief Medical Officer of Health, announced new restrictions in our region and across the province to deal with the increasing numbers of COVID-19 cases. You can read the news release [here](#).

Impact on Schools

As these measures are being enacted across most of Halifax Regional Municipality, we know families and staff have questions about what this means for schools in the Halifax Regional Centre for Education.

All schools in our region are open with the exception of Graham Creighton Junior High and Auburn Drive High School which remain closed at the direction of Public Health until December 7, 2020. As of today, no cases of COVID-19 have originated within our schools.

We continue to take our direction directly from Public Health and the experts at IWK Health Centre. Keeping our students/children learning and in schools is the advice of these experts. They tell us school is the best place for children, where students can learn, be with their peers and socialize with their friends in a learning environment. Additionally, for many, schools provide much needed access to programs and services, like food and mental health supports that are especially important for our vulnerable students.

To support Public Health and our communities, the following changes are taking place in our school system:

- School gymnasiums are closed to community organizations and outside recreational groups inside the boundaries of Hubbards, Mount Uniacke, Elmsdale and Porters Lake. [Click here](#) to learn more.
- School sports can take place in a school but not among schools.

Our Shared Health, Our Shared Responsibility

As Dr. Strang has said many times, the way to keep our schools safe is by keeping our communities safe.

That's why it is vitally important that we all work together to practice and model in our daily lives the public health measures such as frequent hand washing, wearing masks and physical distancing when possible so that our children continue to have a healthy and safe learning environment.

As COVID-19 continues to challenge and test us, I want to acknowledge the efforts of all staff who continue to support students and each other through these uncertain times.

And to our parents/guardians and families, thank you for your ongoing support and understanding as we navigate through this pandemic. Together, we will get through this.

With thanks,



Elwin LeRoux,
Regional Executive Director of Education