

## NOTICE TO FAMILIES OF KPDSB STUDENTS

### **KPDSB Schools Reopening for In-Person Learning on Monday, January 11, 2021**

**January 7, 2021**

Today (Thursday, January 7, 2021), the Ontario Government issued a media release to announce that **schools in our area will return to in-person learning on Monday, January 11, 2021**. The government also announced today that the community shutdown in Northern Ontario will be extended by two weeks. While the extended shutdown impacts different sectors, it does not affect the reopening of our schools on Monday, January 11, 2021. Please [click here](#) to view the government's full media release.

**This announcement means that all KPDSB schools will reopen to students and staff for in-person learning on Monday.** School bus transportation will also resume on Monday with regular routes and schedules. Students learning virtually through the KPDSB Virtual School will continue with remote learning as usual, they are not impacted by this announcement.

#### **School Screening Tool and Health and Safety Protocols**

As we prepare to return to our schools on Monday, we wanted to remind families of the importance of completing the Ontario School Screening online tool each day before sending your child(ren) to school - <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/school-screening/>. Any students who are feeling unwell or cannot pass the school screening should not attend school.

We also ask that families remind their children about our health and safety protocols, which include masking (required for students in grades 4-12 and strongly encouraged for students in Kindergarten to Grade 3), physical distancing, hand hygiene and cohorting. Our staff will also remind students of these protocols.

#### **Reminder of Student Travel Advisory**

We issued an updated Student Travel Advisory to all families on December 18, 2020. If your child must travel, please be aware of the following information.

#### **Inter-provincial Travel**

- Any students who have travelled outside of the province (or the country) should not attend school board properties for 14 calendar days upon their return and must be able to pass [Ontario's school screening tool](#) prior to returning to school.

## Travel within Ontario

- Any students who travel to an area of Ontario in the **Grey/Lockdown** level of public health measures should not attend school board properties for 14 calendar days upon their return and must be able to pass [Ontario's school screening tool](#) prior to returning to their school. The public health areas that were in the Grey/Lockdown level of public health measures on December 26 prior to the provincial shutdown are below for your reference.
  - Toronto
  - Windsor-Essex County
  - York Region
  - Peel
  - Hamilton

If you must travel for essential reasons, families are asked to be aware of those areas that are in grey/lockdown level that require students to not attend our schools for 14 days. This changes with the level of virus transmission in Public Health Unit areas.

Families who must travel can take steps to reduce their risk, including:

- Limiting use of public transportation
- Maintaining physical distancing and using a mask
- Avoiding crowded areas
- Limiting interactions with others
- Not spending time in a setting that has been declared as an outbreak
- Practicing hand hygiene

If there are extenuating circumstances for your family, you are encouraged to reach out to your school principal to discuss. Academic support will be provided for families whose children are not able to attend school due to this advisory.

We are asking all families to please continue to be mindful that COVID-19 is still with us and that different areas of the province and the country can have different levels of the virus in the community. The safest option to prevent the spread is to stay in the area of your home community or to stay in the region as per travel advisories and follow all public health protocols.

Should you have any questions regarding this communication, please reply to this email or contact your school principal. Thank you for your assistance in protecting the health and safety of our staff and students. Your efforts during these difficult times are appreciated.

Sincerely,



Sherri-Lynne Pharand, Director of Education