

January 4, 2022

Dear Parents, Guardians and Students,

As cases of COVID-19 continue to rise in our communities and across the province, [the provincial government and Ministry of Education announced yesterday \(January 3\)](#) that all publicly funded and private schools will move to remote learning, **starting January 5 until at least January 17**. The return to in-person learning will be subject to public health trends and operational considerations.

If we are directed by the province or the Ministry of Education to revise those plans, we will let our families know as soon as we receive this information.

As we shift to remote learning, you will get more information from your school and teachers directly. However, here is what we can confirm and share at this time:

- School-based staff have been working to prepare for online learning yesterday and today. Families and students can expect to hear from their teachers before the start of remote learning tomorrow (Wednesday, Jan. 5) regarding plans for their class and how students will be participating in remote learning.
- **Remote learning options for students are:** synchronous digital learning (real-time, online learning with your classroom teacher) or asynchronous digital learning (independent learning, on your schedule, downloading and using materials prepared by your classroom teacher). Printed materials are available for students who cannot participate digitally in remote learning. Please ensure your teacher or principal know how you would like to participate in remote learning.
- At this time, loaner laptops and hotspots will only be available for Grade 7-12 students to participate in remote learning. Please contact your school principal directly if you need a device. Printed materials are available for students who cannot participate digitally in remote learning.
- Students with special education needs will be supported during this remote learning period. In some cases, in-person learning may be possible for some

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students, starting this week. Should your child be a candidate for in-person learning during this remote learning period, your school will contact you.

- The Ministry of Education expects that daily student attendance will be recorded. We recognize that not all students will be able to participate fully in remote learning due to circumstances at home. Please discuss this with your child's teacher or principal when they reach out.

We understand the challenges that come with school closures for some families and students. School Mental Health Ontario has a number of resources available [for parents and families](#), as well as [resources specifically for students](#) to help support positive mental health and well-being.

We also have additional resources for families and students on our website:

- [Student Mental Health and Well-Being](#)
- [Virtual Learning Commons](#)

Despite the uncertainty surrounding us, we appreciate your support and patience as we all work together during this pandemic.

Sincerely,

Ron Ferguson
Director of Education
Upper Canada District School Board

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