

Ontario Government Extends Elementary School Closure Period

(Pembroke, Ontario, January 7, 2021) Today, the Ontario Government announced that elementary schools in the south region will remain in a remote learning model until January 22, 2021 inclusive. The south region includes Renfrew County. This decision was made after consulting with Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health, Dr. David Williams. The announcement does not alter the secondary student in-person learning return date.

As a result, elementary schools in the Renfrew County District School Board (District) will remain closed for in-person learning until January 22, 2021 inclusive. This is the same date as our secondary school remote learning period.

We are making immediate preparations for the deployment of digital devices where required for our elementary students, including Chromebooks and a limited allotment of Mifi devices. District Information Technology staff will be deployed to school sites beginning tomorrow morning to prepare technology for distribution that will begin as early as Monday, January 11, 2021. Your child's school will communicate the pick-up schedule through a SchoolMessenger email and/or telephone call prior to next week.

Parents/guardians are asked to monitor their email as well as their child's District email account for a communication containing details regarding technology deployment.

The District is committed to supporting the learning of all students during this time. If a household does not have a reliable internet connection, they are encouraged to telephone the school for an adaptation. Students with an Individual Education Plan will continue to receive accommodations and students accessing Alternative Learning Programs through an Individualized Placement and Review Committee process may have the option of returning to in-person instruction sometime during the week of January 11, 2021. Schools have been in touch with families to discuss this possibility and arrangements are underway to support transportation. Parents/guardians may contact the school for more information.

Thank you for your ongoing patience and understanding as we work to respond to these shifting directives. We promise to update our parents/guardians, students and staff with information as it becomes available to us.

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For more information, please contact:

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