



March 12, 2021

Dear Parents / Guardians:

As you may already be aware through media reports, yesterday, the province announced that Public Health Sudbury and Districts (PHSD) will move into the Grey-Lockdown level today. This decision was made because of a concerning and rapid increase in the number of COVID-19 cases and the increase in the virus' more transmissible variants in the region.

Yesterday evening at approximately 9:00 p.m., Dr. Penny Sutcliffe, the Medical Officer of Health for PHSD, provided all school boards serving the region with a Letter of Instruction. This letter applies to all private, public, Catholic, English, and French schools throughout the region, except those in Chapleau, Foleyet, and Gogama.

In her Letter of Instruction, Dr. Sutcliffe directs all schools in the region, except those noted above, to “suspend the provision of all in-person student learning and before and after school programs for all schools.” This means that, **effective Monday, March 15, 2021, students attending Sacred Heart in Espanola and St. Mary in Massey will be required to learn remotely until further notice.**

The exception to this requirement is students with significant special needs who are unable to benefit at all from remote learning. If your child(ren) fall into this category, the school's administrative team will be in contact with you today to make appropriate arrangements.

We acknowledge that this announcement is one of many that has had a sudden and dramatic impact on your lives. We also appreciate that your family might require technological support with remote learning. Should you need one or more Chromebooks to allow your children to learn virtually, please contact your local school as soon as possible to make appropriate arrangements.

As always, thank you for your understanding and cooperation. Suspending in-person learning for students is something neither the PHSD nor the Huron-Superior Catholic District School Board does lightly. However, this action is necessary at this

time to protect the health and safety of our students, employees, families, and communities.

Should you have any questions or concerns related to your child(ren)'s education not addressed in this letter, please feel free to contact your local school.

Please join me in continuing to pray for the comfort and protection of all during this time, particularly those who are most vulnerable.

Nurturing hope,



Rose Burton Spohn  
Director of Education