



January 22, 2021

Dear Parents / Guardians:

I am writing to advise you of some very good news that the Huron-Superior Catholic District School Board received from Algoma Public Health (APH).

Yesterday afternoon, Algoma's Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Jennifer Loo, shared that the number of COVID-19 cases in school-aged children and youth across the Algoma region is very low. This is also true for the communities our board serves within other public health units.

As a result, APH's previous instructions and recommendations will not be extended beyond this week. Please see <http://www.algomapublichealth.com/news/in-person-learning-permitted-to-resume-in-sault-ste-marie-high-schools/> for more information. We view this news as a true sign of hope, since students will be able to return to interacting and learning safely with their peers and HSCDSB staff.

In light of this most recent medical information and in accordance with government announcements made approximately two weeks ago, **effective Monday, January 25, 2021:**

- **In-Person Learning** – All physical elementary and secondary schools will resume regular classes for in-person learning. As a result of various concerns about instruction occurring in two modalities simultaneously, synchronous virtual instruction will not be available to students who remain at home.
- **Extenuating Circumstances** – Although the data APH shared with us is very reassuring, should there be extenuating circumstances that inhibit your child from returning to in-person learning, please contact your school principal to discuss your situation and make alternative arrangements for your child for the next two weeks.
- **Virtual Learning** – Our virtual elementary and secondary schools will continue to offer synchronous and asynchronous online programming for students enrolled in this form of learning.

As a final reminder, **our board's next term / quadmester begins on Monday, February 8, 2021**. If you would like your child to transition between in-person and virtual learning, please contact your current school by **Monday, January 25, 2021** so that appropriate arrangements can be made. Please note that this next term / quadmester wraps up near the end of April, so please give due regard to whether you would like your child to learn in person or virtually for the next two and a half months.

On a separate and hope-filled note, at our most recent board meeting on Wednesday, January 20, the Huron-Superior Catholic District School Board launched its new branding, which you will see reflected in this letterhead. The board also launched its new Multi-Year Strategic Plan (MYSP), which accompanies this letter. Additionally, you will soon be receiving a print copy of our annual report / board calendar through your local school. In the meantime, you may view this report on our board website at www.hscdsb.on.ca.

Thank you, as always, for your cooperation and understanding as we navigate this pandemic together. I recognize that the many announcements about COVID-19 and shifts in instruction have been stressful for everyone, including students, families, and employees. I thank you for your many efforts to ensure everyone remains as healthy and engaged in learning as possible. Please join me in continuing to pray for everyone's continued safety and a swift end to this pandemic.

Nurturing hope,



Rose Burton Spohn
Director of Education

