

December 16, 2021

Letter to parents/guardians

Yesterday, I announced the new Winter Plans for schools and early learning and childcare facilities, developed in consultation with Public Health, to align with the provincial Winter Plan.

The plans increase health and safety measures based on the number of cases in schools or early learning facilities, and transmissions or hospitalizations within the community. The full plans are available on our [Healthy and Safe Schools website](#).

Because many children and students under 12 have not yet been vaccinated, measures for younger students are stronger.

- **December 17, 2021 will be the last day of classes before the holidays for students from kindergarten to Grade 6.**

To allow school staff time to prepare and implement required changes for our January 10th reopening, for the older students the last day of class will be:

- **Grades 7 and 8: end of day, December 21, 2021.**
- **High schools: noon, December 23, 2021.**

We have worked with Public Health and school districts to send free rapid test kits home with k-8 students by the end of this week. These tests are painless and easy to use. We ask that students use these tests twice a week and before they return to school on Jan. 10, to help protect their loved ones and limit the spread of COVID-19. **Please note, kits must be kept in a dry and warm location above 2 degrees Celsius.**

Please continue to follow the [guidelines](#) and all Public Health safety measures this week. This includes getting vaccinated, washing your hands or using sanitizer, wearing a mask, physically distancing, and staying home and getting tested if your child has even one symptom.

We are forced to change our response to COVID-19 as the virus itself changes. I know this is frustrating so thank you for your continued cooperation and patience.

Sincerely,



Dominic Cardy