

Dear OCDSB Families,

Today, Ottawa Medical Officer of Health Dr. Vera Etches announced that following next week's April Break, there is a high probability that all Ottawa schools will need to be closed to all in-person learning.

Please be prepared for the possibility that OCDSB students will be engaged in remote learning beginning on the week of April 19th, 2021.

Ottawa Public Health will confirm the status of schools by Wednesday, April 14th. We will update families as soon as we know more.

Asynchronous Learning Day - April 19th

If Ottawa Public Health declares all schools closed to in-person learning after the Break, April 19th would be an asynchronous learning day for all OCDSB students and staff. This will allow for important transition planning time. There would be no scheduled synchronous instruction on that day. This will be confirmed should OPH announce school closures.

Ontario Stay-at-Home Order

Effective Thursday, April 8, 2021, a province-wide Stay-at-Home order came into effect. This requires everyone to remain at home except for essential purposes, such as going to the grocery store or pharmacy, accessing health care services (including getting vaccinated), for outdoor exercise, or for work that cannot be done remotely. You can [read the Ontario press release here](#).

Asymptomatic testing

For the week of April 12th-18th, Ottawa Public Health will continue making asymptomatic testing available through school-based clinics for students, staff and families. Clinics will operate at different locations in high-priority neighbourhoods every day next week. Families in the identified schools will receive a letter with more information about the testing.

Community-based testing is also available. More information about how and when to get tested is available on the [OPH website](#). If you have symptoms, please consider getting tested.

Expansion of Vaccinations

As the vaccine roll-out continues, more people are now eligible for vaccines. Families are encouraged to monitor [Ottawa Public Health's vaccination website](#) for more information about the COVID-19 vaccines. The page is updated regularly and includes information about available vaccines through pharmacies for adults aged 55 and up.

Beginning next week, OCDSB education workers who provide direct support to students with special education needs will be eligible to register for vaccination. Also, the province will begin vaccinations for education workers starting in Toronto and Peel. This will then expand to priority neighborhoods in other regions, including Ottawa.

Letter to Families from Dr. Vera Etches

Ottawa Medical Officer of Health Dr. Vera Etches has written a letter to families ahead of the April Break. Please take a few minutes to review the important information in this letter.

It is available in [English](#), [French](#), [Arabic](#) and [Somali](#).

Wishing you a safe and restful break,

Camille Williams-Taylor

Director of Education