

Dear students,

The increase of COVID-19 in Ontario is extremely serious. The Ontario government has declared a provincial emergency.

Starting this Thursday, **a stay-at-home order will come into effect requiring everyone to remain at home.** The only exceptions are for essential purposes, such as going to the grocery store or pharmacy, accessing health care services, for exercise or for essential work.

### **Remote learning**

Remote learning will continue for OCDSB elementary and secondary students until January 22nd. We expect an announcement by January 20th on whether remote learning will be extended.

### **In person learning for some special education students**

Schools will continue to provide in-person learning for those students with special education needs who cannot be accommodated through remote learning.

### **New rules for schools**

Once in-person learning resumes, there will be some additional health and safety requirements, including:

- Enhanced screening protocols; and
- Expanded targeted testing.

We will share more information about these when it is available.

### **It takes a community**

We need to pay attention to the [projections for the potential increase of COVID-19](#) in Ontario. These new restrictions will be hard...we're all tired and stressed, but we must continue to do our part to stay home, wear a mask indoors and outdoors, and follow public health guidelines.

If you need help, [there is mental health support available](#).

Together, we can do this, as a community.

Take care of yourself and each other,

Camille Williams-Taylor

Director of Education