

November 23, 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As a result of the current provincial state of emergency, the Province has implemented [two temporary emergency orders](#) to prioritize fuel for essential vehicles and to restrict non-essential travel in some areas.

On Sunday, November 21, we received confirmation from the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Transportation that educational staff are deemed essential service workers to ensure we can safely maintain the operation of our schools during this time.

School-based staff will continue to be in schools supporting students, staff and communities. While it is important for schools to stay open for in-person learning given how crucial it is for students' intellectual, emotional and mental well-being, school districts have been asked to eliminate non-essential travel and take measures to promote and support carpooling, public transit and alternate methods of transportation among their staff.

In response, the school district has implemented the following measures:

- Enable district staff who are able to work from home to do so (provided there is no impact on the level of support and services supplied to our schools).
- Encourage carpooling, utilizing public transit and walking/cycling to work.
- Move face-to-face events online, or reschedule them until a later date. This includes field trips, sporting activities, meetings and any events that require travel both within and outside the district.
- Review and reduce the driving of the district's Facilities and Maintenance vehicles.

I encourage the community to do their part to reduce fuel consumption during this difficult time as it will help safeguard fuel for recovery and supply chain efforts. If it is possible for you or your child to walk, cycle or use public transit to commute to work or school, please consider these alternate modes of transportation. If you need to drive, please consider carpooling while adhering to the current COVID-19 health protocols of wearing a mask, spreading out in the vehicle, opening the vehicle's windows and frequent handwashing/sanitizing.

The last week has been devastating for the province, and my thoughts are with the people living in the areas directly impacted by the flooding and landslides, and those of you who have loved ones in the affected areas. Every little thing we can do to support communities as they clean up and rebuild will make a significant difference during these challenging times.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding as we work together to do our part until these temporary measures can be lifted.

Sincerely,



Doug Sheppard

Superintendent of Schools