



January 15, 2021

Dear SCDSB Families,

As we end the second week of this remote learning period, we wanted to reach out to express our pride in what Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) students, staff and families have been able to accomplish. That being said, as an education system, we want nothing more than to see our students and staff return to the classroom. At this time, we are planning for SCDSB students to return to in-person learning on January 25. We are expecting more information from the Chief Medical Officer of Health next week, and will continue to provide you with updates as we receive them.

We all have a role to play in preventing the further spread of COVID-19 in our communities. Throughout the pandemic, the SCDSB has worked closely with, and taken advice from, the health authorities at the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit (SMDHU) on all matters related to COVID-19. Given the new stay-at-home orders, the SMDHU has provided the following important information to share with your child(ren):

- Let your child(ren) know that they play an important role in reducing the spread of COVID-19, and that the steps they take to protect themselves also protect the health of their family, their friends and the whole community.
- Remind your child(ren) that the provincial state of emergency means that indoor events and social gatherings are not allowed, except with members of their own household.
- If your child(ren) is spending time outside, remind them that outside events and social gatherings are further restricted to a limit of five people, and that they must practice physical distancing and stay two metres apart from others. If they can't physically distance when they are outside, they must wear a face covering to help protect themselves.
- If you have a teenager in your household, suggest that they download the [COVID Alert mobile app](#) on their cell phone.

For more information, please visit the [SMDHU website](#).

Well-being continues to be an important focus at the SCDSB. We know that our students, families and staff are working hard to find their way through this pandemic and that it can be overwhelming. If you are looking for information, resources or tips related to mental health and well-being for children and families, please [visit the dedicated page on our website](#).

The SCDSB is pleased to share that we will be offering virtual sessions for families focused on well-being, technology tips and ideas, yoga and music during the month of February. Details about these free sessions, including how to register, will be posted on our [website](#) and on social media (Twitter: [@SCDSB_Schools](#) and Facebook: www.facebook.com/SCDSB).

The COVID-19 pandemic has presented us all with challenges we could not have foreseen, but it has also taught us many lessons. We have learned that our students, when presented with challenges, can rise to the occasion, find solutions and persevere, and that when we all work

together great things can happen! With that in mind, we would like to make you aware of a [campaign launched by School Mental Health Ontario - #ShareTheGood](#). This social media campaign is intended to spark a widespread movement of positivity with a spotlight on education, and we encourage you to get involved by sharing your stories.

We remain hopeful that our collective efforts will help to stop the spread of COVID-19 so that our students, families and staff can return to their regular routines.

Please continue to take care of yourselves and each other.

Sincerely,



Jodi Lloyd
Chairperson of the Board



Steve Blake
Director of Education