



**Thunder Bay District  
Health Unit**

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TBDHU.COM

February 26, 2021

**To: Directors of Education for Schools Boards operating within the City of Thunder Bay and Surrounding Areas:**

**Lakehead Public Schools  
Thunder Bay Catholic District School Board  
CSDC des Aurores boréales (ÉSC de La Vérendrye & École Catholique  
Franco-Supérieur)  
Thunder Bay Christian School  
Lac des Milles Lac Education Centre**

**RE: Instructions from the Medical Officer of Health on in-person learning**

I am writing to you as the persons responsible for schools in the City of Thunder Bay and in surrounding communities.

I want to begin by expressing my appreciation for the significant amount of work you and your staff and staff in all the schools have done to keep schools safe for students, teachers and all education staff during this pandemic. These are difficult times. Those measures have no doubt protected schools and permitted the opportunity for in-person learning that is so important for students, families and our society as a whole.

Unfortunately, in recent weeks, we have seen an increase in COVID-19 case numbers in our area, which, as you know, has significantly impacted many of your schools and has resulted in several outbreak declarations. Stronger measures are needed to manage and mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in our area.

As such, under Ontario Regulation 82/20 Section 2(2) (or as current), and Ontario Regulation 263/20 Section 2(2) (or as current) of the *Reopening Ontario Act, 2020*, S.O. 2020, c.17, as Medical Officer of Health, I am issuing the following instructions to you, effective Monday, March 1 at 12:01 AM:

- Suspend the provision of all in-person student learning and before and after school programs for all schools in the City of Thunder Bay and in communities around Thunder Bay including Oliver Paipoonge, Neebing, Gillies, Shuniah, Comnee, O'Connor, and any school in the nearby unorganized territories
- This current suspension extends until March 15, 2021. The need for further extension will be considered closer to that time.

These instructions should not be interpreted to mean that the schools themselves should be closed. Educators and staff can attend school for the purposes of conducting virtual teaching and other activities as needed to support this and for managing school facilities, etc. In addition, in-person instruction to students with special education needs who cannot be accommodated through remote learning and who wish to attend in-person instruction may continue. These instructions also do not apply to daycares.

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For greater clarity, a listing of schools these instructions apply to is attached.

TBDHU is committed to supporting students, families and the school community through these challenging times. We look forward to continuing to work with our school partners. Thank you for your ongoing work during the pandemic response.

Sincerely,



Dr. Janet DeMille, CCFP, FRCPC  
Medical Officer of Health  
Thunder Bay District Health Unit

Encl.

**Attachment 1**

**List of Thunder Bay and surrounding schools for Board-wide closure  
As at February 26, 2021**

**Lakehead Public Schools:**

Algonquin School  
C.D. Howe  
Claude E. Garton  
Crestview  
École Gron Morgan  
Five Mile  
Gorham and Ware Community  
Kakabeka Falls  
Kingsway Park  
McKellar Park  
McKenzie  
Nor'Wester View  
Ogden Community  
St. James  
Sherbrooke  
Valley Central  
Vance Chapman  
Westmount  
Whitefish Valley  
Woodcrest  
Hammarskjold High School  
Superior C&V.I.  
Westgate C&V.I.  
Lakehead Adult Education Centre

**Thunder Bay Catholic District School Board:**

Corpus Christi  
Holy Cross  
Holy Family  
Our Lady of Charity  
St. Ann  
St. Bernard  
St. Elizabeth  
St. Francis  
St. Jude  
St. Margaret  
St. Martin  
St. Paul  
St. Pius X  
St. Thomas Aquinas  
St. Vincent  
Bishop E.Q. Jennings  
Bishop Gallagher  
Pope John Paul II  
St. Ignatius High School  
St. Patrick High School

**List of Thunder Bay and surrounding schools for Board-wide closure  
As at February 26, 2021 (Continued)**

**Conseil scolaire de district catholique des Aurores boréales:**

École catholique Franco-Supérieur  
ÉSC de La Vérendrye

**Thunder Bay Christian School**

**Lac Des Milles Lac Education Centre:**

I.R. Churchill Elementary  
Seventh Fire Secondary