

February 2, 2022

Dear parents, guardians and families,

I wanted to provide an update to my [letter to families](#) on January 5, 2022. Throughout the pandemic, our Division has always adapted our policies and safety strategies to align with the most current research and data. We have a number of safety strategies that work together to help mitigate risk in our classrooms like promoting good hand hygiene, mandatory masks, enhanced cleaning practices and well-maintained ventilation systems.

HEPA filtration systems for all Division classrooms

As part of this commitment to reviewing current recommendations and policies, our Board of Trustees has approved accessing some of our surplus funds to purchase individual HEPA filtration systems for all classrooms in our Division. While our current efforts have served us well throughout the pandemic, we feel this shift will provide enhanced protection against the spread of COVID-19 in our schools.

Next steps

The next step in the process is to send the request to access Division surplus funds to the Minister of Education for her review. If approved by the province, we can move forward with purchasing the HEPA filtration systems.

In addition to our plans to install HEPA filtration systems in classrooms, we continue to review and enhance our ventilation systems across the Division. This includes adapting existing systems to fit MERV-13 filters where possible.

The combination of portable HEPA filtration systems and MERV-13 filters aligns with updated guidelines from the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers.

More information to come

Our priority continues to be the safety and well-being of our staff and students. More information will be provided to families about our enhancements to ventilation, as we know more.

Sincerely,



Darrel Robertson
Superintendent of Schools