

April 20, 2021

Dear parents, families and guardians,

Today, the provincial government approved Edmonton Public Schools' application to transition all Grade 7–12 students to online learning, starting April 22, 2021. Early learning children and elementary school students (Pre-K–Grade 6) who have chosen in-person learning will still attend classes in their schools as planned.

We made this request to the province based on the following considerations:

- A significant number of students and staff in quarantine or isolation
- A substitute teacher shortage
- Recent requests from the board for short-term shifts for a number of their schools
- Substantial COVID-19 cases in the community

COVID cases

Our schools reflect the broader community. As the third wave impacts our province, we are seeing increasing COVID-19 cases in our schools. We continue to do everything we can to keep our staff and students safe, and thank you for your continued support and shared commitment.

Junior high and high schools transition online

Starting April 22, after our professional development day on April 21, Grades 7–12 students will move to online learning. This timing will allow us to prevent mixing of cohorts as Quarter 4 starts. At this time, we expect in-person learning to resume in schools on May 6, 2021, though we will continue to monitor COVID cases in our city and province.

This only affects our families who have selected in-person learning. There are no changes for students who have selected online learning for Quarter 4.

Some students with special learning needs can continue to learn in person, as they did when classes shifted online last December. If you have questions about your individual circumstances, please contact your school.

Keeping one another safe

I am so proud of our students and staff, who have shown immense adaptability amid significant changes. Although it can be hard to see the light, we have many reasons to be hopeful. Vaccines continue to be given, our students continue to impress us with their ability to learn and thrive and our staff are steadfast in supporting our students. Thank you for your continued partnership.

Be well and stay safe.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'DR', written in a cursive style.

Darrel Robertson
Superintendent of Schools