



Northwestern  
Health Unit

[www.nwhu.on.ca](http://www.nwhu.on.ca)

210 First Street North  
Kenora, ON P9N 2K4

January 21, 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian

After assessing the status of COVID-19 in the community of Fort Frances, and in collaboration with local school boards, in-person learning can resume on Monday, January 25, 2021.

Since a surge of cases in the community in early January, there has been a decline in new cases of COVID-19 in Fort Frances, and all active cases and contacts are being monitored by public health. We continue to closely monitor the situation in Fort Frances and all other communities in our area.

In addition to providing an education, school also benefits children's social and emotional growth and overall health and wellbeing. So far, school cases of COVID-19 in our area have resulted in minimal or no transmission to other staff and students.

Additional measures have been put in place by the province to decrease risk of transmission in schools:

- Mandatory masking in grades 1-3 in schools, on buses, in school board vehicles, and in all before and after school programs.
- Encouragement for masking in kindergarten students.
- Masking outside when physical distance of 2m or more cannot be maintained.
- On-site validation of screening as of January 25<sup>th</sup> for all elementary and secondary school staff and visitors; and as of February 10<sup>th</sup> for secondary students.

Parents/Guardians are reminded to screen students on a daily basis before going to school using the [student screening tool](#) found on the Province of Ontario's website and to follow the instructions provided upon completion of the tool.

Sincerely,

Dr. Kit Young Hoon  
Medical Officer of Health  
Northwestern Health Unit