



Office of the Director of Education

April 12, 2021

Dear TCDSB Families:

As you may know, the Government of Ontario [has announced](#) that following the April Break, all schools will be closed for in-person learning. All Toronto Catholic District School Board (TCDSB) **students will continue to learn remotely** on Monday, April 19 for an unknown amount of time. The duration of remote learning will depend on data from the Chief Medical Officer of Health and updates will be shared with you when more information becomes available.

We understand this may not be the news families had hoped for but recognize the critical need to take steps as directed by the Government of Ontario to limit the spread of COVID-19.

Instruction standards for remote learning will continue as previously communicated including:

- For Kindergarten students, this means 180 minutes of synchronous learning.
- For students in Grades 1 – 8, this means 225 minutes of the instructional day must be synchronous learning.
- For students in Grades 9-12, 80% of the course is delivered synchronously.

As a reminder, synchronous learning is part of the 300-minute instructional day during which teachers remain available to students. For additional details please access the [TCDSB's Transition to Distance Learning Plan](#).

Students with Special Education Needs: In-person learning **will be available** for students with multiple exceptionalities and complex needs who have placements in ME/DD ISP classes. School staff will reach out to these families directly, beginning on Monday, April 19 to gather information to inform planning. In-person learning for these students will begin later in the week, as early as Wednesday, April 21.

Mental Health and Well-Being: During virtual learning, special services staff providing mental health and well-being supports will continue to receive referrals and connect with students and school communities, as required. Staff will continue to provide support to students through virtual platforms or telephone. Parents are encouraged to reach out to school staff with any questions or concerns related to their child.

Child Care and Before and After School Programs: All school aged child care, daycares, and before and after programs **will be closed during this period**, with the exception of [emergency child care for those who qualify](#). Pre-school child care will remain open, please contact your child care provider for details.

Please be assured that the TCDSB remains committed to providing the best possible education for students, while ensuring the safety and well-being of all students and staff. We will continue to communicate with you should there be any new information.

We appreciate your continued cooperation and support as we navigate through this pandemic together.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. Browne".

Dr. Brendan Browne
Director of Education