

IMPORTANT INFORMATION: PLEASE READ

November 13, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Each year, the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board (DPCDSB) is faced with school bus transportation cancellations due to inclement weather. In most cases when bus transportation has been cancelled, our schools have remained open.

In order to provide adequate student supervision on those days, classrooms would be combined and/or groups of students congregated together in the library, gymnasium or other classrooms. This practice would result in a mixing of students and staff from different cohorts who would not normally interact with one another and would be counter to the current Public Health-approved COVID-19 protocols for enhanced health and safety in schools.

DPCDSB staff have consulted with both Peel Public Health (PPH) and Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health (WDGPH) to seek their guidance, from a public health perspective, on whether this traditional model of combining classes should continue. The public health units have expressed significant concerns about unnecessarily mixing classroom cohorts and potentially increasing the risk of transmission of the virus.

IF BUSES ARE CANCELLED, STUDENT LEARNING WILL CONTINUE REMOTELY

Effective immediately, on days when school bus transportation is cancelled during the 2020-2021 school year due to inclement weather, the DPCDSB will not be providing in-school instruction on that day to students attending schools in the area(s) affected by the cancellation. Instead, students and staff in the area(s) affected by the cancellation will stay home and use the flexibility of the new Hybrid Learning Model to engage in remote-only learning for that day.

We understand that this is another significant change imposed upon you due to COVID-19 but it is necessary to help maintain safe and healthy schools during this time of pandemic.

The school would remain open to custodial and other central DPCDSB staff in order to perform the essential duties to ensure the facility is ready for the following day.

THREE MAIN DPCDSB STUDENT TRANSPORTATION SERVICE AREAS

DPCDSB's student transportation service area is generally divided into three main regions:

1. Dufferin County (includes students attending Robert F Hall Catholic Secondary School)
2. Caledon
3. Mississauga/Brampton

HOW DO I FIND OUT IF BUSES ARE CANCELLED OR SCHOOLS ARE CLOSED?

On days when inclement weather is deemed to present a significant risk to the safe operation of school bus transportation for DPCDSB students, the Student Transportation of Peel Region (STOPR) and Service de Transport de Wellington-Dufferin Student Transportation Service (STWDSTS) would recommend the cancellation of school buses. Cancellation decisions may impact any one or more of the above areas, depending on the specific weather conditions. For example, school bus cancellations may impact Dufferin County only, or Dufferin County and Caledon only, or Mississauga/Brampton only, or any combination of the above.

Please note that if buses are cancelled in a specific region, i.e., Mississauga/Brampton, then all schools in that region will be closed to students and staff on that day. This includes schools that do not have any busing. Students and staff from those schools will engage in remote learning on such days as well.

Cancellations are communicated through the following channels, usually by 6:00 am:

WEBSITES

- [Student Transportation of Peel Region \(STOPR\)](#),
- [Service de Transport de Wellington-Dufferin Student Transportation Service \(STWDSTS\)](#)
- [DPCDSB](#) (Yellow ALERT banner at dpcdsb.org)

SOCIAL MEDIA

- Twitter: [@STOPRinfo](#)
- Twitter: [@STWDSTS](#)
- Twitter: [@DPCDSBSchools](#) Instagram: [@DPCDSB.Schools](#) Facebook: [@DPCDSBSchools](#)

RECORDED PHONE MESSAGE

- 905-890-0708

Thank you for your attention to this important information.