Parents,

We are proud of how well our schools have weathered the pandemic so far. We have taken a responsible, proactive approach and it has been successful in limiting the impact on our schools and workplaces.

We’ve been reviewing the numbers and the trends, and here’s where we are right now: We need your help.

I want to make sure that everyone is aware that we are headed into a challenging time that could force us to make some difficult decisions. Already our community and our schools are seeing worrisome increases in COVID-19 cases. Many of these cases could have been avoided. We need to be prepared to take action in case that trend continues, or worsens.

Since the start of the school year, we have allowed schools to hold many events that enhance the educational experience – including musical and theatrical performances, and sports events. If the infection rate locally continues on an upward trend, and if we continue to see an increase in cases in our schools, we will have to seriously consider curtailing or eliminating such activities to protect the health and safety of our students and staff.

Much of this remains within our control. Safe distancing and wearing masks have helped tremendously. But we know that many of our students and staff have let down their guard when they leave school or work. Most of the cases affecting our schools are coming from outside our schools.

In many instances, students and staff members have had to quarantine because they were unnecessarily exposed to someone who later tested positive. This is preventable. Many of these cases could have been avoided. As a reminder, if someone is in quarantine this means they must refrain from attending school and community events for the time frame designated by the Department of Health. It is extremely important that we all remain vigilant, especially with the holidays fast approaching.

Though our strategies might change, our goal remains the same. We are determined to provide a safe environment for our students to learn, and for our employees to work. We will continue to work closely with the Department of Health and monitor local infection rates, and that will determine our strategies going forward.