

Good morning all, Ey Swayel, it is Monday, May 17<sup>th</sup> and just a few key things this week to bring you up to speed and most importantly a message for parents and for students.

Firstly, a comment on what we are seeing provincially around our number of cases and we are sure seeing it in our district. If you look back from April 13<sup>th</sup> to May 13<sup>th</sup>, provincially we have seen a 50% decrease in what they call our seven day rolling average. It was 1,130 cases per day as an average on April 13<sup>th</sup> and on May 13<sup>th</sup>, it was 568. That again is a 50% drop. So we are seeing this absolute cliff of cases come down and we sure hope that that continues for sure. One of the reasons of course, is the vaccinations as it is rolling out across the province. I talked before about how fortunate we were to get our staff vaccinated and what we've seen with our staff is absolutely the same thing. A plummeting in the number of cases of staff members who are reporting as positive with COVID. When I look back in the first 10 days of May, we had seven adults reporting that they had tested positively COVID, and since May 11<sup>th</sup>, we've only had two. We have had four days where no one has reported positive with COVID, so clearly the vaccines are working and it's just fantastic news to know that our staff are safe and well.

The next place the province is going to go with vaccinations is to students. You must have heard on the news they will be vaccinating children aged 12 and up. For parents and for students, please look for information this week about how to register your child to be vaccinated should you wish them to be. The goal that we are hearing as a province is to have all students vaccinated by the end of June 30<sup>th</sup>. They also hope that by August 30<sup>th</sup>, everyone will have their second dose. That's really game changing information for us as a province and certainly as a school district. It also means that we can look towards not only a summer that looks much more normal but a fall that really is a return to life just as we once knew it.

So that's really it for this week, just to talk about what we're seeing are very dramatic drop in cases, what we are seeing from our adults around the declines as adults in our system and our staff members have been vaccinated, and the information for parents to watch for this week for their students. We really are not only ending the year but we seem to be in a place where we have a decisive answer to COVID-19 and that's just fantastic.

I hope you are all well. Take care. Stay well. Hy'ce:pka. Have a great week.