

**Email Message to NSTU Members**

**Subject:** COVID-19 Update April 26, 2021

*Please see below. Sent on behalf of Paul Wozney, NSTU President.*

Dear colleague,

As you learned today, schools in the HRCE (and CSAP schools within the HRCE boundary) along with schools located in the communities of Enfield, Elmsdale, and Mount Uniacke in CCRCE will close today and pivot to full remote learning starting Thursday.

Given the rising number of COVID-19 cases in Metro area schools and the confirmation of community spread, this is welcome news. I hope many of you will be able to breathe a sigh of relief tonight. The situation as it stood in the metro area was unsustainable. This decision will help keep you, your students and your families safe.

Please be aware that you have the option to work from home during this period or if you prefer you can continue to use your classroom to teach remotely while respecting provincial health protocols.

We also need to remember that this decision will pose challenges for many families and some will view it negatively. As teachers, it's crucial that over the coming days you provide the best remote learning experience possible for your students. Be kind and understanding of their unique family situations and also be aware of the comments and photos you post online. Many parents are under tremendous personal stress because of this pandemic, and we all need to be extra considerate under the circumstances.

Similarly, while today's announcement is positive for members in the metro area, the NSTU remains deeply concerned about rising COVID-19 cases in communities outside of the HRM, and we expect and anticipate that government and public health will continue to act in a proactive manner to keep teachers, students and families safe. If not, we will certainly act accordingly.

All my best,

Paul Wozney,  
NSTU President