## **ROBBY EDWARDS**

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## HOLLAND INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT SHANE DOWNING, Superintendent

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## **LEAH SMITH**

Middle School Principal Phone: (254) 657-2224 Fax: (254) 657-2872

July 23, 2020

Dear Faculty, Staff, and Parents,

Holland ISD received the Bell County Public Health District's order this afternoon. The order states that Bell County Schools shall not re-open for on-campus, face-to-face instruction until after September 7, 2020. The number of COVID-19 cases in Bell County and our community have risen drastically in the last month. Bell County can't continue to provide the appropriate care for its citizen if the positive cases continue to rise. Holland ISD will support the efforts of the county to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and will have a plan using some of their recommendations when we return to school.

At this time, we do not have an updated 2020-2021 school calendar. The administration and teachers will begin that process tomorrow and we will publish the calendar very soon, upon School Board approval. We will not hold registration on July 29, 30 and 31, 2020.

Holland ISD continues to believe we will have on-campus learning very soon. The health department and other agencies continue to believe the face coverings are the key to slowing down the spread of the virus. The recent spike is from June when we did not have a mandated order to wear masks. I know they are uncomfortable, but the virus spreads very easily when it is not contained. Please work with your students and family to prioritize everyone's safety when in close contact of others, especially indoors.

I am sorry for this news, but at this time it best for the safety of the people in Bell County. The current order is posted on our website for viewing. Please continue to look for additional information on the Holland ISD webpage.

Thank you, Shane Downing