



March 13, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Re: COVID-19 Information Bulletin

We acknowledge this is not the Spring Break our community is expecting. We understand this may be a stressful time for families. We want to assure everyone, our staff are committed to doing what we can in providing your children the best education in a safe learning environment.

We realize many of you have planned trips and we want to share the directives outlined by the Ministry of Education and provincial health authority to help you and your family make important decisions. We want to remind you that this information continues to change on a daily basis. For the latest information from the District, please visit our webpage [here](#). This webpage can be accessed from the footer of the District website as well as your school's site.

Other useful links:

Fraser Health Authority's [website](#)

BC Centre for Disease Control [website](#)

### **Travel Directives and Measures from the Provincial Health Officer**

- **The Provincial Health Officer is advising against all non-essential travel outside Canada, including to the United States. This advisory applies to crossing the border into Bellingham, WA.**
- **If you do travel outside of Canada, then you should self-isolate and stay away from school or work for 14 days upon return.**
- If any symptoms arise, connect with your primary care provider, local public health office or call 8-1-1. Always tell health care providers about recent travel if you become ill after returning to Canada.

### **How can I prevent getting infected?** (Source: [BC Centre for Disease Control](#))

The most important thing you can do to prevent infection is to wash your hands regularly and avoid touching your face. To help reduce your risk of infection:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Using soap and water is the single most effective way of reducing the spread of infection.
- If a sink is not available, alcohol-based hand rubs (ABHR) can be used to clean your hands as long as they are not visibly soiled. If they are visibly soiled, use a wipe and then ABHR to effectively clean them.
- Do not touch your face, eyes, nose or mouth with unwashed hands.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a disposable tissue or the crease of your elbow when you sneeze or cough.
- Regularly clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces.
- Do not share food, drinks, utensils, etc.

## **What is the District doing in response to a potential COVID-19 outbreak?**

### Pandemic Response Plan

The District is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for all students and staff. A combination of measures is being used to minimize exposure to viruses. Work procedures are in place to help protect students and staff within the District. The District has an Emergency Response Team set up and a Pandemic Response Plan is in place.

### School Buildings

Our facilities staff continue to use proper practices such as cleaning and disinfecting to limit the spread of infection. Teachers and staff at schools are continuing to implement proper hand washing practices with students. Based on the direction from the Provincial Health Officer, schools have cancelled or postponed large gatherings and events.

### Potential School Closures

We will continue to take our direction from the Ministry of Education and Fraser Health Authority, and to work closely with them in order to help keep our school communities safe. **The decision to close schools is made by public health officials.** As always, it is a parent's decision whether to send their child to school based on individual circumstances. If you feel it is unsafe for you or your child to attend an open school for any reason, please keep your child home and report an absence to the school.

### Updates

The District will share information with our school communities as it is made available. Moving forward, please check updates during and after Spring Break on our District webpage [here](#).

**Families are asked to ensure that their information on MyEDBC is up to date.** If necessary, visit your school office to make changes as soon as possible following spring break. This will ensure families receive information being distributed from the District in a timely manner.

Sincerely,



Gord Stewart  
Superintendent of Schools