



March 20, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians, Students and Staff:

Re: COVID-19 Information Bulletin

We are all feeling the impacts of our rapidly changing world due to COVID-19. We understand this is a challenging time, and we appreciate everyone working through these difficulties. We want to assure you the District's top priority is the health and safety of our community. We are committed to supporting our students, staff, and families. Although this has been a tough week with the province's announcement of suspended in-person classes, I am inspired by the resilience and leadership shown from our senior staff and administrators. Normally during Spring Break, they would be spending time with their families, but many have stepped up to help plan for the months ahead. At this time, I am providing you with a preliminary update.

Education

The District is developing a plan to provide continuity of learning for our students, particularly our students graduating this year. The plan will likely have a variety of strategies developed dependent upon the grade level of the child, access to technology, technical expertise, need for additional supports, and access to school sites. The plan must be nimble enough to adapt to changing circumstances. Further details will be provided at the end of next week as we gather more information.

Childcare

The District is working with independently owned and operated daycare providers on our school sites to maintain services for families. As directed by the province, the District is also looking at providing some level of childcare services for children of people who are performing essential services like medical health professionals and first responders.

Community Support

The District is working to provide access for students that rely upon our food programs. There are a number of schools which offer these programs. We will coordinate with our staff and community partners on the delivery of these basic needs.

Public Health and COVID-19 Information

For parents and guardians, a [new government website](#) has been launched with up-to-date non-clinical information on COVID-19. British Columbians can also use the new provincial phone service by calling **1-888-COVID19**, available seven days a week from 7:30AM to 8PM, with information in over 110 languages. Specific public health questions re COVID-19 should be directed to your local health authority for response.

Useful Resources:

Fraser Health Authority [website](#)

BC Centre for Disease Control [website](#)

Langley School District [website](#)

In the meantime, please continue to take preventative measures such as washing your hands, practicing social distancing, and staying at home when you are sick. If you think you have symptoms, the Ministry of Health has developed an online self-assessment tool at covid19.thrive.health. If you do have symptoms, the provincial health office recommends you call 8-1-1 to pre-arrange health testing. While symptomatic, self-isolate.

We will continue to provide public health and District updates as information becomes available. We now have an [FAQ](#) page on our COVID-19 section of our website which will be edited and updated as needed. We understand there are a lot of questions and uncertainties in the coming weeks but I am confident our educators will rise to this challenge to support our students. I encourage everyone to take care of each other and access available resources. I trust our community will overcome this medical crisis and work to support one another.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gord Stewart". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "G".

Gord Stewart
Superintendent of Schools