

Mar 6, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians and Staff,

With a rising number of confirmed cases, the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) outbreak has continued to impact countries around the world. Given these evolving circumstances, I wanted to provide an update to parents and staff on the current situation, including the potential impact on school field trips and family travel plans.

There is an understandable level of concern regarding international travel, including school field trips and personal vacations for both families and staff members. At this time, public health officials are advising the public to refer to Government of Canada travel health notices as they make decisions regarding upcoming travel.

There are a number of international field trips planned over spring break and the district has been assessing each trip in order to determine if it should proceed. At this time, the decision has been made to cancel three international field trips, each of which included a portion of travel to Italy. These decisions were not made lightly, however student and staff safety must remain our priority at all times. The district will continue to monitor all field trips for the remainder of the school year and if a decision to cancel a trip is being contemplated, parents will be notified as soon as possible.

Vancouver Coastal Health is recommending that travelers returning from Iran, Hubei Province, China, and Italy self-isolate for 14 days upon returning to Canada. Please note that these impacted areas may change and expand as the situation continues to evolve. We are asking parents and staff members, who are travelling outside of Canada for personal travel over spring break, to please consider carefully whether you need to self-isolate upon your return to Canada.

We will continue to work closely with and take direction from public health experts at the Ministry of Health and Vancouver Coastal Health to ensure the continued safety and well-being of our students and their families as well as our staff. As individual questions arise in schools or other worksites, senior district staff will work with health experts to ensure we are making decisions based on the best possible information.

For further information on COVID-19, including ways to reduce your risk of infection, please refer to the following resources:

- Novel Coronavirus Q&A from HealthLinkBC:
<https://www.healthlinkbc.ca/health-feature/coronavirus-covid-19>
 - BC Centre for Disease Control
[http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/coronavirus-\(novel\)](http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/coronavirus-(novel))
 - Government of Canada Travel Health Notices:
<https://travel.gc.ca/travelling/advisories>
- All School District and Public Health bulletins regarding COVID-19 are available on our District website.

If you have any questions or concerns, I would ask that you please contact your child's school principal directly.

Sincerely,



Scott Robinson
Superintendent of School