



March 15, 2020 4:30 p.m.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update: Parents, Students, Staff

Dear Parents, Students, and Staff:

On March 15, 2020 at 4:30 p.m., Alberta's chief medical officer of health, Dr. Deena Hinshaw, Premier Kenney, and Minister LaGrange held a news conference to update Albertans on COVID-19. The main reason is community transmission of this virus which has seen 17 new confirmed cases in the province in the past 24 hours, taking the total from 39 to 56 in Alberta.

Premier Kenney announced that **child care centres will be closed, and all in-person classes in the province's K-12 schools and post-secondary institutes will be cancelled until further notice** due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. In all school jurisdictions, including Greater St. Albert Catholic Schools, **all students are to stay home because they won't be allowed in their schools.**

Staff are to report to work and begin to plan for the delivery of educational programming through a distance education philosophy. Further direction and details of Divisional support in this regard will be forthcoming.

I will be sending a communication to all parents and staff in the next two days with direction for you to access resources and supports for your child's education.

For updates on the coronavirus, please see:

<https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/topics/Page16997.aspx>

If you are experiencing symptoms of being ill and are questioning whether these symptoms are associated with the coronavirus, Health Link has a new self-assessment tool online at www.ahs.ca/covid . It's the same one used by Health Link staff to determine if a person needs to be tested. You can also call Health Link 811.

We will continue to inform you with answers to forthcoming questions as we work through this together.

Sincerely,
David Keohane, Superintendent of Schools