

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Important Update

March 15, 2020



Thank you for your cooperation and understanding as we all work together to ensure the health and safety of everyone in our Chinook's Edge school communities. We are contacting all staff and parents today to ask for your adherence to the new directive from the Chief Medical Officer of Health that states a zero tolerance for anyone entering our schools if they are ill with respiratory illness (fever, runny nose, sore throat, dry cough, fatigue.) Alberta Health Services has created a [self-assessment tool](#) that may be useful. Please DO NOT send your child to school or onto a school bus if they have any of these symptoms. Please notify your child's school if they will be absent, and contact your family doctor or Alberta Health Services if you have concerns about your child's condition.

We want to provide an update on the latest information and protocol changes that have developed over the weekend since our last update on Friday, March 13. The Chief Medical Officer of Health and The Government of Alberta have created a document called [Alberta Guidance for Schools and Child Care Programs](#). This document outlines some new protocols that will be put in place effective Monday, March 16, 2020. In Chinook's Edge, some of the protocols we have augmented include:

1. As directed by the Alberta's Chief Medical Officer of Health, there will be zero tolerance for students, staff and visitors who are ill with symptoms consistent with respiratory illness. Symptoms of respiratory illness include:
 - Fever
 - Dry Cough
 - Running nose
 - Sore Throat
 - Fatigue

Students, staff and visitors (including parents) who are ill with respiratory symptoms (even mild symptoms) are asked not to come to school. If a student starts to exhibit these symptoms during the school day, in the case of students, they will be isolated and parents will be phoned to pick up their child from school immediately. Children exhibiting these symptoms will not be permitted to travel on our buses.

If staff or visitors begin to show symptoms while at school, they will be asked to go home. Without exception, all visitors must sign in at the front office. Any visitor or parent exhibiting any symptoms will not be permitted in the school and will be asked to leave. Staff, students, visitors who are showing symptoms are not permitted to return to school until 14 days after the symptoms start. If a negative test for COVID 19 is given, direction from Alberta Health will be given in regards to returning to school.

In addition, all staff and students returning from out-of-country travel will not be permitted to attend school until they have completed a 14 day self isolation period.

2. Until further notice, all extracurricular sport activities (such as basketball, football, rugby, volleyball, etc.) that involve high contact or group settings are postponed. This decision is based on the recommendation from the Chief Medical Officer of Health.
3. Activities during the school day that involve high levels of student contact will not be permitted. Appropriate activities in physical education, foods classes, and band programs will be planned by teachers to minimize contact between students.
4. Our school administration teams are working to minimize the number of students in hallways and student gathering areas to keep them below the recommended 250 maximum. Strategies in schools will vary depending on the size of the school. These strategies could include implementing staggered class changes, breaks, lunch and dismissal times.
5. Parent Teacher Interviews will be postponed until further notice.
6. All out of school field trips (including swimming lessons) will be postponed until further notice.

We understand that these are unsettling times, but this situation has the complete attention of our division and school leaders. Given the rapidly-changing situation, we encourage parents to ensure you have alternate childcare plans in place, should your child be unable to attend school. We are working together to instigate measures that allow learning to continue in our schools. All updates are now available on our [website](#) and we encourage you to check regularly for current information relative to the Coronavirus (COVID-19).

Please continue your strict attention to washing your hands and covering your cough. We will continue to take our direction from the experts at Alberta Health Services and the Government of Alberta as we move forward. Please take good care of yourself and those around you.

Kurt Sacher
Superintendent of Schools