



RE: Spring break travel and COVID-19 update

Dear NLPS families:

Yesterday, Minister of Health Adrian Dix and Provincial Health Officer (PHO) Dr. Bonnie Henry announced new directives and measures to limit the exposure of the COVID-19 pandemic:

- The PHO is advising against all non-essential travel outside Canada, including to the United States. Dr. Henry adds that if you do travel outside of Canada, then you must self-isolate and stay away from school or work for 14 days upon return.
- Gatherings and events larger than 250 people should not be held or should be cancelled.

The district's Pandemic Response Committee monitors COVID-19 developments regularly and will continue to meet during the March break. Some of the work done so far include:

- Creating a COVID-19 Pandemic Plan, which was built from the [B.C. Pandemic Coordination Plan](#) and the [B.C. Public Health guidance for schools and childcare programs](#);
- Cancelled international field trips over spring break and monitoring future travel outside of the province; and
- Purchasing a second industrial disinfectant sprayer, additional cleaning materials and installing hand sanitizer units at every school.

Over the next two weeks, we plan to focus our attention on cleaning schools.

School closure decisions will be made by B.C. public health officials in cooperation with school districts and the Ministry of Education. If a decision is made to close your child's school after spring break, you will be contacted by the district or school principal.

While we navigate this unprecedented time, the district intends to provide the latest information as it becomes available. The district has created a [webpage](#) dedicated solely to COVID-19 updates and information. You may also receive information via email or text through the School Messenger platform, Facebook, Twitter or the mobile app.

The best precaution to avoid sickness and flu are:

- Proper hand-washing for at least 20 seconds using soap and water.
- Alcohol-based hand rubs to clean hands if they are not visibly soiled.
- Do not touch your face/eyes/mouth with unwashed hands.
- Cover your mouth and nose when you sneeze or cough with a disposable tissue or the crease of your elbow.
- Social distancing.

As a school community, we will continue to reinforce with our students the importance of proper handwashing techniques and hygiene.

I greatly appreciate your time and understanding. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Saywell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'S'.

Scott Saywell
Superintendent/CEO