

March 2, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As you are aware, the COVID-19 outbreak has continued to impact countries around the world with a rising number of confirmed cases. Given this evolving situation, we wanted to send an update to parents and staff on the current situation, including how it could potentially impact the many families who are looking forward to travelling this spring break.

Understandably, there is a good deal of concern with respect to international travel, including international field trips and personal vacations. Regarding out-of-province travel, public health officials are advising the public to reference [Government of Canada travel health notices](#) to inform decision making regarding upcoming travel. Situations are changing quickly in some regions, so please check the Government of Canada travel advisory site frequently for updates.

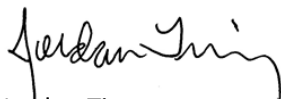
With respect to international field trips, we have received a number of inquiries from parents. Please be assured that the safety of our students and staff is always our first priority. There are a number of trips planned across the district and we have been carefully considering every trip on a case by case basis. We understand the concerns parents have, and we are not only coordinating our messaging with health experts, but we are also in regular communication with other school districts across the province. We are aware that there is an updated warning to avoid non-essential travel to Iran, Northern Italy and some areas in South Korea, we are aware of school closures in Japan, as well as restrictions on public gatherings in France. We are also very concerned about the situation just next door in Washington state where King County has been declared to be in a state of emergency.

We will continue to work closely and take direction from our provincial health experts at the Ministry of Health and Fraser Health to ensure the continued safety and well-being of students and staff. If there are trip cancellations by the district, we will work directly with those schools. For more 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>
- **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/health-safety/travel-health-notices>

If you have any questions or concerns please contact your school directly.

Sincerely,



Jordan Tinney
Superintendent of Schools/CEO

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